



The Worshipful
Company of
Shipwrights

Case Study – Jake Ross - Apprentice Engineer (funded 2015-16)

Overwater Marina

www.overwatermarina.co.uk

Activities Undertaken

Since starting my apprenticeship I have undertaken a wide range of tasks, from narrowboat engine servicing and turnaround checks to blacking and painting. During servicing work I have learned more about the variety of boat engines and their requirements. Attention to detail is important, particularly with weekly turnaround checks where small issues need to be solved before they become big ones. I have been involved in winter works on



the shared ownership boats and have been checking water systems, welding anodes on and undertaking battery tests and basic maintenance. I have been watching and learning more about gas systems on boats with our Gas Safe Engineer as well as more detailed diagnostic work and problem solving on engines. I particularly enjoy working on engines as well as welding. I like the creative side of welding and the amount of skill required to do a job properly. I don't enjoy the hull blacking as much as engine work but it is a necessary part of the job.

Progress and Achievements

I am undertaking a course in marine engineering/welding and fabrication at the Maritime and Engineering College Northwest in Birkenhead. I have completed my functional skills for ICT. I have almost completed my PEO units (Burning, Mig Welding and MMA Welding). I have particularly enjoyed these units and how much they have improved my welding skills. I can now weld vertically which I couldn't do before. I find that some of the other people at

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college aren't as motivated to learn as I feel I am, which can be difficult at times but I try to stay focused and get on with my work to do as well as possible. I enjoy the challenge of learning to do new things at college – it is very motivating and there is a great sense of achievement when you get a practical piece of work right. The tutors at college seem to appreciate it if you are willing to put the effort in and will equally give a lot back to those who are willing to learn.

During the next 6 months I am hoping to keep up with my college work and move on to the National Diploma units. I want to get as much of the course work done as soon as I can. At the marina I am looking forward to being given more responsibility and continually improving my standard of work. I am also really pleased that I now have the responsibility of completing service sheets for jobs I have undertaken.