

Platform Collision Incident



Aberdeen Airport Thistle Hotel

29th November 2007

Collision with Leman AK/Seafox 4

1st October 2007



Vessel

- Medium Sized Platform Supply Vessel
- Diesel-Electric Design
- Highly manoeuvrable
- Twin CPP azimuths thrusters aft
- Twin tunnel thrusters forward
- Equipped with Poscon joystick system
- Preset configurations of thruster positions
- Choice of power settings on all thrusters

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Crew

- Master with previous experience (on same charter)
 - New to Azimuth propulsion but has 2 years PSV time
 - Had spent 7 days with back to back Master for induction
- Driving Mate had 5 trips previous experience on vessel
- One Second Mate with 17 previous trip experience
- Other Second mate on 4th trip on vessel
- Chief Engineer from agency as new replacement for regular C/E who was ill and unable to join

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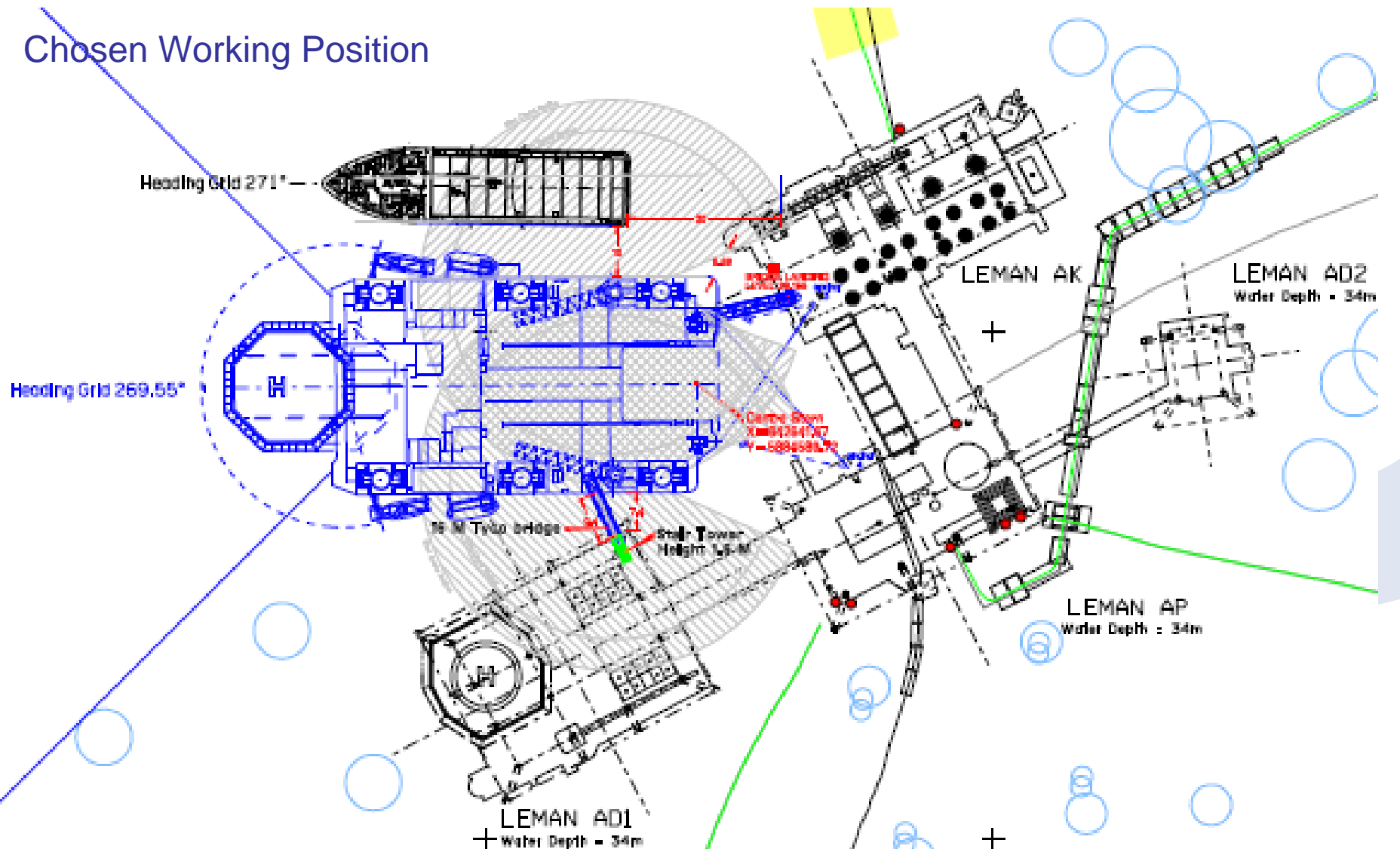


