



Ideas for increasing & developing adult participation

This information has been compiled to offer guidance to boating organisations and clubs on how to increase on water activity, income or membership. Most of the ideas presented in these sheets have been developed and proved successful around the UK.

Marina manoeuvring days

- Aim:** To give confidence and competence to boat owners on a particular aspect of boat handling that would empower them to use their boat more often. In this instance, it was to concentrate on two topics; parking boats in marina berths with just one other crew to help and reversing techniques.
- Duration:** ½ to 1 day
- Run by:** RYA Instructor via a RYA RTC - but possibly by someone within the organisation.
- Example content:** Power handling;
Reversing
Turning
Coming alongside shorthanded
Dealing with a larger boat
- Facilities/kit:** Owners boat(s), an RYA training centre boat or a charter boat
Portable teaching aids, such as small dry wipe boards, A4 paper, depending on amount of attendees. On cruising boats, the cockpit or saloon can be used for briefings if the groups are small, otherwise a room with white board/flipchart for larger groups.
- Insurance; if the instructor is working on owners boats, the owner should inform his insurer and the insurer should also be notified if a charter boat is used except if it is not a training centre boat. By and large, insurers are usually happy that training is being carried out.
- Benefits:** More confident using their boat, therefore more prone to use it and take others afloat.
- Long term actions:** Will run another course as the feedback was good. Many more members within the club would like to have a go.



Case study for marina manoeuvring days

The Aim: To make skippers and crews feel more confident handling their boats in marinas.

Case study: Haslar Yacht Club

Haslar Yacht Club aim to bring together sailors who use the numerous marinas in the Haslar and Gosport area of Hampshire. They are open to all boat owners regardless of whether their interest is sail or power and also aim to encourage people who have never stepped on the water to take an interest. They are a new club, presently only six months old (July 2010), which is mainly internet based apart from a meet-up on the on the second Thursday of the month in the Mary Mouse 2 Lightship pub/restaurant in Haslar Marina, Gosport.

Within the club there are many members who'd joined to meet new people who would like to go sailing as a group, as their boats were larger and required more people to sail and moor up at the end of the day. Whilst larger boats are getting more manageable at sea, they are still problematic to berth if you are shorthanded. It was identified that training could help members learn new techniques to aid them come alongside and handle their boats more easily in marina situations and give greater confidence to the skippers and crews.

The new club had already established links with two local RYA training centres. It was decided to approach the centres to provide specific training on boat handling in a marina for sailing cruisers and motorboats.

Nine skippers wanted to take part, consisting of six sailboat and three motor cruising skippers. A one day format was agreed and two instructors hired in, one for a full day on the sailboats, the other for a half day on the motorboats.

The training was to be based on the individuals' personal boat. The instructors held an initial briefing to all in their specific group and then jumped from boat to boat, spending about an hour with each person 1:1.

The motorboat session, with only three skippers, would start at 9am and finish at lunchtime. Two sailboat sessions were run, one until lunchtime, with a group of three, then the other group starting in the afternoon. This also allowed the morning crew to go off and practice or just go boating after they had finished.

To get the most out of the training opportunity, the three skippers attended a short briefing on boat handling conducted on one of the yachts and then stayed onboard whilst the instructor concentrated on teaching the owner of the yacht. After an hour of 1:1, they swapped onto another owners' yacht and carried on. Therefore, everyone received an hour 1:1 and benefitted from seeing the manoeuvres repeated as they crewed for the other skippers.

The daily rate for an instructor was £180 which was split equally amongst the participants. Therefore a morning's specific boat handling tuition with a 1:3 ratio and an hour at 1:1 ratio cost each skipper £30.

Outcome

The event was a great success and more are in the pipeline. The skippers remarked that that they're a lot more confident about what they can and cannot do with a boat and propose to use the boat more and visit trickier places. Discussions are also in place to find out other club training requirements.

Need more advice? Contact your Regional Development Officer