New appointment and apprentice promotion at Buckler’s Hard Yacht Harbour

Published: May 22, 2026

Author:

Online version: https://www.wheels-alive.co.uk/new-appointment-and-apprentice-promotion-at-bucklers-hard-yacht-harbour/


FOR SA

Left to right: Buckler's Hard Yacht Harbour Marine Operative Gary Nicol, Chris Wilson and former apprentice Oli Rickard.

Buckler's Hard Yacht Harbour tells us...

Experienced marine operator Gary Nicol has been appointed as the Beaulieu River's new Marine Operative at Buckler's Hard Yacht Harbour.

During over 15 years in the maritime industry, Gary has worked as a boatyard operator, head bosun and river patrol officer. He now joins the Beaulieu River team, working alongside the boatyard team and dockmasters in the marina.

Meanwhile, the yacht harbour's first apprentice Oli Rickard – who completed his apprenticeship in under two years and passed his final assessment with a top-scoring merit – has been promoted to Boatyard Supervisor.

Oli steps into the shoes of former supervisor Chris Wilson, who has worked at the yacht harbour for over three years and is leaving to pursue new ventures.

Harbour Master Wendy Stowe said: *"We are very proud of Oli and his achievements and also look forward to welcoming Gary to the Buckler's Hard Yacht Harbour team. Our berth and mooring holders will be able to benefit from his extensive boatyard and marina knowledge."*

Delivering five-star customer service is a top priority for the team, serving customers on the marina's 200 fully-serviced walk-ashore pontoon berths, 300 river moorings and more than 10,000 visitors who stay there each year.

Gary, from Ferndown, joins the team after the completion of the £2m boatshed redevelopment. The project has provided stunning waterfront offices, high-quality workshops and a new marina shop with an expanded range of fresh food and drink, gifts and boating supplies. For details about new office and meeting room rentals visit

www.beaulieuriver.co.uk/boatyard-redevelopment.

To find out more about berths and moorings on the Beaulieu River, as well as the range of services provided, see www.beaulieuriver.co.uk, email harbour.office@beaulieu.co.uk or call 01590 616200.

About the Beaulieu River

Buckler's Hard Yacht Harbour was ranked as one of the UK's best marinas by being placed in the top 5% of 5 Gold Anchors winners by The Yacht Harbour Association. It was also voted the best place for sailors to call home when it won the prestigious Marina of the Year title in British Yachting's awards.

At the gateway to the New Forest National Park, it provides habitats for more than 200 species of birdlife. The custodianship of the Montagu family for over four centuries has kept it special, yet it is only a short sail from the yachting hub of Cowes.

A packed events calendar offers regular opportunities to bring together new and old friends in the Beaulieu River community, while a restaurant, pub and tea shop are on the doorstep at the 18th century shipbuilding village of Buckler's Hard with its maritime museum.