

## Basis Training Zeilvaart on the Res Nova 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2021

The Basis Training Zeilvaart by Peter Lock is a great opportunity for everyone who thinks about becoming a Maat on a sailing vessel or is interested to learn more about sailing.

I thought it would be a nice experience to do a season as a Maat on a sailing vessel. With the participation in the Basis Training I wanted to make sure it's the right thing for me to become a Maat.

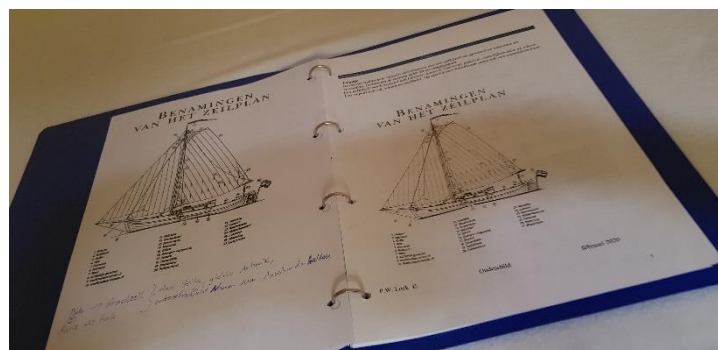
On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of July in the morning I arrived at the harbour of Lelystad and was warmly welcomed on board of the Res Nova. To make sure that we would have a good time without any problems concerning Corona everyone did a self-test as soon as he came on board.

After I unpacked my bag in my cabin I got ready to start the Basis Training. When everyone was on board we sat together in the common room of the ship, we introduced ourselves to the rest of the group and told our intention why we were there. Then Peter handed out the textbooks with all the topics we would learn in the following days and some extra information. Now, we were ready to go outside. Peter showed us a few different knots we needed to learn until Friday and we started sailing towards Edam.

In the evening we had our first of many delicious dinners cooked by Janny. After dinner we had our first lesson of Sailing Theory held by Peter, topic of the day was sail courses and how to set the sails to get in the right direction. Every lesson took about one hour and was held in Dutch. Me, as a German who can't speak Dutch that good, was able to ask questions in German/ English and the whole team was able to explain the things I couldn't understand in Dutch. I didn't need their help much but it was good to have the opportunity when it was difficult. While the lessons Peter asked questions and let us explain a few things to make sure we got the topic and understand everything important. After the sailing theory lessons we had some free time left.

The next day started for everyone with breakfast. When the ship was cleared we were ready for our morning lesson about the jobs a Maat needs to be able to do. Then we kept on sailing towards the next harbour and had our daily routine with lunch, dinner, evening lesson and free time.

In the evening lessons we learned different things in the topics sail courses, navigation, reading charts and calculating the nautical miles and duration for the next day sailing.



All the jobs a Maat need to be able to do before, while and after sailing we learned in the morning lessons. Maarten talked with us about all the safety precautions on the ship and showed them. Peter told us how to drop the anchor and lift it back up. Martin showed us the engine room and how to look for the oil, petrol and battery. We also learned how to use the “zeillier”, how to prepare the ship for departure/ arrival and how to belay a cleat.



While sailing we learned to reef the main sail, to helm with a compass and what to do for gybing and tacking.

In every harbour someone else got the role as the Maat to learn how to berth and tie-up the ship.

Hand signs make it easier to communicate the distances to the other ships and the pier while berthing so we learned them too.

On Thursday evening we threw the spring line and head line to be well prepared for future jobs as a Maat and we were also ready for a little exam on Friday morning.

All the things you learn in the Basis Training Zeilvaart are important for a Maat and the Basis Training is a way to learn everything with fun and other future Maats.

For me it was the right decision to do it because now I know I really like to become a Maat.

So if you don't know it yet, do the Basis Training Zeilvaart!

Annika from Germany

