

2 June 2016

Falmouth 009 2016

Schooner *Spirit of Falmouth* Towed back to Falmouth Harbour after suffering engine problems.

The pagers alerted Falmouth RNLI volunteer lifeboat crew to the fact that *Spirit of Falmouth*, a replica pilot schooner on route to Fowey, was suffering gearbox problems several miles to the east of Anthony head.

The volunteers were paged at 9:34pm. Just over ten minutes later they were on their way to the last reported position of the schooner.

As conditions at sea were ideal John Blakeston, the senior Falmouth coxswain, handed over the controls of the operation to a recently qualified coxswain, Andy Jenkins. This would allow him to gain valuable hands on experience of taking charge of a rescue at sea.

Andy quickly got the lifeboat crew to prepare a tow and as soon as they arrived on scene at 10:20pm they were able to set it up and commence the long tow back to Falmouth.

The tow took just over an hour and *Spirit of Falmouth* was secured alongside Pendennis Marina at 11:35pm. The lifeboat was released and returned to its pontoon at midnight. She was ready for service again by 15 minutes past the hour.

The 92ft schooner *Spirit of Falmouth* is part of the Turn to Starboard Charity that helps wounded and injured servicemen rehabilitate after their traumatic experiences in the military. She was en route to Fowey and as there was no wind at all they had to start their engine. Unfortunately they experienced gearbox problems straight away and had to call for help.

Notes to editors

- The crew for this call out were: Andy Jenkins (coxswain); John Blakeston; Di Bush; Luke wills; Tom Bird; Adam West and trainee Josh Williams.

RNLI media contacts

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