



Raymarine RYA Yachtmaster™ Instructor Conference

Held at The Bournemouth Highcliffe Marriott again this year, Raymarine continued their support as sponsor, enabling new instructors or instructors who had not attended the conference before to enjoy the conference at a reduced cost. The conference was again well attended with a much higher percentage of delegates from schools outside of the UK than usual and it was really good to meet so many of you. The decision to run YMI courses and revalidations for both power and sail after the conference could have influenced more from abroad to attend and we plan to run these after every Yachtmaster™ Instructor conference.

If you missed it, all is not lost as a summary of the presentations, activities and discussions can be found [here](#). Next year's Instructors Conference will be held on 24th and 25th January 2015.

Feedback from those attending was that it was a fantastic networking opportunity, with some really good presentations and discussions, both in the discussion groups and later whilst enjoying some food and a drink or two in the bar.

Highlights of the conference

We were very lucky this year to have two speakers from differing sailing backgrounds and experience, Brian Thompson and Chris Herbert.

Brian Thompson a racing sailor

with 27 world records and four non-stop circumnavigations spoke first. During his inspirational talk he shared his experience and stories as a crew member on board the Maxi Trimaran Banque Populaire V. They took the Jules Verne Trophy with a circumnavigation time of 45 days 13 hours and 53 minutes, with an average speed of 26.51 knots for the 29,002 miles. During the Jules Verne the aim was to keep the yacht below 40 knots as above that driving through the swell became a little more interesting. Brian also talked very passionately about his work with the charity Toe in the Water.

Brian was joined by Chris Herbert, Assistant Marketing Co-ordinator at Toe in the Water who related his thrilling and challenging experiences on Atlantic Race Challenge (the first all-amputee crew to complete the Atlantic Race Challenge). Having recovered from being shot seven times including in his left leg whilst serving in Iraq, Chris went to Afghanistan as a sniper, where he was blown up and lost his right leg above the knee. His explanation of trying to walk whilst on an inflatable cage on his leg "walking on a broken femur" put a lump in most of the audience's throats. His story was truly inspirational.

Chris and Brian joined us for lunch and dinner and were the focus of a lot of attention. They were truly inspirational. Thank you

to both of them, Tanya Brookfield and all at Toe in the Water.

We also had a talk from Bas Edmonds about the RYA's take on the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) he managed to make a very dry subject informative and interesting.

During the weekend there were various valuable discussion groups which will help shape the future focus for the Radar course, electronic chart plotter, a learning agreement and interactive learning.

There were also presentations on the MLC, the SRC course, coaching models, the Principals course and customer retention. An update was provided on what has been happening over the past 12 months within the training schemes and we highlighted new developments for 2014. Richard Falk gave an Examiners update whilst the remainder of the delegates took part in one of the discussion groups.

The conference concluded with a prize giving, and with business cards swapped and hands shook it was time for the instructors to return to their various schools. I hope to see all of you, and those who couldn't make it this year, on the water and at the conference next year.

On a final note, thanks to the discussion and workshop group leaders, and to the exhibitors for their part in making this year's conference a huge success. Particular thanks go to Raymarine, Marriott Hotels, Brian Thompson, Chris Herbert, Tanya Brookfield, Clive Grant and Bethan Jenkins.

A full report of the conference, workshops and discussion group summaries can be found on the [RYA website](#) soon.

Raymarine®

RYA Navigation Handbook – 2nd Edition

This second edition of the best-selling RYA Navigation Handbook is essential reading for anyone taking to the water and looking for the complete guide to navigation.

It will provide the reader with a sound understanding of the principles of navigation as well as providing insight into the ways in which electronic navigation can be used to best effect.

Order code: G6

Retail price: £17.49

Members' price: £14.87



New courses coming this year

During 2014 the RYA Sail Cruising Scheme will be offering two new two day courses, Level 1 - Start Sailing and Level 2 - Basic Skills.

These courses are currently offered under the National Sailing Scheme to dinghy, windsurfing and keelboat centres and clubs only.

We feel these courses offer an exciting opportunity to complement the current Sail Cruising syllabus by providing our centres with the ability to offer 'boat handling' specific courses to their students on yachts.

Further information and details will be in the April edition of [Wavelength](#).



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