



Seahouses Lifeboat Station

Tel : 01665 720370

From Station Press Officer

LATEST CALL OUT INFORMATION

Launch Report No 32/2003

DIVER PLUCKED FROM BREAKING SEAS OFF BEADNELL.

Date: Sunday 26/10/03 **Callout time:** 3.20pm **Launch time:** 3.24pm

Wind speed: 4/5 **Wind direction:** NNW **Sea state:** Choppy, 1.5m swells

Weather: Bright and Clear **Visibility:** Excellent **Casualty:** Diver

Recovery Time: 4.25pm **Coastguard Incident No:** DIN 819

Location: Off Beadnell Haven **Lifeboats:** Mersey and "D" Class Inshore Lifeboats.

Crew: All Weather Mersey Lifeboat: Michael Douglas, John Hanvey, Eric Stanwix, Ian Fisher, Ian Clayton, Stuart Patterson. Inshore Lifeboat: David Fordy, Mick Hoyle.

Landrover/Shore Helpers: G.(Zeddy) Annison, Sandy Straughan, Scott Priestley, Neil Calvert.

Details : At 3.20pm on Sunday 26th October, 2003, Humber Coastguard received a "999" call from a member of the public, reporting a diver in severe difficulties in breaking surf off Beadnell Haven. At the time there was a strong wind and tide flowing. Humber Coastguard requested the immediate launch of both Seahouses Lifeboats (the second launch of the day), and alerted local shore based coastguards. The diver could be seen from the shore, waving for help. He was exhausted from trying to swim towards the shore against the tidal flow. He had been diving from the shore with a colleague, who had returned safely to the shore after experiencing difficulty with his equipment. The Inshore Lifeboat was first on the scene, and at not inconsiderable risk, crewman David Fordy and Mick Hoyle reached the diver amidst the breaking and confused seas. The exhausted diver was pulled onto the inshore lifeboat, which then hastily made its way to safer water offshore. By this time the All Weather Mersey Class Lifeboat "Grace Darling" had reached the scene, and the casualty was transferred to the big lifeboat. Apart from a blanket to warm him in the wheelhouse, he required no further medical assistance, and was landed safely at Seahouses, where he was given a warm drink at the Lifeboat Station.

The diver was a 30yr old male from Brunswick Green, Newcastle and a member of Marsden Dive Centre. Once ashore, he offered very grateful thanks to his rescuers, after being reunited with his dive "buddy." Had this man been washed onto the rocks nearby, the force of the seas could have resulted in life threatening injury to him. He had been in the water for about an hour and a half, and had given up trying to swim against the wind and tide. Before leaving for home, he added that he thought that that may be his last dive for this season !!

Ends.