



Incident: Injury in Merrilyn:

Location: Off Yarmouth

June 2022

Summary of incident:

On passage from Yarmouth to Cowes, a crew member had just rigged a preventer on the main, portside and was moving forward to pull it in while as the main sheet was being eased. The coils of the preventer line were on the deck. The crew member stood on them, they moved, and he twisted his right knee, dislocating it. He was immediately attended to and assisted by the Afterguard.

The vessel was diverting to Lymington and an AG member phoned the harbour master advising of vessels' intentions and to request an alongside berth and ambulance. Whilst on the phone to Lymington, the crew members' kneecap popped back into place. On this basis, it was decided that the vessel would continue to Cowes as planned and the request for assistance in Lymington was cancelled before the ambulance was called. When the vessel arrived in Cowes the casualty was taken to A&E.

The casualty returned to the vessel sometime later with a knee brace, crutches and with a care plan. Skipper kept PD up to date, who kept the parents informed.

What lead to the incident?

Crew member stepping on the coiled line.

Was it avoidable?

Yes, the injury could have been avoided if the young person hadn't stood on the line, however it is also 'one of those things' and the young person was unlucky to have dislocated his knee.

Key lessons learned:

Good decisions were made, and the situation was very well handled.

Lines of communication were clear and well maintained. Skipper kept the PD up to date, who kept parents fully briefed. PD ensured trustees were aware of the situation.

PD contacted The MAIB advised that this is a reportable incident as the injury impact is greater than 72 hours (3 days). Report submitted to MAIB.

Key recommendations:

That afterguard remain vigilant to such hazards.

That clear lines of communications are maintained between the vessel and the office in such situation

Follow on actions:

PD followed up with the parents, who reported he was recovering and in good spirits. They were happy that they were kept fully informed and that he was very well looked after.

Unlikely to be any follow-up from MAIB.