



## Training Approach

For 50 years IBTC has delivered internationally renowned, industry leading boatbuilding courses and training for people seeking a career in the industry as well as individuals wanting to develop new and existing interests and skills.


We believe that learning should begin on real projects from day one, focussing on individual needs in order to build confidence and develop skills. Students are of all ages, from teens to retirement, and come from a wide range of backgrounds; this eclectic mix creates a vibrant atmosphere where individuals can share their skills, experiences and dreams.

Based in Lowestoft, IBTC has trained well over a thousand boatbuilders and woodworkers. Students have come to study from around the world; Australia, across Europe, USA, Canada, Kenya, South Africa, Antigua & Barbuda, South Korea, the list is extensive.

After completing their training at IBTC our graduates have gone on to fulfil a comprehensive range of vocational pursuits within boatbuilding. Graduates have set up successful boat yards including **Sterling & Sons**, Southwold-based **Harbour Marine Services** and **Broadland Boatbuilders** in St. Olaves. Graduates have gone on to work in reputable traditional boatyards such as **Tommy Nielsen, Hunters, Eastwood Whelpton** and **Demon Yachts** as well as luxury yacht producers **Spirit Yachts, Princess Yachts** and **Oyster Yachts**.


At IBTC our teaching programmes not only equip graduates with the essential knowledge and skills needed for boatbuilding but have been shown to benefit people who have struggled with mainstream education. Our programmes help people build confidence and develop a self belief through finding previously undiscovered talents and skills. This is also true of people who have suffered from the myriad of mental health problems we see in the modern world. From the ex-service person with PTSD to the young person with anxiety issues, we have discovered that focussing on high quality traditional training has the welcome side effect of improving one's mental health.

The legacy of IBTC and its contribution to the marine sector is one that we are extremely proud of. Quality is paramount in the training that we offer, so we don't take shortcuts. In a time of well publicised skill shortages in the UK, it is essential that we do not allow quality skills to be diluted or disappear. The training must be accessible for people to learn. We are taking the next steps to secure the future of IBTC, ensuring we can continue to deliver the best education to those who wish to learn about the rewarding and affirming world of boatbuilding and traditional joinery.



I joined IBTC because I wanted to work in heritage, **taking a more direct role in restoring old boats** and keeping the traditional art and skills alive for current and future generations to enjoy

Rachel  
Full-Time Boatbuilding 2023 Student



Being a wooden boatbuilder takes a lifetime of skill and experience. My year at the **IBTC** has given me enough all round training that I was able to **start my first boatbuilding job with confidence.**

Jesse Gillespie  
Full-Time Boatbuilding 2018 Graduate

## **The Next 50 Years**

**Mission Statement:** To provide the highest quality training in traditional and modern boatbuilding, joinery and heritage skills that meets the requirements, expectations and aspirations of both individuals and industry.

- Increase the range and scope of training course content to broaden the learning opportunities for individuals while meeting both general and specific industry needs.
- Maintain and develop the capability to offer bespoke training opportunities to suit the needs of individuals and particular industry training/sector needs.
- Develop short term activities for delivery in school and adult retraining programmes, as gateway activities for longer term boatbuilding training and ongoing careers.
- Achieve partner provider status for delivery of accredited apprenticeship training and to explore access to related funding streams.
- Create a student bursary fund able to support those students unable to fully meet the course costs.

## **The Funding Challenge**

We are delighted to announce the creation of a new charity, IBTC Boatbuilding and Heritage Skills. Our aim is to build resilience in the organisation by raising funds that will establish a bursary fund to enable a diverse range of people to undertake training who would not otherwise be able to afford to train; support the development of existing and new courses; fund the set up and delivery of apprenticeships; purchase new tools and equipment; engage with and support heritage skills training initiatives; allow us to meet evolving training requirements.

## **How You Can Help**

**Contributing to the bursary fund or funding a named bursary award:** Funding a student bursary is one of the most effective ways of helping us. In doing so you will ensure that we fulfil our required intake of students whilst also providing an opportunity for prospective students who may be excluded due to course costs. The bursary fund can also be awarded to help students pay for other costs such as tools and equipment.

**Funding a future programme:** By funding a future programme you will allow us to expand our programme inline with the developing training demands of the marine industry.

**Donating time and expertise:** At IBTC we recognise that effective development happens when people pool their skills together. As such, if you have any expertise that you believe would be beneficial to the evolution of IBTC then we would love to hear from you.

**Donating equipment:** To ensure that we can continue to offer the most comprehensive boatbuilding and woodworking training, our workshops must contain industry standard equipment and machinery. If you have any tools, equipment or machinery that will enhance the training that we offer then do let us know.

If you would like to discuss the funding opportunities contained in this document in more detail or would like to learn more about IBTC Boatbuilding and Heritage Skills please use the contact information below.

## **International Boatbuilding and Heritage Skills**

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