



The Worshipful
Company of
Shipwrights

Case Study - Matt Brown – Apprentice Boatbuilder (funded 2018-19)

Northshore Shipyard

www.northshore.co.uk

Overall, my apprenticeship has been fantastic so far. Learning so many new skills in such a short period of time. Looking back 2 and half years ago and not knowing anything about boats I think I am doing pretty well. The first year and half of my apprenticeship I learnt how to run the “yard”, this included - boat launching/slipping, boat movement, boat maintenance and general maintenance of the yard. I have attached a job card onto this report to show one of the jobs I completed. Most of the boat I worked around in this period of time were southerly yachts ranging between 30 to 47ft in size. This sort of work produced, generally gained the most profit for the yard. So, it was essential that I learnt these skills first.

What I have thoroughly enjoyed in that time was learning to take out, refurbishing and fixing back in the swing keels. This usually was a job we had to do every other month. It develops many skills including communication, teamwork, and eye for detail.

For the past year I have joined a team of 5 were in which we are producing a new boat. From an old fairy spearfish mould we are creating a new sleek version of the boat. I was lucky being a part of this from the start. From making the interior linear to now fixing in hatches and windows. This is when I gained many skills in producing boats, learning mould making to first fit out of joinery. Being one the most interesting jobs I have done but challenging, I struggled at first with the joinery of the forward cabin not having that “final finesse” in making it look perfect. But after a couple months of shadowing one of the boat builders it became natural.

College was a great insight for me, teaching me to take a step back from work and monitor what I am doing. Looking at safety of my work area, good housekeeping and job card writing up. Yet job card write ups are not as important after my apprenticeship, I now know how to complete one was all the information required. Which down the line could help me get a higher position at work.