Sequence of Events

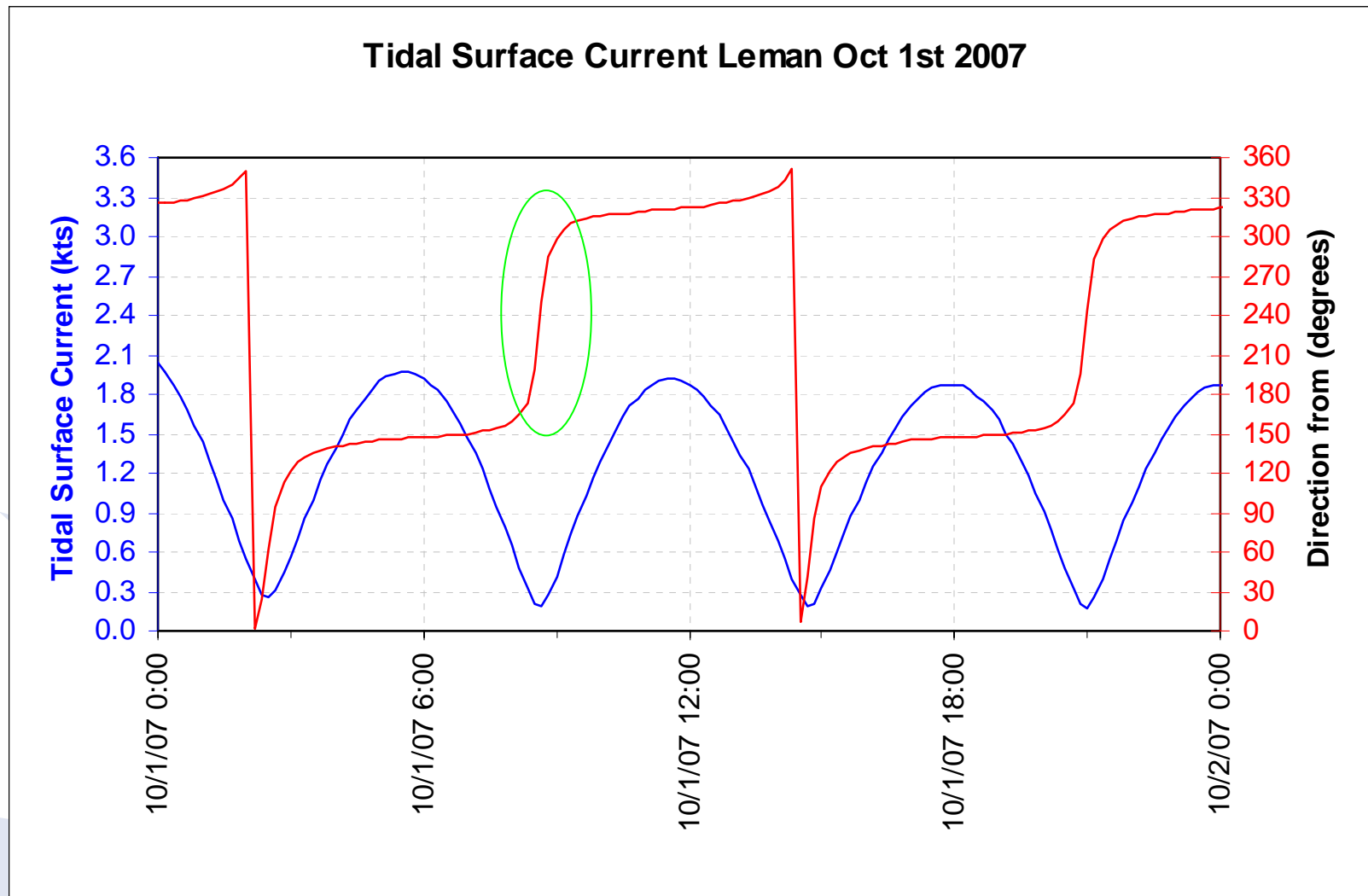
- *Vessel arrives on location*
- *Told to await departure of helicopter*
- *Asked alongside*
- *Conducts 500m checks/chooses thruster configuration*
- *Sets up 100m from installation on joystick*
- *Closes to working position*
- *Tide changes (springs)*
- *Vessels sets onto platform*
- *Changes to manual controls*
- *Sets and collides with jack-up Seafox 4 bodily to port*
- *Successfully clears installations for investigation*

