



## **RYA Raymarine Yachtmaster Instructor Conference 2015**

### **Discussion Group Notes**

*Please find below a summary of feedback from the discussion groups:*

#### **Social Media Guidelines**

*Many centres are reaching out to their local area (and wider world) via social media.*

*Does your centre have a policy on this?*

- 10/11 centres within one of the discussion groups did not have a policy for social media. For the centre with a policy, its policy was about the permission to use images only. The reasons for not having a policy were:
  1. Already following advertising standards
  2. They have their own policy in their head
  3. Their policies are based on their own professional and personal standards
- One group asked whether or not the RYA has a policy itself on the use of social media.
- Are there guidelines on what people can post to the RYA page

*What should we be expecting of training centres and instructors by means of social media etiquette?*

- The posts are professional
- The posts are positive
- The posts provide support to the RYA
- Consistent with company and RYA policy
- The posts are mindful

It was questioned by one group whether or not the RYA actually monitor social media.

- One group said that there should be more support for organisations so that can use social media appropriately. It was suggested that it may useful to have a webinar on social media giving advice on how to use it effectively, and what shouldn't be included on social media posts.

It was apparent within one group that no-one within the room was using social media to communicate with the RYA.

#### **Instructor Training**

*In light of the recent changes to training of Cruising Instructors, where the focus is on delivering structured practical training, what could RYA Training do to prepare and enthuse instructors for delivering classroom based training?*

- One group noted that approximately 50% of those in the room had come through a Shorebased Instructor (SBI) Route and the rest via Cruising Instructor then onto Yachtmaster Instructor route.
- It had been identified that those who had not become SBI's in the first instance had not received the same training with regards to presentation of the various modules.
- It was suggested that it would be useful for instructors to hear more feedback that the RYA received about various courses; examples of good and bad practice.
- The image of Shorebased instruction needs to be brought up to date. The image is currently that of a quite old and traditional instructor

The question was put forward by one group: *'Do we require Shorebased Instructors in world of e-Learning'* the group concluded:

- The group came to the conclusion: Yes the classroom course is still very important. Practical experience and knowledge needs to be added by instructors to complement the theory syllabus

The topic of newer instructors entering the scheme was discussed. The following points and recommendations were made regarding new instructors as well as existing teaching theory:

- For newer instructors confidence may be an issue:
  1. Suggestion made to have the ability for an independent qualified person to listen to their presentation and provide feedback
  2. It was felt that the Chief Instructor or Principal would be the wrong person to provide feedback as they are the employer
  3. Could there be an instructor forum to share information and resources to benefit both old and new instructors on the RYA Website
- A course in putting a presentation together would be useful as well as covering the use of e-Learning and videos being incorporated into teaching. The use of role play to put across positive and negative teaching skills. Could this be something that the RYA organise centrally and put out to all those interested?
- Could centres open their doors to allow instructors to sit in on Shorebased courses as part of recognised CPD

### Main Points Raised

The groups all felt the need for a more formalised Shorebased Instructor Course

Instructors need to develop their teaching skills. – CPD opportunities to be made available.

There needs to be a course which brings all instructors up to date (conference perhaps), covering teaching skills and teaching aids, presentations etc.

### Resources

***The new chart plotter and eBooks have been developed with blended learning in mind. What other teaching resources would you like to see designed to facilitate delivery in the Shorebased and specialist courses?***

- Teaching materials such as e-Books need to be more readily available to instructors delivering a given course.
- The RYA should provide information regarding current and applicable information / videos / slides etc. that should be used in Shorebased teaching.
- The RYA should look at developing further aids to deliver theory courses to bring it back up to date in addition to ROM2 – we need to be moving away purely the use of PowerPoint presentations
- There should be more downloadable content for instructors as well as more video content online for students to tap into

Feedback had been provided on the new training chart plotter:

- It would be beneficial if the new chart plotter was able to work on tablets.
- The simulator needs improving and requires easier user determined scenarios

In addition one group suggested the RYA improve need to improve the radar simulator – would it also be beneficial to have videos

All groups noted that it is important that all centres are given the option to have hard copies of books. Not all want an e-Book so we shouldn't be moving away from the use of hard copies all together

One group suggested it would be useful have a section of the RYA Website which is dedicated to RYA Instructors giving them useful resources to use. At present most find the RYA website difficult to navigate