

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

## Burry Port RNLI Presentation and Christmas Dinner event delayed by pagers

Lifeboats News Release

Sunday 20 November 2016

**On a quiet Saturday evening, when all our crew members and partners were thinking of getting ready for Burry Port RNLI Presentation & Christmas Dinner, have a shower, get changed, looking forward to a pleasant evening.....**



At 5:06pm off went the pagers, both lifeboats to be launched to assist two vessels in difficulty close to Blue Pool on Burry Head, North Gower.

Holmes, North Gower.

The D Class inshore lifeboat *Diane Hilary* with helmsman Gary Morgan and the Atlantic 75 *Leicester Challenge II* helmed by Darren Sheppard, were on the water by 5:15pm and heading for Burry Holmes. The lifeboats were crewed by Jared Phillips, Kevin Lloyd, Lee Fox, Paul Mitchell and Osian Bowen.

A 21 foot fishing boat and a 21 foot Dory were working together off the Holmes when the Dory had some rope wrapped around its propeller. The fishing vessel took the Dory under tow, but after some heavy surf the towed Dory was smashed into the rear of the towing vessel, causing damage to the transom and the 'towing' vessel was taking on water. Both fishing crews were now on board the towing vessel but they decided to drop off two crew members on Broughton Beach and leaving the Dory on anchor.

Both RNLI lifeboats arrived on scene, the Atlantic was tasked to get a tow on the Dory and the D Class to assess the damage to the fishing boat.

It was decided to tow the Dory back to Burry Port and escort the fishing vessel, with its crew of two, back up the estuary to its moorings in Loughor.

The Dory was towed back but just off Burry Port Harbour it capsized and sank, with an RNLI crew member escaping quickly and losing some vital RNLI equipment in the process. The tow was dropped to recover the crewman, but for safety and with no life at risk, the Dory was abandoned.

In the meantime the D Class had escorted the fishing vessel close to Loughor Bridge where it was safely moored until the rising tide could allow it in to Loughor moorings. UK Coastguard Units were monitoring its situation. Loughor inshore rescue boat were put on standby later, as the vessel passed under Loughor Bridge heading to its moorings.

Weather conditions caused some recovery problems at Burry Port and eventually there was sufficient water to enter Burry Port Harbour. Both boats were recovered and all crew members safe and sound.

The fishing vessel was safely moored at Loughor and the Dory was recovered on Sunday morning by its owners.

Meanwhile, the dinner was delayed for at least one hour but we all managed to sit down for food at 9:15pm, 90 minutes later than planned.

Terrific job by the staff at the Ashburnham Golf Club, a cracking meal, and not spoilt by our delay.

#### **RNLI media contact**

For more information contact Alun Wells, Burry port Lifeboat Press Officer on 07929 783239 or email [a.wells142@btinternet.com](mailto:a.wells142@btinternet.com).

### **Key facts about the RNLI**

The RNLI charity saves lives at sea. Its volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service around the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland coasts. The RNLI operates over 238 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland and more than 240 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK and Channel Islands. The RNLI is independent of Coastguard and government and depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824, its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 142,700 lives.

### **Learn more about the RNLI**

For more information please visit the [RNLI website](#) or [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#). News releases, videos and photos are available on the [News Centre](#).

### **Contacting the RNLI - public enquiries**

Members of the public may contact the RNLI on 0300 300 9990 (UK) or 1800 991802 (Ireland) or or by [email](#).

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