

TOPSL ETHOS

Tops'l was founded with the ethos that sailing as a member should be as much like sailing one's own boat as possible.

The syllabus items and requirements are based on the R.Y.A.'s syllabus, modified to fit our operation.

The fundamental aim is to help members enjoy safe, fun sailing, on well cared for yachts, without the need for formal qualifications. However, in the interest of safe, fun, sailing a Tops'l qualifying system has evolved and must be adhered to. Members progress by sailing with Instructors.

The system will enable members to learn at their own pace. It will also take account of members joining with past sailing experience and R.Y.A. qualifications.

Whenever the situation arises complete as many as possible of the Skipper syllabus skill items under the guidance of an Instructor or Skipper as appropriate. You can contact the Lead Instructor or Deputy (See Instructor list if any doubt), who will arrange a review or a sail with an Instructor in order to assess yacht management capability as a Skipper. Note that satisfactory completion of all individual skill demonstrations does not necessarily lead to qualification as a Skipper. Neither will an Instructor necessarily require a demonstration of all skills; some items can be covered by discussion at the discretion of the reviewing Instructor.

In recognition of the cost and time involved when an Instructor sails purely to carry out an assessment, or intensive training, the relevant crew may (by prior mutual agreement) meet his/her sailing charges at the reduced (with voucher) rate.

Our sport is currently deregulated; it is up to all of us to behave responsibly in this deregulated environment. It is imperative that Tops'l Skippers take full responsibility for the operation of their yacht and the actions and capabilities of their crew. Likewise, all Tops'l members have a responsibility to ensure safe sailing at all times.

All reference material can be found through the TOPSL Website.