

A North Cornish coastal cruise

Cruise in YWDB Avocet from Rock to Port Isaac and back on 29th May 2014

On the Thursday morning the the wind was NW 3-4 as forecasted and cloudy with some glimmers of sun. The crew was Tim Parkinson, Diana Parkinson and Katharine Hodgson.

09:06 We left one of the outer moorings in Porthilly Cove two and a half hours after high water on on a strong spring tide. With a small number of tacks in very popply water downstream of Padstow but mainly a clos- hauled reach in smoother water, we crossed the Doom Bar without noticing. But further out to sea significant breaking white water was visible on the larger waves. Prudence took us towards the cliffs leading up to Pentire Point into flatter water. From there we took a starboard tack out into the main coastal tide.



Pentire Head and The Rumps

10:00 Avocet was midway on the transit between Pentire and Newland with the wind now a strong NW 4 and a clear view East to The Rumps and Moules Island plus glimmers of sun. Avocet was on a fair reach so was able to overcome the foul ebb tidal flow easily and by 10:30 we were off the Moules. We kept to seaward of The Moules, being uncertain of a race between that island and the Rumps. A dolphin jumped clear of the water when we had the Moules and Rumps in line. Many Guillemots were whizzing along close to the water. Although the waves were significant Avocet was riding them well and we did not take any water over the foredeck.

We headed across Portquin Bay towards where the skipper reckoned the Portquin inlet was and as we got nearer he concentrated on readying the anchor and line. This meant he had his head down beneath the foredeck for a short time and when he re-emerged the crew had concluded there was no inlet and nothing to attract us to the proposed destination. So we proceeded around the next headland and towards Port Isaac which looked more promising.



Sailing into the Harbour



Avocet beached at Port Isaac

11:15 Sailed into the harbour entrance and beached Avocet on the sandy shore and secured her to a harbour cable (not that she was going to float away as the tide receded!).



Walked up the delightful town and had a very serendipitous meeting with fellow DB competitors, Adam Gray and Claire Perkins, who kindly provided the cash to purchase some warming coffee before we ate our sandwiches on a sheltered seat. The skipper had not reckoned on there being an hour's difference in low tide times between Padstow and Port Isaac. Thus we had an extra hour to explore Port Isaac.

14:15 Avocet lifted off the sand and after rowing across to the shelter of the East breakwater we hoisted sail and tacked out of the harbour and narrow inlet with little difficulty. This time Avocet had to overcome the flood tide but did so with ease in the NW 4+ wind. We spotted what we think was a Sea Turtle after leaving Port Isaac. An hour later (15:15) we were off the Rumps and heading for the island of Newland which it had long been the skipper's ambition to sail round.



15:30 Kept well to the North of Newland but closed in as we rounded this large craggy rock. The water was considerably lumpy there and it was a relief to the crew that the waves diminished as we approached the cliffs between Pentire and Polzeath where for the first time the wind became fluky. The water became smooth as we sailed past the Bar and the final sail up the Estuary to the mooring was achieved in fine style.

16:30 Picked up the mooring well-satisfied with our cruise.

Newland with Rumps & The Moules beyond