

River Hamble Harbour Board – 10 January 2014

Incidents and Events

The following incidents and events occurred in the period from 23 December 2013 to 9 January 2014

- 1.1 23 Dec. Very strong winds (gusts up to 70 knots) during the day caused considerable damage on the River, including a capsized pontoon, several sails unfurled and shredded, and boats parting berthing/mooring lines. A pontoon broke free at Warsash and was recovered to the Warsash Slipway. Patrol operations on the water were formally suspended at 1315 due to weather conditions. Subsequently, a call was received from the Royal Southern Yacht Club, asking for help with a yacht berthed on the Club's pontoon which was breaking free and causing damage to itself and another boat. This request was declined by the Harbour Master due to the adverse weather.
- 1.2 24 Dec. Patrol afloat all day dealing with the aftermath of the previous day's gales (which had worsened overnight). Incidents included:
 - Two sunken boats – neither could be refloated until the New Year due to non-availability of divers and equipment. Both were marked with buoys. Owners informed.
 - One boat which had parted its pile lines sustained serious damage when it came into contact with the vessels berthed immediately upstream. Both the latter also sustained damage. Owners informed.
 - The two boats which were secured to the capsized pontoon (see above) were moved by the Patrol to safe mooring. Owners informed.
 - One boat, moored with her stern facing the elements, suffered an unfurled genoa and parted her stern pile lines, causing her to 'sail' against the upstream pile, resulting in significant damage to her bows. Owner informed.
 - The downstream pile iron failed on F64, due to failure of securing bolts. Fortunately, the Patrol was able to re-secure the vessel (and subsequently move her) before any damage was incurred. Owner informed.
 - Patrol attended a yacht which had pulled a cleat from its pontoon and was in danger of breaking free. Owner attended.
 - Patrol attended two yachts sharing a pile mooring (without pontoon) which had clashed, causing significant damage to both yachts, including damage to topsides and rigging. Owners informed.

- Patrol attended about twenty vessels to replace broken berthing ropes, re-furl sails and re-position fenders.
- 1.3 26 Dec. Warsash Sailing Club Boxing Day dinghy racing – almost no wind!
 - 1.4 27 Dec. More gales overnight. Patrols re-furled/re-packed a number of sails, and replaced fenders as required.
 - 1.5 28 Dec. Further high winds overnight caused additional damage:
 - Patrol attended two yachts sharing a pile mooring (without pontoon) which had clashed, causing significant damage to both yachts, including damage to topsides and rigging. Owners informed.
 - Damage observed to two yachts berthed on the HP pontoon – owners informed.
 - Various warps and fenders replaced.
 - 1.6 29 Dec. Patrol attended a number of incidents resulting from high winds overnight. Actions included replacing various covers, fenders and berthing ropes.
 - 1.7 30 Dec. Patrol attended a number of incidents resulting from high winds overnight. Actions included replacing various covers, fenders and berthing ropes.
 - 1.8 31 Dec. Patrol replaced broken berthing ropes on two boats and recovered two very large tree trunks from the water in the Upper Hamble. A temporary repair (lashing) was carried out on the upstream pile iron on F64 to reduce the risk of further problems before a full repair can be carried out
 - 1.9 1 Jan. Wind building throughout the day, with F11 gusts by mid-afternoon. Patrol operations formally suspended due to high winds. Two members of the public reported a live electricity cable sparking and smoking alongside the footpath near the Warsash Maritime Academy. Fire Brigade called and attended but could not identify any problems.
 - 1.10 2 Jan. Following another gale overnight, the Patrol discovered a yacht which had entirely broken free of its pile mooring and was lying alongside another boat, having sustained some damage. Owner traced and informed.
 - 1.11 3 Jan. Patrol spent most of the day removing debris (logs, sleepers etc) from the River and replacing fenders.
 - 1.12 4 Jan. Patrol replaced numerous fenders and berthing lines, and moved a yacht which had come partly adrift due to a pile iron failure.
 - 1.13 5 Jan. Patrol replaced broken pile line and assisted with pumping out a yacht which had taken in a considerable amount of water.
 - 1.14 6 Jan. Patrol replaced a number of fenders and adjusted lines, following strong winds overnight.
 - 1.15 7 Jan. Strong winds overnight, but no significant new damage.

1.16 8 Jan. Patrol monitored recovery of one sunken vessel

1.17 9 Jan. Patrol monitored recovery of the second sunken vessel.

1.18 It is also apparent that a number of pontoon floats have broken free during the gales, and have been stranded along the banks of the River. A full assessment will be made in due course and efforts will be made to recover the floats where possible.