

OBJECTIVES

To give experienced boathandlers, theoretical and practical instruction to enable them to take charge of small powered craft whilst on diving expeditions.

REQUIREMENTS

Current SAA Membership.
Basic Boathandling certificate held for 12 months.
V.H.F. Licence.
SAA Chartwork and Navigation certificate.
Letter of recommendation from club D.O.
Boat Logbook with a minimum 10 hours of different SEA and SITE conditions.

QUALIFICATION AWARDED

Qualification book and wall certificate.

COURSE CONTENT

The candidate will demonstrate the ability to take charge of a small dive boat with a number of crew members.
Plot & course using either a compass or transit points.
Calculate the depth of water at the dive site.
Take down a current weather forecast.

SESSION ONE

Revision and Update.

Responsibilities of the diver coxswain.
Discussion on weather forecasts.
Calculating tides and depth of water at dive sites.
Travelling times TO and FROM dive sites.
Accident management, including treating diver's injuries and D.C.S.
Carrying out simple engine repairs.

SESSION TWO

ONE HOUR WRITTEN EXAM PAPER

Candidates must pass this exam before taking part in session three.

SESSION THREE

PRACTICE EXERCISES WITH CANDIDATE ACTING AS COXSWAIN IN CHARGE.

Lift off practice course from chart, work out depth of water at each dive site, estimate time of arrival.
A total of four positions will be given.

During the practice the candidate will beach the boat.

Hold station by use of the engine for two minutes, if conditions allow.

Anchor boat securely, after a short period, weigh anchor.

Put a diver overboard, then recover diver.

Recover upturned inflatable.

Return to base, clear away all equipment.

Discussion with course instructors.

SESSION FOUR

TEST SECTION

A Test course will be given with all the necessary information to enable the candidate to plot the course, calculate the depth of water and tidal flow.

SESSION FIVE

TEST SECTION

Candidates to present their calculations to the examiner.

Candidates are expected to arrive at the dive site +/- ten minutes, and +/- two metres depth.

Maximum time allowed for practical = 2 hours.

Because the practical is capable of being marked with a percentage, the following system of marking is recommended.

Accuracy in establishing position	20 %
Accuracy in establishing depth	20 %
Accuracy in time	20 %
Accuracy in weather forecast	10 %
Accuracy in picking up diver (simulated)	10 %
Anchoring	10 %
Launching/Recovery	10 %

A pass rate of 75% is required.

Because of the course pre-requisites, very little tuition will be required. Sessions one and two could be held at a different time and venue if necessary.

INSTRUCTORS GUIDELINES

These items MUST be covered during the course.

Coxswains responsibilities:-

Boathandling

- Launching/recovery
- Loading of equipment
- Safety of crew
- Simple engine repairs
- Simple repairs to the boats being used.

Diver Tending

- "A" Flag
- Shot lines
- Recall signals (high winds, sea, fog conditions)
- Standby diver
- Danger of towing divers to another area
- Recovery of divers

Emergency Procedures

- V.H.F. Procedure
- Contacting Coastguard
- Accident management, including D.C.S.
- Leave word with responsible person on shore about time of return
- Capsize drill - (practice with stripped down inflatable at the end of session three)

Miscellaneous

Candidate to be made aware of examiner's overriding authority during all practical sessions.

Depth at site can be proved by any means available. Shot line, echo sounder etc:
Anchoring to be in maximum of twenty metres.

Time allowed for session one = 3.5hrs. The written paper can be taken after this.

You may have to consider either two evening sessions or a one day session for these parts.

The candidate will require a pass in the written exam before carrying on to the practical tests.