

2015 Baltimore Jester Challenge

The Jester Challenge is well known among those who know about small boats doing big cruises. More information can be found on their website

<http://www.jesterinfo.org/jesterbaltimorechallenge2015.html>

In 2015 there were 41 entrants and three of them had chosen Hurley boats for the voyage from Plymouth to Southern Ireland -

Alan Quayle - Hurley 27 'Foillan'

HOA member Claire Templar - Hurley 22 'Duet'

Claire's story can be seen on her blog - <http://littleyachtduet.com/>

HOA member Wil Bailey – in his Hurley 24 'Pyxi'. Wil wrote -

It took five days to get there which included a slow reach westwards from east of the Lizard, and 18 hours bobbing about a few miles SE of the Bishop Rock Light. I had to work the 'tidewind' to get out of that hole, and eventually had breeze that took me northish and westish. One still had to work for every mile of westing.... and had a couple of episodes of frontal F6, where 'Pyxi' just soldiered on, reefed, with nary a hesitation. I slept....



'Pyxi', a Hurley 24

I was surprised by just how easy the H24/7 is to drive. Just like a big dinghy, really, but a very sound sea-boat.



'Pyxi' and her new/old consort found Baltimore just where it had always been. Nowt much had changed since last a Murphy's was quaffed in the Atlantic Bar. Time passes slow down west of Cork....

It also passes slow lopping about down west of the Bishop's Rock light, where - like Coleridge's Ancient Mariner 'stuck nor breath nor motion' in a benign and truly flat calm - one had time enough, and more, to contemplate the cosmos and scoff all the goodies.



The only on-board emergency or 'difficulty' experienced on Pyxi's 5-day jaunt into the west was occasioned by a dearth of digestive biscuits..... that occasioned by a dearth of wind in some places - and a surfeit of wind elsewhere in the realm. Much, one gathers, generated by the 'Twitterati' who worked up a storm out of a teacup!

The wild Irish 'Pirate Festival' cavortings and shenanigans all over on the Sunday evening, 'Pyxi' and her ship's company slipped away at early o'clock on the Monday, followed by a wheen of dolphins deep-intrigued by her white-painted Sea Feather water-paddle, and took just two days back to New Grimsby Harbour/Tresco and the kindly attentions of Harbourmaster Henry..... and the kindly attentions of New Inn front-of-house young and lovely Sophie.....

'Si jeunesse savait, si vieillesse pouvait!'("If only youth knew how, if only old age still could")

“The return trip was distinctly less demanding, but being an ould beggar, it took me several days to recover.... Baltimore to Tresco in 48hrs, with a fine F3 and clear skies, followed by a 24hr snoozy-boozy pit stop on the hook close by the New Inn.

Finally, it was another 24hr dash (!) back to Friday Night Happy Hour at the Tamar River SC. Akshully, the wildest weather experienced on the trip was suffered coming up-river accompanied by a Daring-class 'grey-funnel liner' -with sundry escorts – in a tropical downpour of Biblical proportions .”