



News and current affairs from the world of boating

Alarmed smart kill cord set to improve powerboat safety

Lifecord has been developed following the tragic deaths of a boater and his daughter during a RIB accident on Cornwall's Camel Estuary in 2013

A new alarmed smart kill cord is now available in the UK, making sure boaters will never forget to clip on this vital piece of safety gear.

Lifecord is the idea of John Barker, who worked with PBO's sister magazine, *Motor Boat & Yachting* (MBY) to develop the product after reading about the tragic deaths of Nick Milligan, 51, and his eight-year-old daughter, Emily in May 2013.

Nick and his wife, Victoria, were on their RIB with their children, Emily, Kit, Amber and Olivia when they were thrown from the boat into the Camel Estuary off Padstow, Cornwall.

Neither Victoria nor Nick had remembered to reattach the boat's kill cord after stopping to change drivers.

As a result, the RIB carried on circling around them, fatally injuring Nick and

Lifecord sounds an alarm if the killcord is left dangling at the helm



The Milligan family. Nick Milligan and his daughter, Emily (far left) died in the accident in 2013

Emily, Kit, Amber and Victoria were also injured, with Victoria losing the lower part of her leg.

MBY ran a series of articles about the tragic incident, and went on to work with Barker to develop his initial idea.

Now it has become a reality, with Lifecord being launched in January at the 2018 London Boat Show.

The Lifecord is a direct replacement for a boat or tender's existing kill cord and operates the boat's kill switch

in exactly the same way.

However, unlike the typical passive kill cords, Lifecord has a built-in alarm that senses when it is being worn and reminds the user when it is not, much like the seatbelt alarm in a car. It won't trigger immediately – giving the user time to start the engine or adjust a line.

The Lifecord has a sequence of warning tones that starts relatively quietly and gradually builds in volume at ten-second intervals. After reaching its maximum volume (designed to be heard even over the roar of a powerful engine) it then starts the sequence again until the user remembers to clip on. A bright LED warning light on the battery enclosure also



The Lifecord will fit any new or existing boat already fitted with a kill switch

flashes red as a visual reminder for the helmsperson and the crew.

The whole unit is self-contained with its own battery so that it doesn't need to plug into the boat's electrical circuit.

No power is drawn until the clip head is attached to the kill switch, and the battery has sufficient power to sound the alarm continuously for 50 hours. A low-battery light indicates when it needs changing – a simple job that can be done by the user.

The Lifecord is waterproofed to IP67 and every part of it has been designed to be robust enough to withstand being thrown into grab bags or lockers.

Rather than the traditional tiny steel clip, Lifecord has a clasp and key for attaching around the helmsperson's leg or lifejacket.

It also comes with a second 'lifejacket' key on a trap-gated carabiner clip, and a system of detachable clip heads so it can be adapted to fit all common types of engine and kill switch, both old and new, including Mercury, Honda, Suzuki, Yamaha, Evinrude, Tohatsu and Mariner.

Lifecord costs £89.95 and is being distributed through Landau UK or can be bought direct from the MBY website at mby.com.

Fatal yacht race collision

Investigations are continuing after a man died when the Volvo Ocean Race yacht *Vestas 11th Hour Racing* was involved in a collision with a Chinese fishing boat on approach to Hong Kong.

Vestas 11th Hour Racing has temporarily withdrawn from the race after the night-time collision led to the death of a fishing boat skipper. *Vestas* was around 30 miles from the finish line of Leg 4 when the incident happened outside of Hong Kong waters at 17:23 UTC on 19 January.

Vestas issued a Mayday distress call on behalf of the fishing boat, and this was picked up by the Hong Kong Marine Rescue Coordination Centre (HKMRCC).

The *Vestas* crew also undertook a search and rescue mission, recovering the



Vestas 11th Hour Racing arriving in Hong Kong after the collision

fishing boat skipper. He was airlifted to hospital but later died. The nine other crew from the fishing boat, which sank as a result of the collision, were rescued by a commercial vessel.

Vestas suffered damage to the port bow, but no crew were injured. Volvo Ocean Race organisers reported that

the Hong Kong Police and the Maritime Authority are carrying out an investigation into the collision.

Following the incident, *Vestas 11th Hour Racing* confirmed that it would not be taking part in the inshore racing in Hong Kong and would also be sitting out Leg 5 from Hong Kong to Guangzhou.

WIN a luxury stay for Beaulieu Boatjumble

PBBO has teamed up with the elegant Montagu Arms Hotel in Beaulieu to offer an indulgent stay for a pair of lucky boatjumbblers.

This year's 41st Beaulieu Boatjumble on Sunday 22 April will once again feature the popular PBO Ask the Experts Live marquee, with free talks and demonstrations by marine industry specialists.

Beaulieu Boatjumble remains the largest outdoor sale of maritime items in Europe and offers hundreds of stands packed with bargains.

The lucky winner will receive a pair of tickets to visit Beaulieu Boatjumble (worth £19.60). Then round off the day with a seasonal three-course dinner from the award-winning Terrace Restaurant menu at the Montagu Arms Hotel, stay overnight then enjoy breakfast next morning (total stay worth £279) at this quintessential English country house retreat.

Terms and conditions: The prize is based on two people sharing a room on Sunday April 22nd, 2018. Usual competition T&C's apply. Bar bill and drinks are not included and will be payable when checking out. The prize is non-transferable and no cash alternative will be given. The competition closes on 1 April 2018. Only entries received before the closing date will be included in the free prize draw. The winner will be notified after the closing date. By entering the competition you agree to the use of your details in publicity relating to the competition.

To enter visit www.pbo.co.uk/beaulieubojumble Closing date: 1 April 2018



The Montagu Arms Hotel, Beaulieu



entry to the whole of the Beaulieu attraction including the National Motor Museum, 13th Century Beaulieu Abbey, Palace House and its stunning grounds.

PBO readers can also get a 15% discount to Beaulieu Boatjumble. So if you're not a winner, quote **PBOMAG18** when booking tickets on the Beaulieu website at www.beaulieubojumble.co.uk or by calling 01590 612888. This offer will be available until advance tickets go off sale at 5pm on 12 April.

The Montagu Arms is just minutes away from the Boatjumble, in the heart of the New Forest National Park and close to the Beaulieu River. For more details see www.montaguarmshotel.co.uk.

Nine runners-up will also each receive a pair of tickets to Beaulieu Boatjumble, with