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NEWSLETTER#4
Autumn 2007



2008 Round Britain Challenge

Thank you for finding time to read my fourth newsletter, keeping you up to date with the preparations for my round Britain trip. *Casulen II* is now back on her mooring in North Wales, following this summers trip.

If you would like any information with regards to my trip, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Sailing south toward Jack Sound.



Rounding Lands End, heading south.



Dried out alongside the harbour wall at Solva.

This summers cruise took us from our mooring in North Wales straight across Cardigan Bay to Fishguard. From here we sailed to Milford Haven and then across the Bristol Channel where we had between 20 and 30 dolphins swimming alongside. We rounded Lands End in a flat clam and, in the company of a school of Basking Sharks (who were longer than *Casulen II*!), we headed for Newlyn. We hopped along the coast as far as Fowey which, despite holiday crowds is a picturesque and friendly port. Time restraints meant that we couldn't continue to the Isle of Wight as planned, but had to turn round and head back north. The return trip was quite rough with some huge overfalls as we rounded Lizard point. We arrived back at our mooring after 28 days of which 13 were spent stormbound in ports. We completed a total of 661.9 nm, making my overall total 2887.1 nm, and bringing my night hours up to 79. The long passages, and the numerous night hours completed mean that I have now surpassed all the pre-exam requirements for my Yachtmasters, which was one of my pre-trip aims, although I still won't be able to take the exam until I am 18. (and possibly won't be able to count any of this mileage)

In terms of preparing for my Round Britain trip next summer, I feel that I am fairly close to being ready to set off. Having sailed *Casulen II* for 2 years and over 2800 miles, I am confident in my ability to handle her in all sorts of weather and sea conditions.

I am really grateful for the recent support suppliers have given with charts, electrical equipment and deck hardware. Similarly, I am also grateful for the help my school has given me, particularly for time off for courses, and also for letting me use the school printing facilities.

I think that the main items of equipment I still need are sails, a tillerpiot and waterproof clothing. However, I have yet to sort out any financial support for the running costs and day to day living expenses. Once this is completed I will be able to concentrate on raising money for Kendal Sea Cadets, my chosen charity.

One last area of my training that needs attention is to complete some passages single handed in *Casulen II*. These will take place early next year. I can't wait!



"Forget where we're going, what's that wave doing!"

Year 10 work experience.

During the last week of term in July, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to undertake my work experience at Goacher Sails on the shores of lake Windermere. Over the course of the week, I learnt loads of interesting new skills and helped out on a variety of different projects. It was really interesting to see how sails are made, and also to find out what is involved in working as a sail maker. Thank you to Steve, Greg, Andy and Vera, who were really great fun to work with and also helped me to finish off a storm jib for *Casulen II*.



Sea Survival course at the UKSA.

The UKSA have, yet again, been really helpful to me this summer, by allowing me to complete my MCA first aid and RYA sea survival courses. This has been a really interesting insight into what can go wrong at sea, and what can be done about it. Hopefully I will become one of the 99.9% of yachtsmen who never need to use their liferaft, or ever have to use the skills I learnt on the first aid course! A big thank you to Tim and all the Staff.

If any of you would not like to receive this newsletter, or would like to receive it by email, then please contact me to discuss your preferences.

How to contact me:

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Next newsletter: Spring 2008