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8th December 2009

To whom it may concern,

This is to certify that Robert Hickman has been employed full time as the captain of the 1929 Classic Yacht Halcyon from March 2006 to November 2009. During this time he was employed by Halcyon Yacht Charter at the above address. I have no hesitation in giving Robert a complete reference. He has proved himself to be an excellent Captain for our 95' LOA charter yacht. He has managed the vessel for approximately one year (2006) in refit at the shipyard of T Nielsen and Co in Gloucester and then captained the vessel for a series of charter cruises of around 5000 miles each around the coast of the UK, Ireland and Norway in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

He has an exemplary standard of personal conduct and expects nothing less from his crew. He is at all times respectful, professional, authoritative and calm, even when he is not on duty. He has shown a wide range of skills from maintenance to passage planning. I have personally crossed the North Sea with him from UK to Norway three times and can assert that he gives his crew members (and guests) a feeling of great confidence that they have a captain who can be trusted. His customer service instincts aboard ship are excellent, being present and interacting with guests when required yet keeping a respectful distance between crew and guests when needed. Halcyon is a single screw, long keel yacht of over 85 tonnes displacement and can sometimes be difficult to maneuver. Robert's boat handling skills have developed extremely well and he is able to judge her needs precisely. Robert mastered the art of bringing her alongside gently and if conditions were inappropriate was not afraid to cancel the operation and return when conditions were more favourable. At all times he had the safety and security of the vessel and crew in mind.

I would be happy to give any verbal reference that any prospective employer might require.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Armour
Managing Partner
Halcyon Yacht Charter LLP

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