Traditional stern boats

The suitability of traditional stern boats for RYA Training Centres running the Inland Waterways Helmsman course has long been a thorny problem as many of this style of craft are being sold. However, the safety issues that they present from a training point of view make them unsuitable as a general training vessel. Therefore from 1st January 2005 we will not accept new applications for recognition from Training Centres using only a traditional stern vessel.

The reasons for this decision are as follows

- Traditional stern boats do not have enough room for the instructor to stand with the student under tuition, leaving the instructor balancing precariously on the side deck. With this lack of space at the stern the instructor would be unable to reach the engine controls in an emergency.
- Students learn a tremendous amount from observation of other people's techniques and the view is severely impeded from below - the only place to stand other than the side decks
- We do not wish to encourage people to stand on the side decks of craft
- If the only place for instructors is on the side deck, they will run into problems when going through tunnels and bridges. RYA and British Waterways advice is to stay within the profile of the boat when negotiating tunnels and bridges - impossible if standing on a very narrow side deck

Recognition for existing Training centres using only a traditional stern vessel for tuition will have grandfather rights.

Any training on a traditional stern vessel, whether a centre vessel or own boat tuition, must be covered in your risk assessment and operating policy and the maximum number of students should not exceed two with only one to be at the helm area at any one time. The reason for only two students is that since they are unable to observe as much as from a semi-trad or a cruiser stern, they are going to need additional time on the helm to appreciate all the course elements.