

Getting a basic understanding of roles on a cruiser/racer including an appreciation of traditional vessels using "JAP" by way of example.

Module delivered by James Fegan. The next steps post-delivery of this module would be to get sailors out on boats to experience the roles live and to shadow people in those positions to get a better appreciation of the roles first hand. The various roles on a racing keelboat include:-

Bow

- Involved in the connection and hoisting of sails (jibs/spinnakers/A-sails/ Code Zeros/stay sails, etc) at the front of the boat.
- Key role in gybing the spinnaker by placing the new guy in the pole
- When racing, generally calls the starting line
- If a problem arises up the mast, he/she is generally hoisted in a harness to sort it out
- If there is a close call in a cross they generally call the dip

Mast

- Involved in the hoisting of all sails at the mast
- Key role in gybing by adjusting the pole
- Plays backup to the Bow in connecting sails

Pit

- Controls all lines (halyards, etc) led back to the pit
- Heavily involved in the hoisting and dropping of sails
- Uses winches and jammers to assist

Sewer

- Manages all sails kept below decks in an organised fashion
- Packs the spinnakers/A-sails/jibs when dropped and put below ready for next hoist
- Provides the crew with any additional spare control lines required for peels, etc

Trim

- Controls the shape of the sails using various control lines, winches, tweakers, in-haulers, traveller, light sheets, heavy sheets & guys
- Is a key part of keeping the boat up to speed
- Communication between trimmer and Helm/tactician is key
- Is key in keeping the spinnaker full when effecting a gybe
- Main trim
- Jib trim
- Spinnaker trim

Tactics

- Decides on approach to start
- Decides on key tactics for race
- Which side of the course
- What to do in close quarters / protest situations
- Communicates closely with the helm
- Keeps the whole crew informed of what is going on
- Generally decides on sail choice

Helm

- Keeps the boat moving as fast as possible in the right direction while working closely with the trimmers & tactician
- Key role in getting the start right
- A key communicator

Positions/roles on size and style of boat

- Compare and contrast JAP and 1720
- Five on a sports boat to 35 on a super yacht & technology
- Do's and don'ts of keelboat sailing
- Appreciate the individuality of each boat and how/what they offer