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Chosen Working Position



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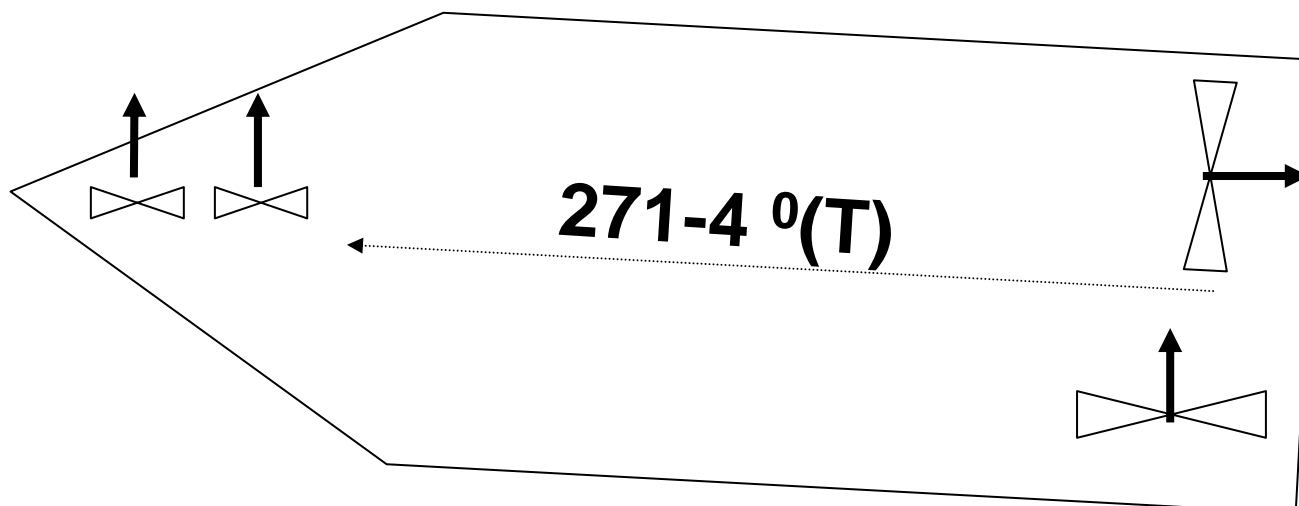


Conclusions

- *Choice of low speed for thruster motors prior to manoeuvres left insufficient reserve power when tidal conditions changed.*
- *Choice of heading required more power to maintain position than stemming tide.*
- *Bridge team had not fully appreciated the effects of the tide*

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Liaaen Azimuth Thrusters

Two power settings available
High RPM = 1,166 kW (1,500 HP)
Low RPM = 522 kW (700 HP)

Brunvoll Tunnel Thrusters

Two power settings available
High RPM = 515 kW (700 HP)
Low RPM = 330 kW (450 HP)

Potential Losses

Azimuth Low Power 55%
Astern pitch 20% approx
Joystick 20% approx

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Corrective Actions

- *Safety alert issued to fleet and one to issued through MSF reminding all of the requirements not to exceed 50% power to maintain station (NW European Guidelines).*
- *Develop ship-specific 'bridge operations manuals' for each ship.*
- *Increase use of ship simulators for familiarisation training.*
- *Provide enhanced tidal prediction facilities to vessel*
- *Amend 500m zone checklist to include validating tidal information.*