

It takes time to learn to sail. Some learn over a life time by their mistakes; others over a 14 - 16 week block take a 'fast track' Yachtmaster course .

You can do it with confidence and in easy stages through our Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced level program of internationally recognised qualifications.

A full description of each of our RYA courses is available on the RYA website www.rya.org or in the publication RYA Sail Cruising & Yachtmaster Scheme - Syllabus & Logbook

STEP ONE Give it a try with our **Start Yachting** course for beginners.

Pre-course experience None - but you might have taken the 2 day (16hrs) shore based Basic Navigation and Safety Course

Assumed knowledge None

Minimum duration 2 days *

Minimum age None but under 18s should be accompanied by a responsible adult

Course content The yacht, ropework, underway, rules of the road, man overboard recovery, clothing and equipment, emergency equipment and precautions, meteorology

Ability after the course Basic knowledge of yachting.

* if you decide after day one that this is definitely not for you, you may cancel Day Two with only a small financial penalty.

and /or jump right in and become a fully participating crew member with our Competent Crew course.

Pre-course experience None but the Start Sailing course forms part of the Competent Crew Qualification

Assumed knowledge None

Minimum duration 5 days. Often run over 3 weekends or 3 days plus a weekend. If you have done the Start Yachting course, this course can be completed in 3 or 4 days

Minimum age None but under 18's should be accompanied by a responsible participating adult.

Course content Knowledge of sea terms and parts of a boat, her rigging and sails, sail handling, ropework, fire precautions and fighting, personal safety

Ability after the course

equipment, man overboard, emergency equipment, meteorology, seasickness, helmsmanship, general duties, manners and customs, rules of the road, dinghies

Miles logged

Able to steer, handle sails, keep a lookout, row a dinghy and assist in all the day to day routines

Minimum of 100 + 4 night hours

STEP 2 Getting cold, wet and hungry is for you? Get ready to infect others with your own sailing ability and become a **Day Skipper**.

Pre-course experience	5 days, 100 miles, 4 night hours on board a sailing yacht - the Competent Crew course satisfies this requirement.
Assumed knowledge	Basic navigation and helmsmanship. It is strongly recommended that you attend the Day Skipper shorebased course beforehand. Thus
Minimum duration	5 days, 3 weekends or 3 days plus 2 days
Minimum age	18 (or over 16 accompanied by a responsible participating adult)
Course content	Preparation for sea, deck work, navigation, pilotage, meteorology, rules of the road, maintenance and repair work, engines, victualling, emergency situations, yacht handling under power, yacht handling under sail, passage making, night cruising
Examined	The instructor must be able to sign off each of the competencies required. We will focus on identifying any weaknesses and will attempt to address all of these fully but failure to achieve at the end of the course may result in non award of certificated and a referral .
Miles Logged	On completion of your Day Skipper Course you will have approximately 240 miles in your log book, including 8 night-time hours over a period of between 10 and 16 days.

After this you will be able to skipper short passages in familiar waters by day, take charge, take credit when it all goes well and be responsible when it doesn't! You will also be able to charter a yacht on a holiday although you may require an International Certificate of Competence - free to members of RYA with Day Skipper Certificate.

Important Please Note A Day Skipper certificate is a valuable qualification which may be commercially endorsed enabling the holder to work on board commercial vessels up to 24m in length, operating up to 20 miles from a nominated departure point in fine weather and daylight.

STEP 3 Now you are taking it seriously you will need some **Mile Building Voyages** but as a returning customer you'll qualify for a discount. During your Mile Building Voyages you will be expected to apply Day Skipper theory knowledge and will be facilitated in obtaining the practical requirements for your advanced level qualifications.

Previous experience	Day Skipper Certificate of Competence. You should also be studying or have gained Day Skipper Shorebased certificate by this stage
Assumed knowledge	Basic navigation and helmsmanship.
Duration	5 days or weekend
Minimum age	18 (or over16 accompanied by a responsible participating adult)
Content	5 days normally cover a minimum of 120 miles Weekend voyages Friday evening to Sunday might also cover 60 - 80 miles
Ability after Course	You will be competent to plan and skipper an extended day passage of minimum length 60 miles - you will also have the minimum requirements for Coastal Skipper Course.

ADVANCED SAILING COURSES

STEP 4 Coastal Skipper

Pre-course experience

15 days, 2 days as skipper, 300 miles, 8 night hours

Assumed knowledge

Boat handling to the standard of Day Skipper, Day Skipper Shorebased and navigation to **Coastal shorebased** standard

Minimum duration

5 days

Minimum age

18

Course content

Passage planning
Preparation for sea
Pilotage
Passage making and ability as skipper
Yacht handling under power
Yacht handling under sail
Adverse weather conditions
Emergency situations

Ability after the course Able to skipper a yacht on coastal passages by day and night

The next step

At this stage you have valuable skills and competencies which you might consider having professionally endorsed by practical examination to gain the RYA/MCA 'Yachtmaster Coastal Certificate of Competence'

STEP 5 Yachtmaster Offshore

An RYA Yachtmaster Certificate of Competence (Offshore) is often the ultimate aim of aspiring skippers. It is a well known, highly respected qualification worldwide, proving your experience and competence as a skipper.

By the time you consider applying for your Yachtmaster Offshore Examination you will meet the current requirement of 2500 miles including five passages over 60 miles and two overnight and two as skipper. Unlike other courses in the cruising programme, there is no formal training to complete in order to become a Yachtmaster but our Milebuilder Voyages will deliver sufficient experience and seatime that by the time you are ready you can put yourself forward with confidence. Many Yachtmaster candidates choose to take a Preparation Week of tailor-made tuition to prepare them for the exam during which time the yacht will be crewed either by other examination candidates or experienced Day Skippers.

So you might consider taking a Competent Crew and maybe even a Milebuilder in Year 1 - and doing your Day Skipper Theory over the first winter.

Join us in your 2nd year when you are now ready for the Day Skipper practical course and maybe for some more Milebuilding experience and fun. Take the Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster Theory during the next winter months. You are then ready to consider a Coastal Skipper Certificate week in Year 3 - you might even consider a Yachtmaster Coastal examination! After this it's up to you just how quickly you wish to accumulate your miles and experience towards the requirements of Yachtmaster (Off shore) but as a valued customer of Causeway Coast Power & Sail you will always be welcome on our Mile Builder voyages