

## ***Goblet of Turnaware's Maiden Voyage with Andrew Moore*** **Spring 2010**

*Goblet of Turnaware* and I have been at sea. To date we have sailed 1600 nautical miles together. The first leg of our maiden voyage was from Southampton non-stop to Copenhagen.

As I'm sure some of you will have noticed, *Goblet of Turnaware* has changed owners after Ronald Griffiths, Sheila and Family have so lovingly maintained and cruised her for 39 years. Regarding my purchase of this iconic Yacht, this is my chance at starting to fulfil a dream I've had since I was knee high to a grasshopper, of sailing singlehanded and with crew around the world.

*Goblet's* and my story started after I spent 1 month after her purchase on updating her old navigation systems and fitting all the safety equipment she needed to be insured as an offshore vessel.

We, myself and one other crew member, set sail from Shamrock Quay non-stop to Copenhagen Denmark via Kiel canal, as my girlfriend is Danish and she is currently finishing her masters in Copenhagen. So I thought I'd start *Goblet's* adventure with me sailing to visit her and then on into the Baltic, possibly heading for St Petersburg Russia later this year.

We passed the English Channel and headed north up the English coast approximately 50 nautical miles offshore roughly in line with Harwich. We set a course to pass the shipping lanes at their easiest point whilst dodging the thousands of North Sea drilling platforms, and end up in Dutch waters. Then we planned to stay at sea and head for the entrance to the River Elbe.

Unfortunately for us we had the wind on the nose the whole passage until after 8 days out when the wind veered in our favour and we had north-west force 3 increasing, the first time for *Goblet of Turnaware* to show her true self to me, as we now had the wind on the starboard quarter. I had been so wanting to test her broad reaching ability and as the wind strengthened steadily we were recording a true speed over the ground with tide in our favour of 2 knots. We sailed at 7-8.5 knots covering a respectable 70 miles in 7 of so hours with hardly any weather helm!! The waves at this point were 2-3 meters short steep North Sea. *Goblet's* weight and beautiful hull design were handling the conditions effortlessly. Winds at this time were NW force 7, with 2 reefs in the main and a working jib sized furled genoa. I came off watch and we set a course for the river Elbe. I was smiling like a Cheshire cat!!!!

Then came the 1600 hrs Navtex forecast for the next 24 hour period; NW force 7 increasing force 9, seas up to 4.5 meters. This was my first time so far north in the North Sea and I must say its surprising how quick the wind builds sea state. This was decision time for *Goblet* and her crew, so with sat phone in hand I called my crew's girlfriend in France to get a second opinion on our received forecast. Using Met office and French satellite picture internet forecasts we formulated our next 24 hour plan.

After plotting our position, approximately 40 nautical miles off Dutch coast in line with a town called Lauersoog (its on the north coast part of Holland) we had 2 options:

1. Head further out to sea and heave to with storm jib when the going gets to rough,
2. Run for shelter.

Me being a believer that the best place in a storm is next to the fire in a pub with a nice ale, we chose the second option. The main reason for deciding on 2 was that, although we could have tried to get closer to the river Elbe entrance staying well offshore, heaving to and riding out the worst of the storm until daybreak, then run for the river and shelter, we'd heard the forecast for NW F9 for an expected 48 hours. The sea state outside the entrance would have been waves up to 5-6 meters because the Elbe's current is 3 knots and this would pick up the waves.

So we did the sensible thing and shot across the shipping lanes, recording speeds of 9kts plus. My crew member got a very respectable 9.9 knots out of *Goblet of Turnaware* on 1 wave with 2 knots of tide in our favour. I nearly ran to the bow for the extra 0.1 of a knot to see her cruising at 10 knots.

She's everything I read about her. The iconic little Nic. is so stable. Money well spent for me. We got three waves over the side filling the cockpit sole to half, but Goblets drains worked their magic and she showed no signs of caring, just welcoming each short faced wave after the next, not surfing. When I was on the helm down the face of these waves at 1900 hrs they were longer than her so I can't wait to cross the Atlantic in her one day. As that ocean is much deeper, we should see a much longer wave and I'm now sure *Goblet of Turnaware*, being 3 years my senior will undoubtedly be up for it.

After a very rough entrance to the river mouth heading in to the harbour of Lauensoog, we tied up *Goblet's* lines just as the sun shone its last ray in the sky. My crew, a chap who's covered some 90,000 nautical miles in various sailing vessels, complemented *Goblet* on her sea keeping abilities over a Guinness.

We waited for 1 day as the storm hit, after we left, transited the Kiel canal, then cruised non-stop to Copenhagen. This took 80 hrs sailing time with an overnight stop at the start of the Kiel Canal, because no small craft can navigate the Canal at night. Upon our arrival into Central Canal, the most prestigious part of this City, my Girlfriend was there to greet us.

I have just returned to Copenhagen from 3 weeks single-handed, knocking up another 500 nautical miles. I went to visit the family in the mainland Aarhus and show them my dream little ship. I can say now - I can steer backwards!!!!!!

Whilst on a stop-over in a little island called Sejereo (as you might spell it in English) *Goblet of Turnaware* and I were interviewed by the Kalovig newspaper about what me and this fine SV are doing up here in Denmark. The chap took some pictures and hopefully it should go to print next month. Cool for *Goblet* I thought.

Well I sincerely hope this has been an enjoyable yarn for all the other Nicholson 32 owners. All the best.....

*Andrew Moore*