

cv surgery



Our regular feature explains how to better present your CV. This month Laurence Reymann looks at an experienced lead deckhand who is searching for work.



With the end of the Mediterranean summer season in sight many of you will need to rewrite, revamp, update or create a CV. It is not an easy task and often it is not a well-liked task, regardless of your job or seniority.

I must remind you that in 2009, more so then ever, it is vital that your CV represents you well. The market has changed, employers are more demanding and careful when recruiting and you must ensure that the first impression they have of you through your CV is a positive one. If not, quite simply, your CV will go to the bottom of their pile and you will not be called for an interview. Of course, your recruitment consultant will do his or her best to help the client to “see” past the CV and promote you as a candidate the best they can, but you must be the driving force and show that you care about your career. One way of doing this is by producing a good CV.

This month’s candidate is an experienced deckhand seeking a lead deckhand job. His CV is in fact rather well put together; there are only a few minor changes needed. So, let’s look at the strong and weak points of this CV.

I have always been partial to a classically presented CV, so therefore I would recommend to keep the name (1) at the top of the CV. Whilst creativity is great, when it comes to CVs in our industry, keep it simple, keep it to a format people are familiar with, keep the name at the top.

Objective

This comes across as a bit clumsy: “Power Superyacht industry all over the World” (2). Whilst various denominations exist for our industry, this is not one I have heard before and it simply does not sound right.

“I am currently in [New Zealand]” (3) is obviously an important piece of information in our industry – we need to be able to track people quickly and to know their location. Does this information, however, belong in the CV? I think not, it is best shared in an accompanying email, it avoids you having to update the CV each time you change location. It would be a

shame to be in Europe, have an outdated CV that mentions you are in New Zealand and miss out on the opportunity of a last-minute interview somewhere in a Mediterranean port.

Superyacht Experience

It is always best to start with the most recent experience as it is probably the most relevant and usually best reflects the level you are at, so we will have to swap them around on this CV (4 and 5).

The section for “Jan 06 – Jan 09” (5) is a very long sentence that is grammatically unbalanced. The candidate wants to share too much information in one sentence and, whilst we can understand the message, it is not well delivered. It needs reworking.

This paragraph is otherwise informative as it is task driven, which is what is required.

Qualifications

This section (6) is fine; the candidate used bold for the highest certificate he holds, which makes for quick reading.

Other Work Experience

This section (7) is also fine; the candidate develops to some extent about his pre-yachting experience, which is good as an employer will want to have a full picture of a person. It is not a good idea to keep someone guessing as to what your pre-yachting curriculum was. Of course, as our candidate will go up the ladder and acquire more yachting experience this pre-yachting section will become less relevant and, whilst our candidate will need to keep the name of the companies, job titles and dates, the job description can and should be deleted.

Overall this is a rather well-presented CV and with just a little bit of improvement, our candidate, thanks to a well-crafted CV, should get some interest, interviews and hopefully his new job is just around the corner. ■

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