

# **RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman's Course Syllabus**

To give students the confidence to helm a vessel safely on the Inland Waterways

## **PERSONAL SAFETY**

Understands:

- The risks involved with ending up in the water, including cold shock
- Avoidance of personal injury, including crush injuries when fending off
- Special risks to children

Can:

- Correctly fit a buoyancy aid or lifejacket

## **ENGINES**

Understands:

- Checks to be undertaken periodically

Can:

- Undertake checks to be carried out before and whilst running

## **HELMSMANSHIP & BOAT HANDLING**

Knowledge of:

- Berthing and unberthing between piles

Understands:

- Loading and weight distribution
- Inter-action and canal effect
- Anchoring
- Pivot points

Can:

- Carefully steer a vessel
- Turn a vessel around
- Berth alongside
- Recover a man overboard dummy

## **BOAT SAFETY**

Knowledge of:

- Use of fire extinguishers
- Watertight integrity
- Fire hazards, particularly gas and petrol
- Refloating after grounding

## **DECKWORK**

Knowledge of:

- Common boating terms

Can:

- Handle warps and fenders (if used)
- Throw a heaving line or coiled rope
- Tie the following: Clove hitch, Round turn and two half hitches & Bowline
- Secure to: Bollards, Rings, Cleats, & Mooring stakes

## **LOCKS**

Understands:

- Maintenance of levels

Can:

- Operate a lock
- Tend lines in a lock

## **BRIDGES & TUNNELS**

Understands:

- Bridge operations
- Use of tunnels

## **COLLISION AVOIDANCE**

Knowledge of:

- The Rules of the Road

Understands:

- Bye-laws and local traffic regulations
- National regulations
- Publications to be carried

## **CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Understands:

- Avoiding damage to banks, boats, flora and fauna
- Pollution avoidance
- Consideration for water users

Certificates issued to children aged between 12 and 16 will be endorsed to show that they must use boats only under the supervision of a responsible adult