



# The Thames Skills Academy – One Year On

Julian Parkes  
Chief Executive Officer

# The Drivers

An initiative led by the Port of London Authority and Tideway, together with Transport for London and the Company of Watermen & Lightermen to:

- Establish a more collaborative and cohesive approach to skills and training provision on the tidal Thames;
- Meet the specific training and employment needs of marine businesses working in the port;
- Raise training standards and offer employers' choice; and
- Through effective, employer-led training provision, support the increased use of the tideway for passenger, freight, other services and leisure use.

Established in February 2016 – Operating from November 2016

# The Port of London

## West London



65% of the UK's rowing

## Central London



10.6 million passengers

## Kent & Essex



50.4 million tonnes

3 million tonnes of intra-port cargo on the tidal Thames

# Structure

- Established as a Group Training Association – an employer-led learning partnership, within the Inland Waterways sector.
- A not-for-profit, company limited by guarantee. Surpluses will be re-invested in the provision of training.
- Currently 14 Employer Members – representing some 60% of those working afloat in the port, and 4 Affiliate Members.
- An independent Chair and CEO appointed by the Founding Members.
- Up to five Employer Members appointed to the Board.
- Representation from Passenger, Freight and Other Marine Services, from both large and small organisations.
- The Thames Skills Academy is a member of both GTA England and the Maritime Skills Alliance.

# Training and Apprenticeships

- Working with a pool of TSA 'Approved Training Providers' to meet our Members' training and development needs.
- Established internal working groups to identify and address Employers' specific operational skills and training requirements – both afloat and ashore.
- Brokering a range of regular training courses; and working with providers to develop bespoke training in several areas.
- First three cohorts on the Thames Apprenticeship Programme started funded training courses in Autumn 2017.
- Two Deck (Level 2 & Boatmaster) and One Marine Engineering Courses.
- 16 Deck Apprentices and 6 Engineering Apprentices.
- Red Ensign Training (IOW) and Mid Kent College.

# Standards and Qualifications

- Actively contributing to the development, maintenance and improvement of vocational qualifications and standards in the Inland Waterways and wider UK maritime sector.
- Facilitating and supporting a national Employer Trailblazer Group developing a new Boatmaster Apprenticeship Standard.
- Had proposals for the expansion of the qualifications framework for tidal Inland Waterways accepted – seamanship qualification.
- Developed and delivered a bespoke Riverside Personal Safety Course – achieved MCA formal recognition.
- Working to develop new standards and qualifications to meet the specific needs of Employers’ e.g. marinas & boatyard operative

# Employment and Recruitment

- In May 2017, undertook the first labour market intelligence survey for the sector – identifying the employment and recruitment issues facing employers.
- Established an employers' Employment Strategy Group to identify and work together on employment and recruitment challenges.
- Supporting Employers' in establishing a common message highlighting the many and varied job roles and careers in the Port of London.
- Attended the schools careers event Skills London 2016 and again in 2017 - promoting jobs and career opportunities on the tidal Thames.
- In 2017, held our first National Apprenticeship Week event for over 95 young people - to be repeated in 2018.
- Attended the Seawork 2017 event in Southampton to promote the TSA to a wider marine employer base.

*“The tideway through central London is one of the most challenging inland waterway passages that any mariner is likely to make in the UK”*





Delivering high quality, cost effective training to the maritime sector

[www.thamesacademy.london](http://www.thamesacademy.london)