

Lachlann Gordon 16 BOSS Competent Crew Course 11-15 April 2022

Over the past 5 days I have been completing a competent crew course with BOSS Sailing. This course has been such an amazing opportunity for me and made possible by your very generous donation. It has been my dream for a long time to get into sailing and I feel like doing my Competent Crew course was a great place to start. Thank you so much for your support.

The boat we were on was 47ft and there were five of us on the boat including the instructor. We all met up in Hamble Marina at around 8:30am and set off at around 3:00pm after a safety briefing/ basic introduction. On the first day we sailed from the Hamble to Yarmouth Marina. This took around 4 hours as there wasn't much wind, so we had to motor sail most of the way there. When at Yarmouth we learnt about tying up the boat and what to do if it broke or sunk.

The next day we set off to Cowes's Marina. This was a short sail as we were just getting used to sailing the boat and there was quite a lot of wind, so we sailed with two reefs in the sail. When at Cowes we tied up the boat and learnt about some of the knots and how to row the on board dingy.

On day three we sailed all the way down to Portsmouth, tacking and gybing all the way to get used to sailing the boat and doing some man overboard practice. When at Portsmouth we picked up a buoy and stayed there for a couple of hours and then when it got dark started our night sail back to Hamble. We navigated this by heading on compass bearings and looking for the lights on top of buoys. We got into Hamble at about 11:00-11:30pm that night.

The next day we were just having fun on the boat. Although there wasn't much wind, we tried to sail as much as we could but if this wasn't possible so we just motor sailed back to Cowes. It took a while sailing with not much wind and going against the tide.

On the last day we had to get the boat back by 3:00pm and so we motored down to Southampton and had a look around and practised manoeuvring around in tight spaces. Then we took the boat back to Hamble and cleaned it down both the inside and outside and I went up the mast to fix the wind gauge.

It was a fantastic experience. I had lots of opportunity to sail the yacht - change and reef sails, tack, gybe, anchor, tie up to a buoy, tie up alongside and helm, as well cooking supper every evening for the crew!

This summer I have been asked to crew on one of the boats in Cowes's week and now I have my qualification I can do this. In the future I am planning to do my Day Skipper, If I can get enough hours in between now and then. In my gap year I am also planning to do some sailing and, in a perfect world, do a Yacht Master course. Although if this isn't possible, I would just plan to join a big sailing trip or race if this opportunity comes along.