

“YOU JUST CAN’T GET THE CREW THESE DAYS”

How to be a Popular Crew



Dave Robson

*Everything you need to know to be
welcomed on board again and again*

How to be a Popular Crew is not a book that teaches you how to sail. By contrast its sole aim is to help you shape yourself into the most popular crew in your yacht club so you get invited to crew again and again. It’s also an invaluable volume for skippers to present to their novice crew so they can understand more quickly what is required of them.

Dave Robson wrote this book because he was exasperated with the ridiculous situation in which willing would-be crew are left ashore, frustrated, to prop up the yacht club bar while lonely skippers go sailing short-handed. As he points out, this problem has nothing to do with a lack of knowledge or sailing skills on the part of the newcomer, but more with a lack of awareness and understanding of how to harmonise with everything that’s going on.

Dave chose to take up sailing after his divorce in 1984. Since then he’s owned a variety of boats starting with a Mirror dinghy, just under 11 foot long. His current pride and joy is *Prana*, a Contest 40s yacht he keeps on the West coast of France.

After learning the ropes by serving as crew on many a vessel over the years, for almost as long as he can remember Dave has had a bee in his bonnet about the difficulty of finding suitable novice crew with whom to sail on his own boats. Dave is most certainly not alone in this. And yet virtually every yacht club has a list of new members who are mostly just dying to get afloat.

Here’s the problem: To many newcomers, cruising under sail is a black art reserved for the privileged few who have the necessary mysterious inside knowledge. Most novices haven’t a clue as to what is required of them, some simply don’t have what it takes and many don’t know how to get started. And who can blame them? The secret has never been explained to them – until now...

If you’re an aspiring crew and you don’t want to fall foul of these problems, the tips, knowledge, observations and stories in this volume, many of them highly amusing but each illustrating a serious point, will help you make a start in a way that makes skippers and boat owners want to invite you back again and again.

Dave has completed every RYA yacht training course and exam from Competent Crew to Yachtmaster Offshore and Yachtmaster Ocean Theory. He is also a qualified shorebased instructor. Along the way, Dave has been invited back to crew many times on the boats of his sailing companions.

About Dave

Dave has had many careers, including journalism and a fourteen-year spell working as a carpenter, followed by some thirteen years as a life coach. Although he still coaches, now Dave is a full-time author whose first loves are writing and sailing. Dave’s first book, *The Five Pillars of Happiness*, about personal development and how to engineer your life to make it exactly as you want it to be, is available from Wizard Publishing. Dave publishes a free monthly newsletter, *Namaste*, available via his website, www.dave-robson.com. Dave also writes a regular monthly column for various local magazines.

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