

**Safety Briefing following near-miss incident 31/08/22: River 4+ pinned sideways against the railway bridge in strong spring ebb. Rescue procedures were swiftly and correctly implemented and casualty to people and equipment was averted but lessons learnt are to be applied to all future outings:**

The incident was reported using the BR Incident Reporting Form and following a committee review, the following contributory factors were identified, and associated measures implemented:

Contributory Factors	Measures to be implemented
Session timing coincided with maximum ebb tide flow rate at spring tides, hence flow under the railway bridge was extreme.	All coaches and sessions supporters to be trained in tidal awareness and to be briefed before launch on the state of the tide for every session. See reference material below. Live tidal data is available on the safety page of the club website <a href="https://www.lymingtonrowingclub.org/safety">https://www.lymingtonrowingclub.org/safety</a> and this should be referred to by all session leaders prior to each outing, taking particular note of the tidal curve for the session time. If a full spring tide ebb is in process, it may be appropriate to run a land-training session instead and certainly no novice coxes.
Boats were released from the pontoon before without the session lead's authorisation and / or knowledge	Strict instruction to be given at the start of every junior / novice session and before the boats are taken down to the pontoon, that no boat must leave the pontoon without the express permission of the session lead at the time. Same applies to launching / boating for junior sessions because of the increased risk of capsize during launch / recovery.

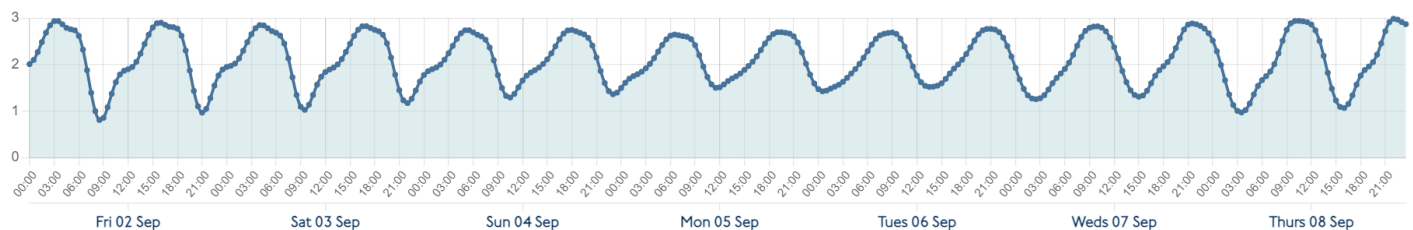
**UK Hydrographic Office live tidal data for Lymington can be found on this link:**

**<https://easytide.admiralty.co.uk/?PortID=0040>**

**Check tides and weather before every outing. Know the difference between Springs & Neaps.**

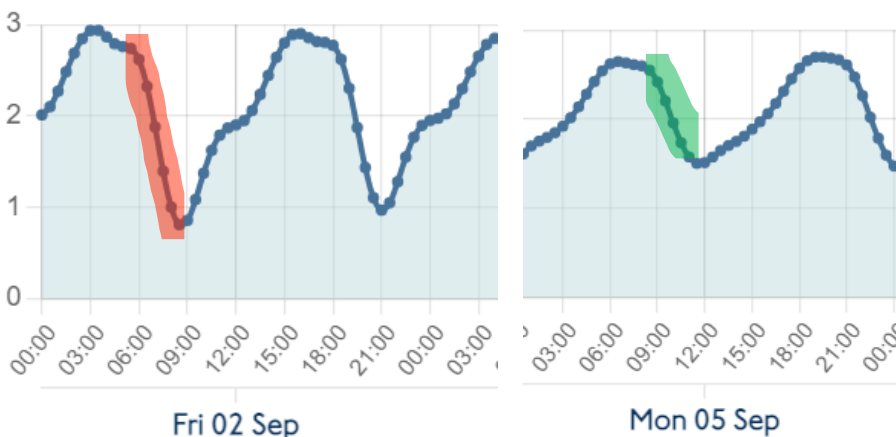
**Tidal curve**

Predicted heights are in metres above Chart Datum



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In the approaches to and within the Western Solent, double high waters occur at or near springs; on other occasions there is a stand which lasts about 2 hours. The predictions refer to the higher of the high waters when there are two.



At or around **spring** tides (LW around 0600 & 1800 in Lymington) the tidal height can drop by over 2m in an hour or two, resulting in extremely **fast and potentially hazardous** tidal streams under the bridge and out of the river.

At or around **neap** tides (LW around 1200 & 0000 in Lymington) the tidal height only drops by around 1m over the course of 2 to 3 hours and the resultant **tidal stream is consequently much less**.

For further information on whether it is safe for your crew to go out, please see <https://www.lymingtonrowingclub.org/safety> and contact your captain or the club safety officer [larcasafety1881@gmail.com](mailto:larcasafety1881@gmail.com)