

# Sea Survival conference

**The first Sea Survival conference was held in October at the RNLI Training College in Poole, Dorset. It was well attended by 65 instructors, some coming from as far afield as Australia.**

The speakers were Bas Edmunds from RYA Technical, who updated everyone on the current liferaft standards; Peter Everard from the RNLI on what happens when the Lifeboat services arrive on scene, and; John Bray from the MCA Training Centre talking about search patterns and how the Coastguard conduct a search.

Three topics were put forward by the RYA for group discussion:

## **Q. Should we continue with live flare demonstrations?**

A. All agreed that live flare demos should still take place. However, many

would like to see guidance and risk assessments for conducting them. All agreed that only in-date flares should be let off.

## **Q. How should Sea Survival inspection fees be charged?**

A. The RYA is under obligation to inspect all sea survival training centres. The normal charge for this is a standard inspection rate plus travelling expenses. We asked whether this method was acceptable. Feedback was split but the overall consensus was that a flat rate was the best method. Therefore we will continue to use the method prescribed in the Guidance Notes.

## **Q. Is the course fit for purpose?**

A. The groups said that the course was fit for purpose but would benefit from new course notes. A new edition of the Sea Survival Practical Course Notes should be out soon.