

Riding the Swells across the Bay of Biscay



Word from the Helm

Well here we are at the half way stage of the season and what a season it's been for contrasts. The early part in May was marked by what seemed to be weeks of gales and some very interesting sailing opportunities! June was a very pleasant month, but July has been superb. It's hard to remember so many consecutive days of sunshine and sea breezes.

You can tell from the rest of this newsletter that the first leg of the Tall Ships Race from Tor Bay to Lisbon was a great success. After a rather brisk sail to the start, the conditions for the race were ideal and the passage across the Bay of Biscay and down the Portuguese coast was greatly enjoyed by everyone on board Ocean Scout

Whilst this was going on, Offshore Scout has spent July based at Wisbech Yacht Haven on the East coast (reached from the Wash via the River Nene). This is a new venue for us. Working closely with the Port and Harbour Office, we've undertaken a very varied programme ranging from half day alongside visits by groups of students from the local school to two, four and seven day trips. The reception we have received from everyone at Wisbech has been superb and we will certainly be back.

The remainder of this newsletter is devoted to the first leg of the Tall Ships Race, so sit back, look at the pictures, imagine you're there and think about booking a sailing trip with us now!

With best wishes for the rest of the season.

Bob Atkins

Race one was definitely a race of contrasts.....after exiting the St Malo docks via the lock at 0430 we set sail for the start line off Torbay in increasing winds. This finally got up to westerly F8 wind an interesting swell to match for our passage to the west of the channel islands, this allowed us rapid passage, arriving in Dartmouth at 2300.

After starting the race in fog, we soon settled down into the watch system which would last for the next 10 days...round the 4 waypoints on the course all seemed to coincide with light & variable winds!! Ushant, Finistère and the Portuguese island of Belinga all took ages to get around!!

However the Biscay crossing was superb...fresh following breezes, which allowed us to ride & surf the swells with a poled out headsail for long periods of time.

The winds finally died during the sail down the coast of Portugal, delaying our arrival from the expected Monday night to Wednesday afternoon, thus making a total distance of approx 900 miles (the log failed due a poor connection) also we managed the trip on a single tank of water. The policy of washing crockery and ourselves in sea water showed just how much fresh water gets used this way.

Taking a bath whilst becalmed



The other key point on this trip was the superb boat preparation by Barry and Smudger....all the food could be found easily, and little or no problems were found with the boat. Many thanks to all concerned.

So much for reputations....the Bay of Biscay is a pussycat..

Approaching Lisbon



Riding the Swells



Alongside in Dartmouth



Two Mad Professors



Pink Wellies



Experimental Cooking – bean and corned beef pizza.....



Another Visit from our Little Friends



Conquering the Helm!!



Alongside in Lisbon



Dolphins under the Bow



During the trip we saw lots of Dolphins, two Pilot Whales and also a small Shark....





Adventures Offshore waterproofs

Gill Key West waterproof & breathable coats & trousers are now available at very competitive prices – please contact Barry or Joyce at the office for more information!

Garments can be supplied with or without our name machine embroidered

Adventures Offshore clothing available to order

We now have a new (local to the office) supplier of clothing with embroidered Adventure Offshore logo. Prices are as follows (postage extra) Colours are navy, black or grey.

Rugby shirt	£23.00
Hooded tops	£19.00
Full zip hooded tops	£22.00
Crew neck sweatshirt	£14.00
Baseball caps	£6.50
Gill Waterproofs	£POA - Please contact the office

The office can arrange for additional embroidery, for customised clothing for Tall Ships Races etc. **Please contact the office with your order!**

Hooded top & Baseball cap



Rugby shirt & Baseball cap

