

Raymarine RYA Yachtmaster™ Instructor Conference

2015's Yachtmaster™ Instructor conference was again held at The Bournemouth Highcliffe Marriott Hotel. We had a much higher percentage of delegates from centres outside of UK and it was really good to meet so many new and familiar faces. Thank you to Raymarine for their continued support as sponsor, enabling instructors who had not attended before to enjoy the conference at a reduced cost.

We changed the format of the weekend slightly with the updates from Vaughan Marsh and Rachel Andrews presented on the Saturday morning, giving everyone time to absorb and reflect on the changes before discussing any concerns with the RYA team. Feedback indicated this was a popular change, so it is one that will continue.

The past year has seen a move from the development of new courses afloat to focusing on shorebased training. Craig Burton and Vaughan gave a presentation on the new chart plotter explaining how it works, the main focus for students in the classroom, how it will affect the expectations of those classroom candidates when on the water, and what the future will look like. See pages 5 and 6 for more information on this for both practical and shorebased courses.

Workshops were held on: how to use eBooks to support teaching; AIS in cruising and how the data created is being utilised; 'Is anyone listening?' talking about a recent study on the effectiveness of emails; a talk from Gwenneli Sailing Trust on how they deliver courses; the RYA training chart plotter.

Saturday's final session saw Richard Falk, RYA Training Manager/Chief Examiner, update the conference on Cheeki Rafiki. However, as the MAIB report was not released at the time of the

conference it could only highlight some of the facts. Take a look at page 17 for an update on the situation so far.

Sunday arrived with some delegates looking like they had really enjoyed the restaurant and bar facilities the previous evening!

The first presentation was from DC Wendy Weeks from the General Maritime South West Counter Intelligence Unit in Poole, about **Project Kraken**. Project Kraken is a joint initiative aimed at encouraging the public and the boating community to report suspicious or unusual activities around the coastal and in the maritime environment.

This was followed by a presentation from Richard Falk with an overview on RYA training, the current year's observations and a look forward to the next year and beyond. A series of discussion groups were then held which will help shape the future focus for the schemes. This year they included:

- » Instructor Training, especially shorebased, with an appetite for more direction for Yachtmaster™ instructors wishing to move into a classroom environment.
- » What other resources would help instructors deliver courses?
- » Social media guidelines and what is acceptable.
- » The Examiners' meeting.

Thank you to all the discussion and workshop group leaders, and to the exhibitors for their part in making this year's conference a resounding success. Particular 'thanks' go to Raymarine, Marriott Hotels, Wendy Weeks, Gwenneli Trust, and John Whelton.

Look forward to seeing you next year.

A full report of the conference, workshops and discussion group summaries is available on the **RYA website**.

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