



## Operations Notice No 3

### Mainsail Stowing

In the past it has been the practice, when stowing the mainsail, to climb the base of the mast using the folding steps fitted for the purpose and by holding on to the running rigging as available. This practice means that the individual only has one hand available for pulling the sail down and for assisting with the flaking of the sail, it also incorporates hazards that could result in the individual falling to the deck causing injury.

As is good practices when working at heights it is now required on Challenge Wales that the mast climber wears the climbing harness that is used for M.O.B. and other mast climbing operations when undertaking this task. The short stop with karabiners at each end that is connected to the harness should be attached to the padeyes positioned at the halyard exits on the mast therefore improving the climber's security

Risk Assessment RA 003 has been reviewed to reflect this change.

*Andy Hall*

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