

2010 Summer Cruise in "Solveig"

By Findlay Carter



My name is Findlay Carter and this is my log of our summer cruise on Solveig. Solveig is a Westerly Konsort and we got her in December 2009. This log is a story about the longest cruise we have done on her as part of our summer holidays.

I am one of Solveig's crew along with my Dad, Mum and brother Rory. I was 8 years old and Rory was 6 years old when we went on our sailing adventure for 6 days in August 2010.

Passage: Limekilns to Granton

Date: 01/08/10

Time: 18.15

Position: 56.02.01N; 03.25.00W

Barometer: 1007



We set off on our cruise on a Sunday and we were really hoping for some good weather as it had been quite rainy. Mum and Dad spent all afternoon packing the boat with lots of tins of food and cereal and we had to pack some games and books for the journey.

It started raining and we sheltered in our favourite spot, under the spray hood, where you can keep dry but still see out. After leaving the harbour we passed Joint Venture returning from the Anstruther Muster and they waved and wished us a good holiday.

The engine stayed on as there was no wind so Dad put the autohelm on and made cups tea for everyone. Rory & I went below and we played on our Nintendo DS for a wee while.

With the help of the tide we arrived at Granton at 20.30. The rain had stopped, the sun had come out but the RFYC was closed and we could not use their clubhouse or get through the gate without the key. Rory was amazed that we'd have to stay on the boat without using the clubhouse and said "wow... this is extreme sailing!" We all had a laugh at that and settled down with snacks before bed.

Rory and I picked the most comfortable beds in the bow berths.

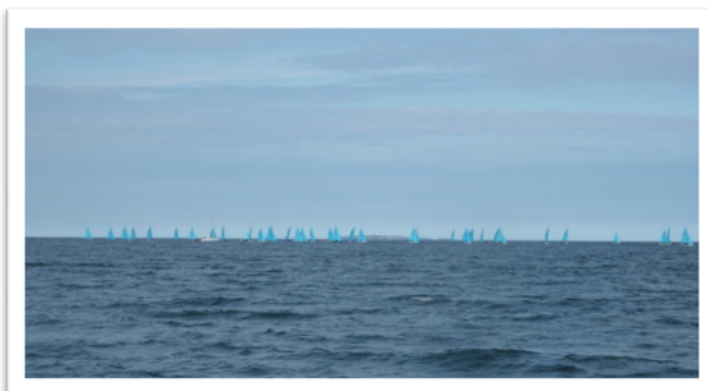
Passage: Granton to North Berwick

Date: 02/08/10

Time: 11.35

Position: 55.59.02N; 03.13.02W

Barometer: 1010



The best thing about sleeping on the boat is that the breakfast is really good. You can choose between lots of little boxes of cereal and we usually have bacon rolls too.

After breakfast we left the pontoon at Granton. The sun was shining but there wasn't much wind (5 knots) and it was coming from the wrong direction (east), so the engine was left on.

Rory and I began our next challenge of trying to complete a "something fishy" word search in my puzzle book. We had to find names of fish such as 'Grayling' and 'Spurdog'!

By 13.50 Solveig was motoring off Gullane but had to make a detour round a huge moored tanker. The wind had increased to 12 knots but it was still coming from the east.

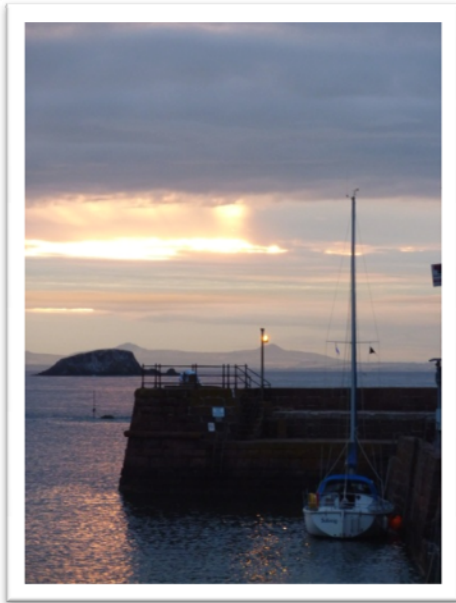
Solveig was surrounded by diving gannets which looked amazing as they hit the water trying to catch fish. Coming up to the small island called Fidra, a number of seals came to visit. After looking at the pilot book Dad told us that there were two rocks on Fidra – one called 'North Dog' and 'South Dog' which we found quite funny. Dad caught two big mackerel.

