

Cruise in Company trip to Oostende's Maritime Festival – 24th June 2024



Following the usual check, double check and every known weather forecast model compared, the Cruise in Company fleet headed off towards Oostende's maritime festival for the May Bank holiday weekend.

Despite some grumblings, the fleet set off at 3am under a full moon and gentle breeze towards Languard. It wasn't the most encouraging start to the passage, with one yacht almost colliding with a channel marker and another being 'politely' asked to clear the channel for the incoming ferry.



Once passed Languard, the fleet motor sailed pretty much the whole way to Oostende. The shipping lanes and sea state were pleasantly quiet, and the weather was warm, leading to a generally uneventful and quick passage. Once in Oostende, the fleet quickly moored up side by side in the royal North Sea Yacht Club basin. Anusha and Blue Finn very kindly hosted supper and the fleet settled down for the evening.



The Maritime festival is an annual event and a big deal for Oostende. Craft of all shapes and sizes are displayed and available to view in all their glory, accompanied by what seems like a never ending parade of music, food, displays and stalls. In line with tradition, the fleet gathered in the Royal North Sea Yacht Club for supper and celebrated our first North Sea passage makers and the women of the fleet, who make cruise in company that much more special. The celebrations went on late into the evening and caused a slow start the following morning.



Thoughts soon turned to the return passage and with a 20knot reach forecasted, reefs were prepared before setting off at a more respectable time of 6am local time. It was quick passage, with most of the fleet home and dry by early afternoon.



Next Cruise in Company is to Bradwell on the 8th and 9th June.