

3 August 2015

Falmouth 007 2015

## **Both Falmouth RNLI volunteer lifeboats involved in a search for missing yachtsman.**

**The pagers were activated at just after 2:50pm local time, requesting that both boats be launched to attend a 40ft yawl that had been reported going round in circles off Coverack.**

The all-weather lifeboat left its pontoon at approximately 3:05 and the inshore a few moments later. They headed across the bay at high speed arriving on scene at approximately 3:30pm where they confirmed that no one was aboard the yawl, and so immediately commenced a search together with the Lizard Tamar class volunteer lifeboat, a Search and Rescue helicopter from RNAS Culdrose and the coastguard cliff rescue teams checking the coastline.

After a lengthy search in fairly clement weather, visibility good and a SW wind of no more than force three, nothing had been found, however, a passing yacht reported that they had picked up a person from the water. The SAR helicopter recovered the person from the yacht and took him off to hospital.

Both of Falmouth's lifeboats were then released back to station, the inshore arriving at approximately 7 o'clock but the all-weather went in to Coverack to recover the casualty's yacht and tow it back to Falmouth. After washing down and refuelling the inshore lifeboat was ready for service once more at 7:08 but the all-weather lifeboat with her tow did not arrive back in harbour until 9:40pm, and after securing the yacht to a suitable mooring, refuelling and a wash down, the lifeboat was declared ready for service again at 9:48pm.

- The volunteer lifeboat crewmembers on this service were:
- ALB; John Blakeston (Coxswain); Luke Wills; Andy Jenkin; Dave Nicoll; Neil Capper and Clare Angove.
- ILB; Di Bush (Helmsman); Allister Heane and Jack Chuter.

### **RNLI media contacts**

For more information please contact; Gerry Gearon, RNLI Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer on 01326 212438, [gerrygearon@hotmail.com](mailto:gerrygearon@hotmail.com); or Amy Caldwell, Public Relations Manager South West on 01752 850689, [amy\\_caldwell@rnli.org](mailto:amy_caldwell@rnli.org); or contact RNLI Public Relations on 01202 336789.