



Elite Sailing
training and adventure

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Special Boat Handling

Course Outline

These one and two-day courses are aimed primarily at extending skills in handling sailing yachts under power in the marina. At crew request there may be time to include handling under sail in close quarters manoeuvres.

For most people the area that is of greatest concern is simply getting the yacht into and out of a marina without fuss or drama. Add some wind, perhaps a cross tide at a lock entrance, a tight berth and a few spectators and many skippers begin to feel under pressure. This is entirely normal. The day skipper and coastal skipper practical courses include boat handling but because it is just one element in a big syllabus there is time only to teach basic principles and practice a few basic manoeuvres. Everyone needs more practice and this is what this course is all about.

An experienced instructor will remind you of the basic principles including natural forces on the boat (wind and tide), hull pivot point, rudder and propeller forces. You will have the opportunity to practice standard manoeuvres including tight turns and reversing and then go on to deal with all standard berthing configurations. You will have plenty of time on the helm but will also learn from watching your fellow students deal with similar situations. You will feel your understanding and confidence grow. Later in the weekend you will deal with manoeuvres in the tide including ferry-gliding, mooring buoy pick-ups, lock entries, and special techniques for short-handed docking. Mediterranean stern-to or bows-to mooring techniques can be included if you wish.

Boat handling under sail in a confined space is another important skill – and one that will make you much more confident about sailing out of or into a harbour. You will be able to practice manoeuvring under jib only and main only, hoisting and dropping the mainsail while sailing on the jib, man overboard recovery and, if time allows, mooring pick-ups under sail.

Its a packed schedule so the instructor will consult students in deciding where to focus most attention. The courses are always great fun. All meals are provided aboard but you will be able to go ashore in the evening.

Format Options

- Two-day 0900 Day 1 to 1600 Day 2 (Usually a weekend)
- One-day 0900 to 1600

Previous Knowledge/Experience

RYA Competent Crew, RYA Day Skipper Practical or equivalent knowledge or experience.

Location

Chatham Marina, Kent

Age

There is no minimum or maximum age limit.

Achievement (certificate awarded and ability after the course)

By the end of the weekend you should feel confident that you can assess a situation, make the correct decisions about what methods to employ, brief the crew and then do a competent job on the helm.

What's Included

A berth on the boat and all operating expenses. On 2-day courses – lunch and dinner on Day 1 and breakfast and lunch on Day 2. On one-day courses – lunch. On 2-day courses you may be able to stay overnight prior to Day 1 – check with the office.

What will I need to bring?

The only specialist requirement is a sleeping bag and some suitable footwear – deck shoes (trainers will do) and in case of rain we recommend sea boots. Further information is provided in the suggested packing list – see below under Downloads.

Books

RYA Introduction to Boat Handling for Power and Sail (about £14.50)

Downloads

- [Recommended Packing List](#)
- [Directions to Elite Sailing at Chatham Marina](#)



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