At 16.40 we arrived at North Berwick which is one of our favourite places to visit because of the beach. The weather was sunny and there was an Enterprise dinghy championship being held. There were so many light blue sails we couldn't count them. The tide was still not high enough so we picked up a visitor mooring and Mum made us some pasta for tea.

Dad had already phoned the harbour master who said there was a space inside the small harbour. After tea, the tide was high enough for us to enter the harbour but when we saw the space the harbour master had kept for us, it was far too small for Solveig and didn't have any ladders.

We turned around and moored on the outside wall of the harbour instead. Rory and I thought this was a much better spot as we would be able to climb off the back of the boat and onto the sand.

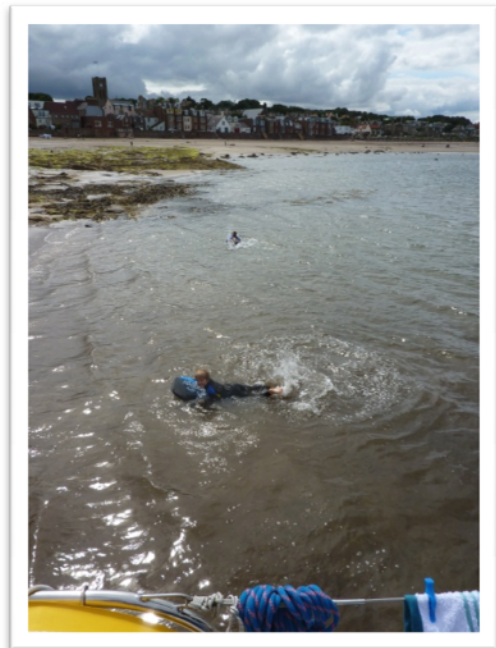
The Enterprise fleet came in and we watched as they surfed into the bay then quickly gybed so they could land on the beach....they didn't all manage this but there were people waiting on the beach to help them.



That night Rory and I had a good sleep but Mum and Dad didn't! The boat was supposed to be sitting on sand when the tide went out but she had dropped down onto some stones instead – this had kept Mum and Dad awake as the boat thumped down.

We decided to stay in North Berwick for the day as we hadn't been on the beach yet.

Rory and I had brought our body boards and wetsuits with us. We put them on before climbing down the transom ladders. The waves weren't very big but we had fun and we weren't cold until we came out of the water. It was quite difficult to climb back up the transom ladders.



Passage: North Berwick to Dunbar

Date: 03/08/10

Time: 17.10

Position: 56.03.67N 002.43.29W

Barometer: 1000



Once there was enough water to leave the harbour, we set off for Dunbar. The weather was still sunny and warm but the wind was getting stronger and was reading between 20-25 knots from the west. Getting out of the harbour was quite bouncy and the waves were much bigger than me and nearly as high as Dad – it was very exciting.

Dad took us in as close as he dared to the Bass Rock so we could see the birds, the cave and the old prison. Solveig was going at 6 to 7 knots down the waves and we made it to Dunbar in 1 hour 20 mins.

It was hard to see the entrance to Dunbar harbour because of the waves crashing against all the rocks and Mum kept checking the chart. Once we passed between the two beacons I could see it.

The harbour master was there to welcome us and he asked us to moor on the right of the harbour underneath the old castle. Mum said she expected a noisy night from the nesting seagulls on the rocks.

