

SCUTTLEBUTT

SAILING NEWS

It was on 19th February 1997, a policeman shouted "Get my mates, get my mates!" as rescuers plucked him from a wrecked yacht in boiling seas.

But Martin Humble's three pals - two cops and a colleague's teenage son - had drowned hours earlier as storms ripped off the mast and capsized the boat.

Rescuers found one in the water, still attached to the boat by his safety line. Bodies of the others were washed ashore early yesterday.

And last night safety experts were asking: Why did they set sail in the worst gales of the winter?

The four and a woman friend hired the 35ft Fairview Two from Hamble, Hampshire, on Sunday. The seasick woman left them in Poole, Dorset, on Tuesday as the weather worsened.

Next day Martin, 30, Det Con Tony Upton, 36 - skippering the boat - PC Joe Charnley, 35, and David Asquith, 18, left for the Isle of Wight, despite reading a Met Office severe weather warning.

But in the difficult Needles Channel into the Solent the boat was dismasted and capsized.

Survivor Martin tried to call for help but the radio went dead and Coastguards could not tell where the yacht was.

Six hours later a couple spotted it near Cowes.

Martin - suffering shock and hypothermia - was saved by Cowes inshore rescue boat. Hamble Inshore Rescue were amazed they put to sea in "horrendous" conditions.

Royal Yachting Association training officer Bill Anderson said: "The sea was a boiling cauldron."

Boat owner Brian Hobson, boss of charter firm Fairview Sailing, said: "It is obvious they should not have been out there."

Tony Upton had just moved to Charing Cross from south London's Walworth Road where Martin and Joe and teenager David's father Rod Asquith also serve.

Source:

<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/PLEASE+GET+MY+MATES%3B+Yacht+survivor%27s+plea+to+rescuers.-a061105801>

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jonathan_Binns/publication/257247272_Extreme_Motions_of_Modern_Sailing_yachts_-_Quantifying_Re-righting/links/563d752208aec6f17dd7fdb/Extreme-Motions-of-Modern-Sailing-yachts-Quantifying-Re-righting.pdf