

24 July 2015

Falmouth 006 2015

Lone sailor in difficulties rescued from close to the Manacles.

Just after 7 o'clock this morning the Falmouth volunteer lifeboat crewmembers' pagers were activated. The coastguard had received a mayday call from a lone yachtsman, sailing from France to Falmouth. His engine had failed, his sails were ripped and torn, and he was near exhaustion, having been at sea for several days.

The inshore lifeboat was the first to be called at 7:08am and set off on their way to the yacht *Defiance* by 7:13. With poor visibility and a gusting force 8 easterly wind, finding the 23 ft vessel proved to be a little difficult. The lifeboat crew eventually found her after a short search, close to the infamous Manacles and drifting toward them. A tow was set up and the lifeboat managed to pull the yacht away from danger. They then waited a short while for the bigger boat to arrive and take over the tow back to Falmouth.

By now, the all weather lifeboat had put to sea as well, leaving her pontoon at 7:28 and arriving on the scene at 8am. At 9:15am the tow line was transferred to the all weather lifeboat and the long tow from the Manacles to Falmouth harbour began.

By 11:30am they arrived in the harbour. The towline was transferred once again to the inshore lifeboat to finish the tow in the confines of the harbour and secure her to a berth in Pendennis Marina. The all weather lifeboat then returned to her pontoon, where she arrived at approximately 11:15am. After a wash-down and refuel she was ready for service again at 11:25.

A few minutes later the inshore lifeboat returned to her slipway and after washing down and refuelling was declared ready for service at 11:35, leaving the wet and cold crewmembers to change back into their civilian clothes, complete their paperwork, and head back to work or home.

Notes to editors

- The crew in the inshore lifeboat on this occasion were: Sandy Proctor (Helmsman); Tom Bird and Elliot Holman.
- Manning the all weather lifeboat were: John Blakeston (Coxswain); Carl Beardmore; Di Bush; Dave Nicoll; Adam West; Jake Ingleby; Jack Chuter and Nick Head.

RNLI media contacts

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