After a good night's sleep (the seagulls were quiet!) we had breakfast and went swimming to the fun pool at Dunbar. The waves in the pool were great and the flume could tell you how fast you had come down it!

Then we had a wander about Dunbar town to get things we needed. Back at the boat Rory and I spent the afternoon crab lining while Mum and Dad were relaxing in the sun.



In the evening we went for an Italian meal and then for a walk to see where the old outdoor swimming pool had once been. We did a bit of fishing but we didn't catch anything.

Passage: Dunbar to Anstruther

Date: 05/08/10

Time: 11.00

Position: 56.03.67N 002.43.29W

Barometer: 1000



In the morning we watched a whole family catching fish with hand lines in the harbour. They caught buckets full and we hadn't caught anything! After filling up our water tanks, we left harbour. The weather was warm and sunny with a 13 knot breeze coming from the west. It was quite scary to think we'd be going right across the Forth to the other side.

By 13.30 the wind had dropped and with a 2 knot tide against us we motored for a while. Dad had called the Anstruther harbour master and asked for a berth but all I could think of was fish n chips and the ice cream shop.



We had to change course to avoid a tanker and then a cruise liner, but then the wind came back at 20 knots from the North West. We put up our full sails headed towards Anstruther while playing lots of games like 'I Spy' where all the answers had to be boat things. When the clue was H (for halyard), Rory guessed 'halleluiah!' which we thought was a good answer instead.

We arrived at Anstruther at 16.25 and were able to make it into the inner harbour but not right onto the pontoons since only the main channels had been dredged. We were pleased to see that a fair ground had set up on the harbour and it was playing REALLY loud pop music.

Mum, Rory and I went to join the queue for the fish & chip shop while Dad waited for a few more feet of water to berth the boat. We had to queue for ages for the café and then when we were at the front we were told the café was flooded. As we were at the front of the queue they said we could have a takeaway instead and we went back to the boat to eat our fish and chips as we were very hungry and tired. The pop music went on all day and late into the night and it was quite annoying after a while.

That evening we found out that the Rosyth to Zeebrugge Ferry had run into a fishing boat and sunk it. It was quite scary to think that we weren't that far away when it happened and that it could have been us.

Passage: Anstruther to Limekilns

Date: 06/08/10

Time: 12.35

Position: 56.06.87W; 002.55.87W

Barometer: 1000



When we got up it was raining and the weather forecast for the next 2 days wasn't very good. We decided to set off for home as there was a good southerly breeze although it was still drizzling.

The sea was very bumpy and we couldn't see very far but we had a 20 knot breeze and it was beginning to dry. Solveig started picking up speed and it was soon more comfortable sailing.

At 15.05 the wind dropped and we had to do some motor sailing off Leven against the tide. Dad heated up sausage rolls in the oven (the first time we had got it working).

At 17.10 the wind returned from the south but then the sky got very dark and we had a strong rain shower from the west. Mum and Dad got into their full waterproofs although Rory and I decided to stay dry and play our Nintendo games. It was getting darker and darker and foggier so Dad had to navigate by the channel buoys as there were a lot of tankers and pilot boats about.

40 minutes later we arrived at Port Edgar where the rain had cleared to leave a fine & clear evening. Mum nearly fell in when holding the boat at the pontoon as it started to drift away. She had to decide whether to jump on board or stay on the pontoon and only just managed to stay dry. I found that quite funny as I was the one pushing the boat away from the pontoon.

We had our tea on board and waited until there was enough water at Limekilns to return to our mooring. I had done a lot of helming so Rory took a turn and helmed all the way back.

By 21.15 we arrived at Brucehaven harbour and it was getting quite dark. We waited for the tide to get us onto the pontoon and soon unloaded the boat. We met John Harris on his way out of the harbour with Cerberus on his way to Aberdour regatta but we were just glad to be going home to our own beds.

The End

