



ABINGDON

From Master i/c of Sailing: Ben Simmons

9 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

### *Abingdon Sailing Club Online RYA Training Courses*

Abingdon's Sailing club is delighted to be able to offer a range of RYA online, shorebased training courses. The training programmes we are able to offer are:

- 1) RYA Essential Navigation and Seamanship Course
- 2) RYA SRC VHF Course and Exam
- 3) RYA Safe and Fun Safeguarding Course

Further detail on these courses is outlined below. In order to sign up please follow the link at the bottom of this letter to the online form. All courses would need to be completed at home and the School will not chase students up to complete these. Help can be given by emailing me on my school address.

Students who sign up to the DofE Sailing training programme at Bronze, Silver or Gold Level from this point onwards will complete the Essential Navigation Course as part of the cost of their Bronze and the VHF online course as part of their Silver (those wishing to take the VHF exam would need to pay £60 extra which is the fee due to the RYA for certification).

### 1) RYA Essential Navigation and Seamanship Course

#### **Brief Overview**

This course offers a great introduction to navigation and safety awareness for new or inexperienced skippers and crew, and those wanting to refresh their skills. In fact it's for anyone interested in sailing, motor boating or diving, and works well in complementing on-the-water training, such as the Powerboat Level 2, Start Yachting and Helmsman courses. This is a good course to complete before embarking on a Day Skipper Theory Course.

#### **Course content**

Charts and publications, safety, engine checks, buoyage, tidal awareness, visual and electronic navigation, pilotage, rules of the road, anchoring, weather forecasts, passage planning.

**Time Taken**

Approximately 6 hours

**Cost - £65**

All of the materials required to complete the course are able to be borrowed from the school sailing club for the duration of the course as part of the course fee. These include, the course textbook, a Portland plotter, a set of dividers, access to the RYA electronic chart plotter, practice charts and a copy of the Northern hemisphere almanac. An RYA certificate will be awarded to students who complete the course.

## 2) RYA SRC VHF Course and Exam

**Brief Overview**

The Short Range Certificate is the minimum qualification required by law to control the operation of VHF and VHF Digital Selective Calling (DSC) equipment on any British flagged vessel voluntarily fitted with a radio. This includes both fixed and hand held equipment using International channels.

**Course Content**

The basics of radio operation, the correct frequencies (channels) to be used, distress, emergency and medical assistance procedures, making ship to shore communication, Digital Selective Calling (DSC) using simulators, Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB), Search and Rescue (SART)

**Time Taken**

4-8 hours

**Cost - £40 for course and £60 for exam**

There are two parts to this. The first part is the online course which must be taken by all candidates wishing to complete the exam. The cost of this is £40 and includes loan of the course textbook from the school sailing club. Once completed students will receive a certificate which is a pre-requisite to taking the VHF exam. The second part is the VHF exam which is taken in the classroom (at school in the science centre) and can only be taken once a course completion certificate has been gained. The cost of this is £60 which we have to pay direct to the RYA to cover certification with OFCOM and administration costs. Once a VHF radio licence is gained, it is valid for life and is a pre-requisite for yacht charter around the world (along with the ICC/Day Skipper).

## 3) RYA Safe and Fun Safeguarding Course

**Brief Overview**

It provides a basic level of knowledge and awareness, put in the context of realistic scenarios that anyone could encounter at their club or centre. It is a requirement for all newly qualifying Level 2 Racing Coaches, Dinghy and Windsurfing Instructors and Senior Instructors to complete prior to their instructor/coach training course. They

must also complete a pre-course worksheet which is accessed within the Safe & Fun course, and take that with them to the instructor course.

**Time Taken**

Approximately 3 hours

**Cost - £10**

Course sign up link

<https://goo.gl/forms/P83YHcX94GVZXJxG3>

If you have any further question please do not hesitate to email me.

Yours sincerely

Ben Simmons – Master in Charge of Sailing  
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