

OVER 1000 PEOPLE

ENJOY THE RYA ACTIVE MARINA PROGRAMME

At boat shows in England, Scotland and Wales, over a thousand people have recently enjoyed the RYA Active Marina Experience through land-based workshops and on-water tips and techniques sessions, many of them having their first taste of going out on the water in a motorboat, yacht or RIB.

Though their yacht and RIB are based at Largs, Gordon and Jane Flavell took advantage of free on-water skill development during their visit to the PSP Southampton Boat Show in September. They hadn't planned to do so but they tried the Sealine Flybridge

Berthing and Boat Handling Workshop on the Friday and were so impressed that they booked for more on the next two days.

"We had gone on a powerboat holiday in the Caribbean last year and ended up gaining our RYA Day Skipper for motor cruising but it was a wet and hard ride so we wanted to try something smoother. I was very impressed with the instructors and it was interesting to berth among the other boats on the pontoons at the boat show – quite a different experience and it renewed our faith in powerboats," said Gordon.

Another couple visiting the Southampton Show, Diana and husband Keith, have their own forty foot yacht. Diana was able to brush up her skills at lassoing a buoy. She also learnt how to approach a buoy under power both forwards and in reverse.

"I usually get the buoy when we are sailing but often Keith has to come forward to heave it up and make fast. We will have to do a bit more practice and while I might not take over the berthing, I might be able to take the wheel while picking up a buoy in future," said Diana.



At the All Wales Boat Show, the vast majority of visitors were people interested in trying sailing with a view to taking it up, according to Ruth Iliffe from the Wales Yachting Association and that was reflected through the RYA Active Marina Experience taking place throughout the show.

Guy Malpas, RYA Yachting Development Officer said: "Our aim is that from every Active Marina session people can take away at least one thing which is really useful in enjoying their boating and we hope to inspire even more people to get more out of life with their boats this winter".



The RYA Active Marina Experience will be returning to the London Boat Show in January with free shore based workshops taking place in partnership with Which Marina.

For more information on how to book in advance and to find out how you can get involved in the RYA Active Marina Programme this winter visit www.rya.org.uk/go/activemarina