

In answer to the question:

Do I need to do an **RYA** course?

Read the article on the next page
*(reproduced from a local paper on the
East coast)* and ask yourself;

“Am I competent enough in my navigational abilities to get myself out of a similar predicament”?

If your answer is an honest yes then you have no worries, but if it is NO then you had better start thinking of where and with whom you would like to find out how to navigate traditionally.

The article below is reproduced from the local 'rag' and published on the 6th Nov 2008 (*Frinton & Walton Gazette*)

Can You think of a better reason for completing an *RYA* course in navigation



● First class – Howard Davis, left, is presented with his award by society president Tony Hope, watched by Dave Hacker, Ralph Bridgeman and Colin Salt. (00999-1)

Stamp of approval

A STAMP collector has won recognition for the length of time he has been a member of an enthusiasts' club.

Howard Davis, 98, of Kirby-le-Soken, was given the certificate by the Frinton and District Philatelic Society.

Mr Davis has been a member of the society for 24 years and the accolade also recognises his forthcoming 10th birthday.

He has been made honorary vice-president of the club in recognition of

his dedication.

Mr Davis is a very talented and keen collector of stamps and has been in Malheur, Oregon, before they reached England.

Many of the stamps in his collection have come from the United States and he is a member of the British Stamp Society.

Warning after yacht GPS fails

COASTGUARDS have issued a safety warning after a yacht ran into trouble in gale force eight winds.

Walton lifeboat crews helped in the search for the 25ft yacht after Thames Coastguard received the distress call at about 5pm on Saturday.

The yacht had run aground and its crew were unsure of their position between the

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entrances to the rivers Blackwater and Crouch.

The yacht's GPS navigation equipment had failed and the crew could only make a very rough estimate of its position.

Thames Coastguard requested the launch of the Walton RNLI lifeboat.

They also scrambled the RAF rescue helicopter and tasked Bradwell's Coastguard Rescue Team to help with the

search.

The helicopter was able to home into a weak radio signal from the yacht.

Bradwell Coastguard confirmed its exact position when one of the yachtsmen started waving a flashlight towards the shore.

Walton's lifeboat attempted to get to the yacht, but was restricted by shallow water.

Severe weather conditions and waves battering the yacht meant its three occupants had

to be winched from it and evacuated by helicopter.

They were placed into the care of Bradwell Coastguard.

Thames Coastguard watch manager Mark Baker said: "This incident highlights the risk of relying solely on a single GPS navigation unit.

"A vessel's position and track should be regularly plotted on a chart and a back-up navigation system employed during an offshore passage."

Drug smuggling cabbie is jailed