

Kjempejekk Goes South Again, September 2012

On Saturday 1st September this year we decided either to join sailing friends in Scilly or head south to Camaret and beyond. A weather window appeared likely for crossing Biscay so the latter option won and we set off the following day. Neither of us really enjoyed the journey - the forecast high pressure was soon



KJ at Camaret, 4th Sept 2012. (Second pontoon in)

spoiled by a cold front and most of the journey was choppy and drizzly. Later this developed into full-blown fog - not helped when the radar stopped working!

Eventually we saw Le Conquet off our port bow and at 1300 on Monday the 3rd we reached Camaret where we spent a couple of days waiting for high winds in south Biscay to abate.

The weather charts indicated that a settled period might follow so having rested for a day we set off on Wednesday the 5th for Bayona, NW Spain. We were soon goose-winging to a brisk NE breeze with a third reef in the main in very confused seas - a NW swell had livened things up somewhat! This became a bit of a joke as successive weather forecasts indicated that the wind would ease and the sea would moderate, so every four hours when we changed watch we would ask if it had happened yet - same reply every time! However, the nights were beautiful with a brilliant Milky Way, shooting stars, a shimmering moon and dolphins playing torpedo. The days were beautifully sunny too, then 50 miles north of La Coruna the wind eased, the sea state started to improve but once again we found ourselves in fog.



Our 'lucky' berth in Bayona

Eventually at 1500 on Saturday 8th September we arrived in Bayona where we were extremely fortunate to get a berth at the Yacht Club - they were full,

hosting a high-profile regatta, but somehow a place was found for us. The weather soon improved so we cleaned the boat, got the washing done and relaxed. From here on it was day-sailing the rest of the way.



Leaving Bayona towards Leixoes



Wave Energy Park off Viana do Castelo

On Tuesday 11th September we moved on south to Leixoes. Wednesday found us in Figuera da Foz and on Thursday 13th we set sail for Peniche. Unfortunately a 4 - 5m swell was running offshore; not at all comfortable so we diverted into Nazare and had a wonderful afternoon exploring the town and going up the 'Ascensor', a type of funicular railway to the town at the top of the cliff at the northern end of Nazare. Superb views from the top.



Figueira da Foz - KJ is at the far end!



View over the beach towards Nazare

By the following morning the swell had subsided considerably so we set off for Cascais, near Lisbon. To get most advantage from the local currents we had been advised to go out close to Isla Berlinga before changing course to the south. As it was such a lovely day we did just that and indeed made good time. For once we enjoyed benign conditions rounding Cabo Roca and about nine miles further on we rounded up into the expensive Cascais marina for the night.



Isla Berlinga - the rock of Lisbon!



Leaving Cascais for Sines



Sines, looking towards the marina



Cape St Vincent

From Cascais we went to Sines where, that evening, there were indications that fog might be forming. None was forecast but we checked at the marina office and were emphatically assured that no fog was forecast. However, the next morning we left in very poor visibility which didn't clear for many hours. We emerged into sunshine about eight miles north of Cape St Vincent and arrived in Lagos on Sunday 16th September at 1850, two weeks after leaving Polruan.



Arrival - our berth at Lagos



Local cruising - at anchor at Portimao