

Thursday, December 13, 2007

To whom it may concern,

It is a pleasure to write this reference for Dustin.

Dustin has sailing abilities that few have. He is naturally gifted and has a feel for the boat that most miss. This means he is able to sail without thinking, allowing him to concentrate on crew and/or guests, weather, other vessels and general safety.

I took Dustin on as a crew member in 2004, to sail from Malta to Geneva. This was not an easy passage on a good day. We did not have a dream trip at all as 80% of the trip was in 40+ knots and pounding seas, totally exposed for days on end. We were sailing a very famous 1938 classic sailing yacht, Solway Maid, without the mod cons and therefore it required real sailing skills and at no time could we relax. The conditions were so extreme at times that only Dustin and I, from an experienced crew of 5, were able to be on the helm. It was a testament to Dustin's abilities that I, as Captain, was able to sleep and rest while he was on the helm. Having sailed over 23,000 nautical miles around the Mediterranean alone in 4 years, I have a huge depth of experience and tales to be told. Therefore I can speak with authority.

His calm approach to even potentially dangerous situations, even when sleep and food deprived was an incredible skill to have onboard. He also has a great personality which helps immensely in small confined spaces, over many days. You cannot hide skills or personality traits on passages across rough seas. Everything becomes very clear very quickly. All in all the 2 weeks I spent with Dustin was an absolute pleasure. We became great friends and I view Dustin as a very skilled and experienced sailor that is capable of taking on and excelling in any sailing enterprise.

Please feel free to contact me for further details if you wish.

Regards

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