HULL DAILY Mail

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Disaster foils French pair's trip to Iceland

By Catherine Short
NEWS REPORTER

TWO FRENCH youngsters are stuck in Hull after an ambitious bid to sail to Iceland ended in disaster.

The couple, who sailed across the English Channel on their way North, are now desperate for jobs, because a series of disasters with their boat has left them stranded in the city without any money.

Matthieu Morverand (19) and Cecile Boulet (18) set off from the Brittany coast six weeks ago and sailed in a small boat to North Devon on their way to Iceland.

But while they were in North Devon the keel on Matthieu's 21-year-old small sailing boat "Love Love" broke during storms.

Matthieu and Cecile waited until the storms had died down and limped up to Liverpool setting off across country to Immingham on the canals.

But the boat's propeller broke after fouling rubbish in the canal and the sail was ripped.

"We pulled the boat all the way along the canal from Liverpool to Leeds by rope. It was very difficult for morale," said Matthieu.

Engine trouble during a Humber storm meant an early call at Hull last week, followed by a drift under paddle and tide power to Immingham. There they hoped to be able to get a "lift" to Reykjavik on a container ship.

They were told, however, that it would cost them over £3,000 to get the boat loaded on the ship and that unless they could pay they would not be able to stay in the docks.

The couple returned to Hull where Marina officials have let them dock free as long as they do odd jobs around the place.

Matthew said he and Cecile were very reluctant to give up on their plan to go to Iceland because they have a promise from French publishers to produce a book about their exploits if they make it.

Mathieu Moverand and Cecile Boulet in Hull Marina on the disaster-hit boat which they hoped to sail to Iceland.

OCTOBER 22, 1990

Shipping alert as gales batter coast

By Rena Duncan
NEWS REPORTER

ALL shipping off Humberside was put on alert today as gale force winds battered the coast.

Bridlington coastguards issued the warning after severe weather conditions caused havoc for shipping over the weekend.

Angling boats in the resort's harbour remained firmly tied to the quay this morning after predictions of gale force 8 onshore winds.

On Saturday the narrow boat, Wharrcliff, suffered engine failure half a mile up river from the Humber Bridge. A former pilot boat, the John Good, stood by and together with the Humber rescue boat, escorted the 40ft narrow boat into Hull Marina.

Shortly before midnight on Saturday, the fishing boat Burutu, was involved in a collision with the roll on roll off cargo ship, Seahorse, in the Humber estuary.

Two crewmen from a yacht were taken to Grimsby Hospital after being injured when their vessel Opua ran aground on Falholme Spit, near Killingholme yesterday. The Humber lifeboat stood by to tow the vessel to Grimsby.

Strong winds are thought to have caused the French Sloop, Love Love, to be demasted yesterday as she attempted to sail into Hull's Albert Dock. The crew of the 24ft vessel paddled the yacht to safety.

A spokesman for Humber coastguards at Bridlington said: "Gale force 8 winds usually come from the west but this wind is easterly and coming straight onshore."