

Training a miller

The Dutch approach



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Cultural Heritage Agency
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

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What I like to tell you

- Why do we train?
- What is the training?
- How do we organize it?
- Is the training effective?

- The workshop



Why do we train?

- We want to safeguard the craft of the miller
- A mill is a dangerous machine, if not handled properly.
- It is not that easy to operate
- We want to set a standard
- Almost no “father to son” learning process anymore
- We welcome visitors, but that is potentially hazardous. We prepare trainees for the risks
- The community is very critical when an accident happens. There are more and more rules and regulations
- Mills are partly financed by (local) government’s money (our own tax money). We have to take good care of the mills, it is our commitment.

What is the training?

- Learn and train the skills to operate a mill under all circumstances and weather/water conditions
- Theoretical knowledge of the operation of the mill and its crucial parts
- Knowledge about the weather/water surrounding
- Safety rules; do's and don'ts
- Knowledge of different types of mills

How do we organize it

- The Guild of voluntary millers gives training since almost 50 years
- Distinction between water and windmills; two different courses
- A lot of practical training, an average of 150 hours in about 2-3 years.
- Instruction lessons of the theory. There is a standard handbook for every miller in training
- We work with wind- and watermill training instructors
- There are two official exams
- There is a official certificate

Het Gilde van
50 1972-2022 **jaar**
Vrijwillige Molenaars


Alles draait rond de
molenaar

Vieren, verbinden en doorgeven

Vieren dat het Gilde al 50 jaar molenaars opleidt, het ambacht uitdraagt, molenaars verbindt en door verjonging werkt aan behoud naar de toekomst.



Is the training
effective?

- The last decade 60 to 70 new millers every year
 - In the last 50 years more than 2300 millers in training passed their exams and got the certificate.
 - Does it work?
Yes, but it is not an easy course. The average course takes about 2 to 3 years. But some trainees take their time and are in training for 5 years or even more.
 - At the end you hopefully get a key of your favourite mill and start milling on your own or in a team with other millers.
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The workshop

- Discussion about the necessity of training.
- Which items are in your opinion important to train if someone wants to become a miller.
- Do you train millers in your country and if so, tell us how? What are the results?
- Do you train and teach in one type of mill or learn about other types as well?
- Does insurance companies require a certificate?

