

RUYC AND ICC CRUISE IN COMPANY TO STRANGFORD LOUGH, 28th - 31st AUGUST 2015.



Sinking the Quoile pontoon!

Not the original plan for this joint cruise. Campbeltown and Rathlin were the initial destinations for this end of August bank holiday weekend RUYC and ICC meeting.

Sailing plans change for various reasons, usually weather, but in this case, for unforeseeable reasons, Tony Weston assumed control of the event at short notice.

At that stage the hotel in Campbeltown were requesting a considerable deposit for the Saturday dinner which would have left Skippers and crews substantially out of pocket should the weather kick off. As a consequence the decision was to take the fleet south to Strangford Lough.

There may be, in the subconscious of Skippers on the East coast, a reluctance to leave the lee of Ireland late in the season. The evidence is flimsy, but in defence of this hastily conjured theory the list of boats swelled to 10.

A buffet dinner for 42 was arranged in the Lobster Pot Strangford for Saturday night and QYC kindly agreed to host a BBQ for the fleet on Sunday.

Derek White advised we send an advance party on Friday to monopolise space on the pontoon. Tony Weston (Mandolin Wind) and Bob Torrens (Kittiwake) stepped up to the plate and were tied up for

“Arrivals” that afternoon followed by a pleasant run ashore enhanced by entertainment throughout the village as our cruise coincided with the Strangford festival.



A popular cockpit

The remaining fleet started to gather on Saturday, some on the last dregs of the flood, plenty of room on the pontoon, even the larger boats berthed safely on the inside despite the spring tides. Ladies arrived on the ferry to join the crews, the men escaped to the pub to watch the Rugby. Gregg Taylor (RUYC) hosted a drinks reception on Blue Squirrel followed by buffet dinner in the Lobster pot.

Lazy sail up to Quoile on Sunday afternoon, the pontoon was well organised and the fleet all rafted up without difficulty. Reception on several boats was hosted by Stanton Adair (ICC).



Serious stuff

The welcome the fleet received at QYC was as always, exceptional, close to 100 people were catered for, the weather was kind and the ribeye steaks sourced from Duffy's in Strangford unbeatable.



Bigwig takes the strain



Sylvanna outbound in the narrows

Slow steady dispersal on Monday, it was unfortunate that the wind didn't favour the Belfast Lough fleet, on the nose for both passages. Waiting for more favourable southerlies was not an option as a high in the Atlantic and a low over Scandinavia squeezed stiff Northerly's for the rest of the week. Well done Alan Markey In "Crackerjack" for joining the rally from Howth and he was rewarded with fair winds north and southbound.

Congratulation to all the Skippers and crews who contributed to a very convivial late season cruise. Participating yachts were: Mandolin Wind, Sylvanna, Leemara of Howth, Crackerjack, Reziki, Tara of Moyle, Eagle Wing, Blue Squirrel, Seascape of Down and Kittiwake.