



## *Rainbow Sailing School – Course Syllabus*

### **Coastal Skipper Practical – Tidal Waters**

**Aim:** The aim of the Coastal Skipper course is to teach the skills and techniques required to skipper a yacht safely on coastal and offshore passages by day and night.

**Minimum pre-course experience:** It is assumed that those attending this course will be competent cruiser sailors, and will have a level of experience in excess of RYA Day Skipper:

- 15 days cruiser sailing.
- 2 days as skipper.
- 300 miles at sea.
- 8 hours of night sailing.

**Assumed knowledge:** A good knowledge of navigation and meteorology, this knowledge is such as that contained in the RYA Coastal Skipper Shorebased course. There is not sufficient time in the practical course to teach this theory, as the course is focussed on the application of these skills by a yacht skipper.

**Sailing ability:** At least to the level of RYA Day Skipper.

### **Syllabus**

#### **1. Passage planning**

Must have ability to plan coastal journeys including:

- Consideration of the capability of the yacht, navigation, victual ling, weather, ports of refuge, tidal heights and tidal streams, publications required, and passage strategy
- Knowledge of Customs procedures

#### **2. Preparation for sea**

- Awareness of safety equipment required for offshore passages
- Ability to prepare a yacht for sea including:
- Stowage, safety briefing, watch keeping, delegating responsibilities, equipment and engine checks

#### **3. Pilotage**

Preparing pilotage plans with consideration of:

- Soundings, transits, clearing bearings, buoyage, port and harbour regulations, tidal details
- Ability to pilot a yacht by day and night

4. **Passage making and ability as skipper**

- Ability to take charge of a yacht and direct the crew
- Ability to organise the navigation, deck work and domestic duties of a yacht on passage
- Awareness of the significance of meteorological trends and awareness of crew welfare on passage
- Ability to use electronic navigation equipment for planning and undertaking a passage, including the use of waypoints and routes

5. **Yacht handling under power**

- Effective control of a yacht in confined spaces
- Berthing and unberthing situations in various conditions of wind and tide

6. **Yacht handling under sail**

- Use of sails to control the yacht in a confined space
- Anchoring and mooring in various conditions of wind and tide
- Efficient sailing on all points of sail

7. **Adverse weather conditions**

- Preparation for heavy weather, and yacht handling in strong winds
- Navigation and general conduct in restricted visibility

8. **Emergency situations**

- Recovery of man overboard under power and sail
- Actions to be taken when abandoning to the liferaft, and during helicopter or lifeboat rescues