



Seamanship tips

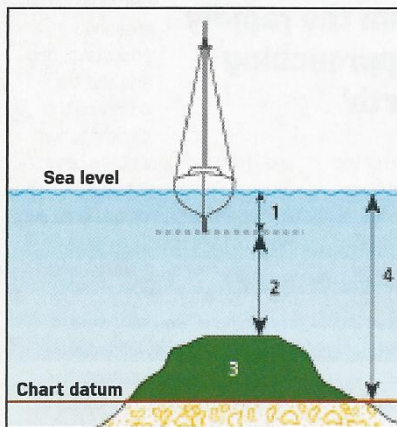
Practical advice to help you sharpen your sailing skills – from advanced seamanship to helpful hints for competent crew

1 HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

Calculating height of tide made easy

Use this simple table to calculate the height of tide required to clear a rock or other feature with a charted drying height. A tidal curve can then be used to find the time at which the required height will occur.

1 Draught of the vessel	
2 Plus clearance required	
3 Plus charted drying height	
4 Gives height of tide required	



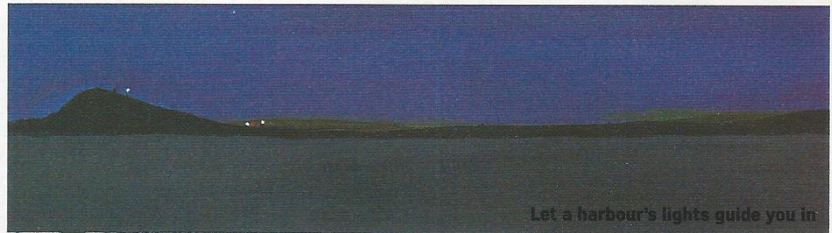
» QUICK QUIZ

1. When would a vessel in fog make two long blasts at two minute intervals?
2. What is a psychrometer used for?
3. The approach of what sort of weather system is indicated by high, thin cirrus clouds?
4. Can the heel of a yacht influence the deviation of a compass?
5. Will running a diesel engine at low revs make it last longer?

ANSWERS ON P47

2 TIME YOUR ARRIVAL

When you get there is usually more important than when you leave



Let a harbour's lights guide you in

Time your passage to arrive just before dawn if you are sailing overnight to a new port or one that is hard to identify. It is easier to be certain about the identification of a light than of a hill or headland. Let the lights guide you

towards your port then take advantage of the rising sun to cast light on the coastal pilotage. The illustration above shows the approach to Cherbourg as night blends into day giving you the best of both worlds.

3 LET THEM LEARN

Experience is the best teacher



Photo: Mica Kendall

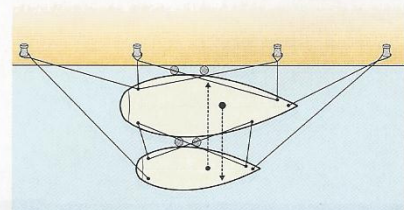
Let your crew learn from experience

It's often easier to do a job yourself than explain how it's done to a less experienced crewmember. Picking up a mooring or dropping anchor are both tasks that some skippers do as a matter of course because they're better at them than their crew. This vicious circle of ignorance needs to be broken and that's down to the skipper. Take a back seat and let your crew learn from their mistakes just as you did. Your crew will become more competent, your boat will be safer and everyone should be happier.

4 MOORING MANNERS

Be a good neighbour when rafting up

Rafting up is an almost inevitable part of summer cruising. It doesn't usually matter which way you face in relation to the other boat, but ask permission to come alongside and head into the strongest element: wind or tide. Provide adequate fenders; rig springs and breast ropes to the other boat and haul them tight. If the boats are facing the same way, adjust the springs to put the masts out of line in case the boats roll, and take your own bow and stern lines ashore – don't rely on the other boat's lines to hold you. Once tied up, maintain your neighbours' privacy by crossing their foredecks when going ashore.

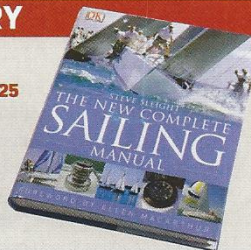


Make sure masts are out of line

» SAILING SKILLS LIBRARY

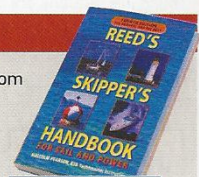
The New Complete Sailing Manual, by Steve Sleight, published by Dorling Kindersley at £25

One of the joys of sailing is that the learning never stops so no sailing manual will ever be complete. However, this volume comes as near to that goal as is possible in 450 pages. This updated edition contains 128



new pages and covers every aspect of sailing from dinghies to cruising yachts. A great reference for those new to the sport or those looking for breadth rather than depth of knowledge.

• **Tips 1 and 4 are taken from Reed's Skipper's Handbook, by Malcolm Pearson; Adlard Coles; £7.99. Order it from YM's bookshop**



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