Harry Hoist

In recognition of the generous donation of the main structure of this hoist which made it's construction possible: and to avoid confusion during Lifting Group activities, this new piece of equipment has been named the "Harry Hoist after the donor's little grandson who had complained that his sister had had a boat named after her and he hadn't.

This mobile hoist has been constructed specifically for stepping and unstepping masts of boats laying on the club's hard-standing. It has been overload proof tested and designated a Safe Working Load (S.W.L.) of 2001bs (91 Kg.). This has been witnessed and agreed by our insurance engineers. It is of the utmost importance that the S.W.L. shall be observed: overloading will negate the club's insurance cover and render the users personally responsible.

HARRY HOIST:

Safe working procedures.

These procedures should be read in conjunction with the existing SAFE USE OF MASTING DERRICK document which all group members are required to have read and signed the group's log-book to record that they have done so.

ERECTNG THE HOIST'S JIB.

It will be seen that this jib, is in fact, an alloy boat mast and it's rigging system is that of a conventional mast-head rig i.e. a pair of cap shrouds, two pairs of lowers and a backstay but excluding a forestay.

Using the static derrick at the back of the clubhouse building, first swingout the jib and secure it at right angles to the building with it's rope vangs.

Bring the Harry Hoist's spar under the static derrick and with the sail track of the spar uppermost make-on a lift rope, to the derrick's hook with the recommended hitch, at the upper third of the spar, over the spar's winch wire but making sure not to trap the cap shrouds or backstay under the rope. The backstay should pass the lift rope on the side away from the building.

Hoist-up the spar until it hangs vertically with its heel about two feet from the ground.

The hoist's chassis frame may now be positioned with it's mast-step under the suspended spar but remembering that the spar will have approximately17 degrees of rake away from the winch end. Fit the tabernacle's pivot bolt through the spar's cheek plates and fit the retaining nut and split-pin. (The split-pin is very important.)

The hoist chassis may be readily moved about and positioned by three people but if it is not attached to the tractor hitch it should be prevented from moving by chocking the two large wheels with the four wooden wedges provided.

The spar's winch wire and hook will have been secured by a short lashing or bungee to the lower end of the spar, without trapping any of the rigging wires, before it was hoisted to the vertical.

Now attach the lower ends of the rigging wires and set-up and lock-off the rigging screws. It does not have to be very tight but once adjusted, locking the rigging screws is important. None of this differs from stepping a mast on a boat but do not over-tighten the backstay so much as to draw the spar out of straight for there is no forestay to oppose this load which will come, in use, from the weight being lifted.

Cast-off the lift-rope and swing the static derrick's jib out of the way. Take the bitter-end of the Harry Hoist's winch wire to the winch and secure it to the winch drum. Wind the slack neatly onto the drum until the hook at it's other end is three or four feet from the ground, The hoist is now ready for use.

MOVING AND POSITIONING:

The hoist is best moved about the site by attaching it's tow-hitch to the front draw pin of the tractor. The driver will find that he is able to manoeuvre the hoist very accurately so that it's hook may be placed exactly where it is needed for attaching a lift-rope in the recommended manner.

Once in position the hoist may be disconnected from the tractor which may well be needed for use elsewhere but if this is done care must be taken to place wedges on either side of both of the large wheels to prevent any movement.

DANGER FROM HOOK;

When moving the hoist it's hook must be prevented from swinging about. It should be secured to a cleat at the foot of the jib by a length of rope and only released when needed for positioning on the mast to be lifted.

Be aware that a heavy crane hook swinging about as the hoist is moved is a major hazard.

TRAVELLING WITH A LOAD;

All users of the Group will be aware of the procedures for stepping and unstepping masts using our static derrick, however, with this mobile hoist there arises another function: that of being able to move with a suspended load, which is necessary to be able move backwards from a boat to lower a mast to ground level or back up, for the hoist is unable to jib-up or down. A mast should at all times have a control rope made fast from it's foot to the hoist structure. Here again I emphasize the importance of making the mast lift rope onto the mast above it's centre of gravity.

S.W.L.

I emphasise again that the Safe Working load of the hoist must be strictly observed at all times.

CONTROL;

Control of the use of this hoist rests with the Lifting Group management and no-one may use it who has not read the Group's Working Procedures and signed the Group's Log book to confirm that they have done so.

Ted Reddish
Lifting Group November 2013

Reviewed Chairman Lifting Group
February 2024

Approved by the General Committee on 18th March 2024 with a recommendation this document should be reviewed again within the next 24 months.