



Operations Notice No 4

Yankee and Staysail Halyards

The halyards for both the Yankee and Staysail on Challenge Wales are composite in construction in that they are part stainless steel wire and part spectra rope. Periodically it has been noticed that damage is occurring to the wire section of the halyard, particularly to the staysail halyard, close to the snap shackle used for the attachment of the halyard to the sail.

Investigation as to why this is happening concludes that on some occasions the sails are being hoisted with the halyard having a twist around the respective forestay, this has the effect of changing the lead onto the sheave at the mast resulting in the damage to the halyard. Further damage is caused through the friction between the halyard and the forestay with the potential of causing damage to the forestay itself.

To prevent this from happening it is important that attention is given to the lay of the halyard prior to hoisting the sail, bearing in mind that the head of the sail itself may have a turn around the forestay when the halyard is attached therefore adding a twist to what appears to be a clear halyard.

As with any hoisting of sails due diligence is required aloft to ensure everything is running clear and any loads that seem to be greater than the norm are investigated rather than brute force being applied which could result in costly repairs, gear failure, and possible injury.

Risk Assessment RA 007 has been reviewed to reflect this change.

Andy Hall

Andy Hall
Marine Operations

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