

Fellow shipmates... tough leaving Brixham after such a wonderful welcome by Judy, Claire and Simon and all their families. But Dartmouth beckoned and it was a thrill to take young Georgie, Olivia, J out for a trip on the River Dart, particularly with the refurbished Yamaha (fuel in water tank - my problem - nothing wrong with the engine!)

Lovely evening in the fifteenth century Cherub pub, much the best around, in one of the oldest buildings in the South West of England. Up early and round to Salcombe, where Sarah had her amazing tea at the Island Cruising Club, welcomed us aboard the former Liverpool packet ship - The Egremont.

Piping hot showers and a few Ciders later we were pitched ashore for VG Sups (wonderful local Scallops!) in Kings Head.

Up very early for massive day to Falmouth via Plymouth to see Goddaughter Jayne, and her lovely son Freddy. Also VG Press Stop with Plymouth Herald doing a big piece on all our endeavours. Quickly back to sea for the long trip to Falmouth, home for Pat and Stephanie Clarke, home for our great friends. What a manic day we had there. Cheers Pat for organising me so well - wonderful, if fleeting visit to the Maritime museum, and very interesting to touch base with the world famous Falmouth coastguard, who despite being on strike, welcomed us to their Ops Room.

Then it was off to the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club to run a star draw sponsored by Andrew Poole... £165 raised in just half an hour... how good is that!! Terrific extra prize of a family day out at the Maritime museum was one most welcome.

Huge thanks to RCYC for letting us invade their post race evening drinks...

Incidentally, star prize won by famous gaffer racing sailor, who is going to explore options for topsails on Cape Cutters, and hopes to combine cashing in his prize in order to come to sea on Theo's Future with me. A big thanks to Pat's wife, Stephanie, for feeding and watering me so lovingly...

Then off to Penzance, c/w surprise immaculate fly pass by the RNAS Culdrose search and rescue helicopter, the pilot of whom we had met the previous evening, how nice is that?

Quickly past St. Michaels Mount and into Penzance where Claire joined us for the rounding of Land's End. Superb seafood supper at the Benbow Inn (highly recommended), a few hours kip and off on the tide. As we rounded the infamous Longships Light off Lands End we paid due tribute to King Neptune. Three sins were confessed by each crew member, two privately, one publicly, and a suitable coin tossed gaily over the shoulder to tip his Majesty, and so as the old custom goes, we were allowed to proceed Northwards, but not before a huge wave had engulfed Theo's Future, and smacked Claire right on the face, Brookie was able to duck under the spray hood, but Claire on her first ever sail took it bravely on the chin, as she helmed the boat past the Longships Light.



And so for the first time in ten days of hard graft downchannel we finally came off the wind, hoisted our brand new Caymen Island's Genneker, complete with Sir Turtle, and made good speed for St. Ives. A rapturous welcome awaited us, co-ordinated by Martin Potter, who had laid on a Media Call, showers at his amazing house (seven stories built into the cliff overlooking the Bay), and many beers in the world famous and very ancient Sloop Inn. Huge thanks also to Ray for sorting out the infuriating leaks in the forward part of the yacht. The fact that we ended up changing the gear box oil in the outboard, on the pavement outside the RNLI shop at midnight, the less said the better.... but huge thanks to Ray and his lovely partner Ashton, who kept us company as we worked through the night.

Oh yes, before I forget, we were welcomed into St. Ives by a huge seal, St. Ives a drying harbour but no problem for Theo's Future and a great opportunity to try out our new anchor kedge system. The seal came alongside as we dropped anchor, to sniff us out. Claire managed one quick photograph but he wasn't hanging about. And so it was farewell to lovely Claire, huge courage to round one of the world great Capes on Day one in a boat.

Off in the drizzle with my dear friend and ace navigator Pat, calling the shots. Padstow Bar was soon under Theo's Futures' belt, and we were met by a small flotilla of boats from Padstow SC. Huge thanks to Jon, David (Commodore) and Barbara, who welcomed us in with a massive farmhouse Cornish Cream Tea - How good is that?!

After 13 continuous days at sea, it was great to finally have a day off to carry out essential maintenance.

Saturday evening saw us up the river to Wadebridge to experience their world famous Fish and Chips - Ric Stein eat your heart out! Seriously though, a huge thanks to Ric's cafe team for providing a mystery prize for the star draw at PSC. Also

huge thanks to the local Tesco store for providing three bottles of wine. The PSC draw accrued another £165 - so many many thanks to all at Padstow Sailing Club - outstanding support, including a free mooring.

So there we are shipmates, Leg Two complete - sad farewell to Pat (thank you for seeing us safely round Longships old friend).

Fair Winds

Mike