



## Employer Engagement Project 2012-13 SCQF Case Study - RYA Scotland

### ***Background***

The Royal Yachting Association Scotland (RYA Scotland) has two distinct roles. Firstly, as a membership organisation charged with looking after the interests of individuals, clubs, training centres and affiliates of the RYA in Scotland. Secondly it is a recognised governing body for sailing in all its forms in Scotland.

The first of these roles is directly supported by the membership of the RYA and the second is supported by sportScotland, the national agency for sport.

### ***Background to the project***

With funding made available by the Scottish Funding Council, the SCQF Partnership established a programme of work to initiate and support a range of employer engagement projects. 2012-13 was the second of this three-year project aimed at raising levels of awareness of the SCQF and helping to bring together employers, colleges and universities to utilise the SCQF. The projects supported highlight how the SCQF can be used to develop progression routes, improve skills utilisation and recognise learner achievement through partnerships between employers, sectors and educational institutions.

### ***The Learning Programme***

The Dinghy Instructor Award has been credit rated at SCQF level 8 with 7 credit points and the Powerboat Instructor Award at SCQF Level 8 with 5 credit points. These courses take place throughout Scotland, and are available to those aged 16 and over.

The Powerboat Instructor course takes 3 days, however there is pre-course work, and the candidates have to have achieved a high level of powerboating prior to signing up for the course. This is checked by a pre-entry assessment, alongside a check of First Aid certificates and personal membership of the RYA. The course itself looks at the delivery of training in the handling of powerboats, and associated activities. The course is moderated on the final day, by an external moderator, who checks on the ability of the candidates, as well as the performance of the trainer leading the course.

The Dinghy Instructor course takes 5 days, with the candidates going through a similar process prior to application. A pre-entry assessment is carried out, and candidates should hold a valid First Aid certificate, a Level 2 powerboat certificate, as well as personal membership of the RYA. The course covers boat handling skills, teaching methods, planning for activity, working with the range of boats used in dinghy training, and powerboat handling, as well as shore-based type activities. This course is also moderated by an external moderator, who then gives information to RYA Scotland about the course and how the candidates performed; this helps us to monitor our training programmes and the standards of delivery.

### ***Why did you decide to apply to participate in the project?***

Jane Campbell Morrison, Development Manager of RYA Scotland says: *"I heard about the SCQF from SkillsActive Scotland, who approached me offering an opportunity to get some of our awards credit rated on to the SCQF. It seemed like a useful opportunity to learn more about how we could work with educational establishments and improve the quality of our training."*

### ***How have you used the SCQF in your organisation?***

With the help of SCQF and SkillsActive, RYA Scotland has had Dinghy Instructor and Powerboat Instructor qualifications credit rated at SCQF Level 8.

### ***How has using the SCQF benefited your organisation?***

This process has introduced a number of new areas of working that require us to deliver workforce training and development, and fundamentally change the approach to delivering instructor training, which will improve the quality of the proficiency training delivered in Scotland. The process was easy to understand, useful and much easier than expected. We were provided with great support all the way through the process.

### ***Do you have any plans to further embed the SCQF within your organisation?***

We would love to credit rate more training courses but this would be dependent on funding being available. Our experience with the SCQF has been very, very positive.

For more detail on the SCQF and the benefits of having your learning programmes credit rated, visit [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk).