

# The Great Cruise North

## The Log of TAURUS An Epic Journey in three halves!

1. **The Cruise North** – Howth to Oban – 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012.
2. **“The Malts Cruise”** – Oban to Oban – 7<sup>th</sup> July to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012.
3. **Homeward bound** – Oban to Howth – 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

<b>Call sign</b>	EI-JO-7	
<b>MMSI</b>	250002121	
<b>Sun Odyssey 32i</b>		
<b>Length overall</b>	9.6M	31'5"
<b>Beam</b>	3.3M	10'9"
<b>Draught</b>	2.0M	6'6"
<b>Sail No.</b>	IRL 1293	
<b>Home Port</b>	Howth, Co. Dublin, Ireland.	
<b>Club</b>	Howth Sailing and Boating Club <a href="http://www.howthboat.ie">www.howthboat.ie</a>	
<b>Skipper</b>	Mike Medcalf	
<b>Steward</b>	Tony Lynch	
<b>Pursers</b>	1. Edel Gilmartin, 2. Mike Taylor, 3. Graham Perry	



Loading up the Bond



The New Fleeces

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012.**

Graham Perry and Tony Lynch aboard to help

09:30 Moved off the mooring into the Marina – refuelled at the dock

16:30 Fully Loaded

All tanks full – Water and Diesel, also 2 spare Diesel tanks, 3 full Gas tanks and 2 petrol tanks

The Bond fitted into the boat nicely but we are down at the bow with a distinct list to starboard – mainly due to 12 litres of Gin, 6 litres of Bushmills, 40 litres of wine and 30 litres of Beer. In addition Pimms, Rum etc.

Dinghy deflated and strapped aboard plus a new outboard engine on the push pit.

Spent the evening in the Abbey Tavern with Dinner and taking in the Irish show for the tourists!

**Engine 30 min.      1 Mile**



St Johns Point



Ardglass Marina

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June

### Howth to Ardglass in Northern Ireland

06:30 Up and getting ready – Low Water Howth was 09:00 and we planned to get the northern flood as much as possible. Westerly winds about F3 or less

07:30 Left Howth and managed to sail at about 6knots until 12:30 when the engine came on and we motor sailed in light winds. Ended up dropping all sails at 15:00

17:00 after rounding St Johns Point we were on our mooring in a delightful small marina with good facilities - £20 per night

Saw Dolphins and a Whale on the way

Dinner was Crab Morney and Lambay Fillet with Caesar salad.

**Engine – 5 hours      50.5 Miles**



**Relaxing with the Pimms**



**In Bangor Marina**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**

### **Ardglass to Bangor in Northern Ireland**

Tidal patterns change at Ardglass and the Ebb now flows North – High Water Ardglass 03:30

04:00 Left Ardglass Motor sailing due to light winds – 5 to 10 knots

07:00 we are now motoring as wind very light and on the nose

09:45 – Arrived into Bangor Marina in time for breakfast – one advantage of the early starts is the whole day to explore (or catch up on sleep) – we explored, shopped and lunched in the Jenny Watt pub.

Marina is large and busy with excellent facilities for £20 per night

Dinner was Queen Scallops and then Chicken Fajitas.

**Engine 5.5 hours    30.5 Miles**



The Maidens



Glenarm Castle Gatehouse



Glenarm Marina

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**

### **Bangor to Glenarm in Northern Ireland**

Again we still have a north flowing ebb and so to make best use of the tide another early departure was called for. High Water Bangor was 04:15

06:00 Departed Bangor in calm and sunny weather with very little wind – motor sailed until we passed the Maidens at 08:00

09:30 Tied up in Glenarm having breakfast. – this is a great marina and well worth the visit, it provides a great stop off point for travelling north. £18 per night plus a card for power if no credit on pontoons

We had stronger winds and a big following swell on the way in and the boats we met leaving to travel south soon turned around and came back.

Stevie's Pub – The Bridge - provides the focal point for the village. The Earl of Antrim has his castle in Glenarm with a very nice gatehouse.

Dinner was the last of the Lambay beef in a rich chasseur sauce.

**Engine 3 Hours      24 Miles**





Off Fair Head



Rathlin Pontoon



Island Life

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**

### **Glenarm to Rathlin Island in Northern Ireland.**

Still got a North flowing Ebb – High Water Glenarm is 05:00 so another early departure is required although they do get later by an hour each day.

06:00 Leaving Glenarm in very light winds again – getting used to motor sailing!

07:00 saw the lead Round Ireland yachts beating against the tide and light winds off Cushendon. Very soon we are off Fairhead and have a great tide pushing us at 10.4 knots over the ground

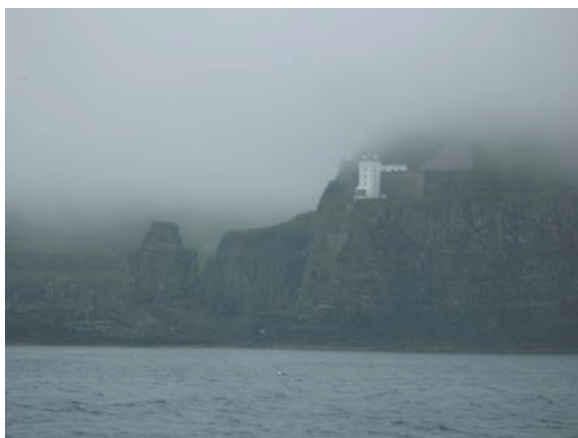
A very calm crossing over to Rathlin saw us tied up on the pontoon at 09:15 – in time for yet another Ulster Fry!

The island is fantastic and a must visit place, Island life with no police is very different! – Good Pub with no hours!

The small Fish shop cooked lobster for us and delivered to the boat – mooring fees are £14 per night.

We had a great walk on small roads over to the East Light house at Altercarry Head, there are three lighthouses on Rathlin reflecting its importance as a dangerous spot between Ireland and Scotland – one light house is upside down!

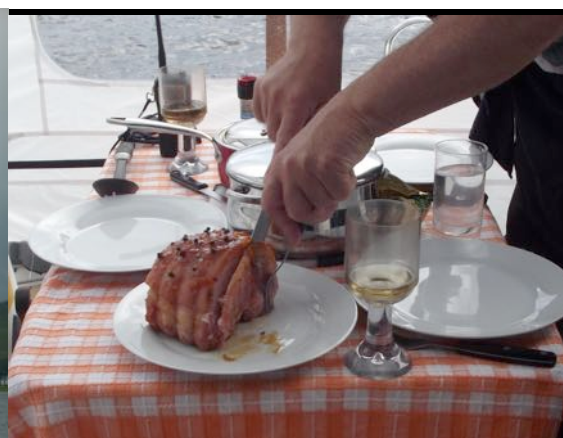
**Engine 3.5 Hours    24 Miles**



Upside down Lighthouse



Entrance to Port Ellen



Dinner on Deck

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**

**Rathin Island to Port Ellen in Scotland.**

09:00 A more civilised start but still need to cross the sound before now catching the flood North – Low Water Rathlin is 10:25 – we did all our tidal navigation using the Dover tidal atlas – much better than relying on local tides, this method never let us down. It was a wet and misty day for most of the journey.

12:00 At last we can see Islay – still misty but good sailing in now dry weather

13:45 Tied up in Port Ellen having had to alter course and hang around outside to allow the Ferry to enter and Dock – this was the first of many Scottish navigation exercises to get into Harbour – nothing is straight forward from now on.

Port Ellen looks lovely in the mist – Distilleries everywhere – happy days. – Marina has limited facilities but at £12 no complaints  
Dined on deck in the evening sun – Baked Ham, Cabbage and Potatoes.

**Engine 2 Hours      26.5 Miles**



Ardbeg



Chairman's Office, Ardbeg



The Old Ardbeg

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**

A free day ashore – Visited Ardbeg Distillery the most Peaty of the Islay Malts. Got caught in the rain and waited for the Island Bus – not a very frequent service!. Lagavulin and Laphroig Distilleries are both within easy reach of Port Ellen – all have good visitor centres. Shopping facilities are not that good – one Spar type shop – managed to get Lamb Chops for dinner. Good pub on the front where we watched our first TV for a week – Germany in the Euro's lost 2 – 0 , their story all over again!! Managed to be able to taste the Ardbeg old stock from prior to the closure and reopening of the distillery – bought a nice bottle of their most peatiest.





View from Moorings



View from Landing stage



Relaxing

## Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June

### Port Ellen to Craighouse on Jura

09:30 Catching the North going flood we didn't have to leave until well after Low Water which was 05:00

Wind was 10 to 15 knots southerly and we managed 6 knots on just the Jib – very misty at times with drizzle

13:30 we picked up a visitor mooring at Craighouse – plenty to choose from as there was only a couple of other boats in – those that left came back as it was unsuitable to head south.

We decided to stay on board that night and the weather calmed down so we could enjoy our braised steak

**Engine 1.5 Hours    22 Miles**



New Engine



Tayvallich



Tayvallich from the boat

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

Craighouse, Jura to Tayvallich on the Mainland in Loch Sween

Low water 08:10 Craighouse.

08:00 Still in Jura, had to blow the dinghy up for the first time to get ashore to pay our mooring fee at the Jura Hotel next door to the distillery - £10 per night

09:45 On our way across the sound to Loch Sween, sailing well in 10 knots

11:00 Entered Loch Sween – tricky navigation between the islands, past Sween Castle and up the Loch, saw Sea Otters cross in front of us.

This is a very beautiful Loch and quite remote when past the entrance

13:00 All of a sudden Tayvallich appears as you turn a corner – this is the most beautiful spot we have seen so far and the sun came out.

Picked up a visitor mooring in quite a busy natural Harbour with a rock reef right in the middle.

Ashore to explore – a great Pub “Tayvallich Inn” great food and wonderful views, this was followed by a cream tea before going back on board for Spaghetti Bolognaise

All this for £10 per night

**Engine 2 Hours      17.5 Miles**



Castle Sween



Exit from Tayvallich



Entrance to Croabh Haven

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

**Tayvallich to Croabh Haven**

09:00 Left Tayvallich to travel back down Loch Sween – great sailing down a narrow Loch – tricky navigation at the exit to find the right channel through the islands

11:00 Turned up north through the sound to Croabh – good tides and a flat sea but now motor sailing as the wind is up and down  
As we passed the Dorus Mor we managed 10.9 knots over the ground – you need to get your tides right in Scotland!

13:30 Tied up in Croabh Haven, a nice marina in a very remote place

We dined ashore for the first time in the Lord of the Isles Pub – Scallops for the first time as well – soon to become a regular diet.  
Great facilities – best yet but £22 per night,

**Engine 2 Hours      27.5 Miles**



Cleith Rock in the Cuan Sound



Mull in background



Loch Spelve

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012.**

### **Croabh Haven to Loch Spelve on Mull**

08:00 Filled up with Diesel and Water and waited for the tide to get us through the Cuan Sound – Pilot books state that slack in the sound is HW Dover – 1 Hour meaning we had to be at the entrance at 10:27 – Motored to the sound

10:30 Into the Cuan sound with another yacht and a fishing vessel – all waited for 10:30 – Dead calm but impressive rocks all around – get this wrong and you are in serious water! – 8 knots and a one foot fall within 10 minutes of slack water

It only take 2 minutes to pass through and you are out in the sound of Seil

12:00 Across the sound towards Mull in slack winds and a strong tide pushing us North.

13:00 Managed to navigate the tricky entrance to Loch Spelve at Low water and travel up the Loch to a remote anchorage. Spent the evening on board watching shepherds gather the mountains

Collected mussels and oysters of the beach for dinner – Sunny afternoon but rained all night – joined by a Norwegian boat also on the malts cruise

**Engine 3 Hours      17 Miles**





General Views of Dunstaffnage Marina

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

#### **Loch Spelve, Mull to Dunstaffnage**

11:30 Left Loch Spelve at low water again in a flat calm with hot sun

12:00 Out into the sound and caught the north tide up past Oban and Kerrera and around to Dunstaffnage

14:30 On a pontoon berth in a very pretty marina

Relaxed and went ashore for dinner in the award winning Wide Mouthed Frog restaurant – Scallops' again!

Good facilities and a very pretty marina - £20 per night

**Engine 3 Hours      14.5 Miles**





View from the ferry



Marina – See Bloodhound?

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

### **Dunstaffnage to Oban Kerrera Marina**

08:30 Departed in a dead calm with the sun already hot, not far to go but still need the tide with us. HW Oban is 07:30

09:30 entered Oban bay keeping out of the way of the big ferries

09:45 Into Kerrera Marina – busy with a lot of Malt Cruise boats already berthed – we just about got the last berth on the pontoons, later boats had to pick up visitor moorings

Stayed here for three nights at a total cost of £24 including power – this was mainly due to discounts from the Malts Cruise

Great Sea food restaurant in a small chalet with a kitchen in a marquee – The Waypoint – a ferry delivers customers and it is very busy but very good – Scallops again!

A regular Ferry runs to the mainland and the town of Oban.

Yacht Bloodhound is based here – as raced by the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne

**Engine 1.30 Hours 5 Miles**



### The Cruise North

<b>Day</b>	<b>Towards</b>	<b>Engine Hours</b>	<b>Miles</b>
1	Ardglass	5	50.5
2	Bangor	5.5	30.5
3	Glenarm	3	24
4	Rathlin	3.5	24
5	Port Ellen	2	26.5
6	Rest Day	0	0
7	Graighouse	1.5	22
8	Tayvallich	2	17.5
9	Croabh Haven	2	27.5
10	Loch Spelve	3	17
11	Dunstaffnage	3	14.5
12	Oban	1.5	5
<b>Totals</b>		<b>34 Hours</b>	<b>259 Miles</b>



Mike arrives at the Waypoint Bar



First Party



Scallops and prawns

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Rest days in Oban marina – isle of Kerrera

### Voyage 2 “The Malts Cruise”

**Friday** - Mike Taylor arrives at 14:00 and Malts Cruise registration takes place – Marina now very busy but we restock and get all our washing done in the limited facilities provided

Visited the Waypoint Grill and Bar several times and ashore to shop at Tesco’s – the biggest shop we have seen in two weeks!

**Saturday** – Great organisation as a major party is taking place in the upper boat house – everything has to come by ferry

Met a lot of the other malt cruisers, a lot from the Nordics and one from Melbourne

Good Party with a great tasting of the Oban whiskey which we toured today



**Pictures from the start of the Malts Cruise**



Nosing the Oban  
Marina



Piped to dinner  
Dressed overall





Tobermory Distillery



Parade of Sail



Tobermory

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

### **Oban to Tobermory**

10:30 Parade of sail around Oban Bay and then a mad rush to Tobermory at 11:00 – sailing really well in 15 knots of wind but against the tide for the first time this cruise

13:00 Engine on to keep speed up against the tide in the Sound of Mull

15:50 Picked up a visitors mooring – we could have got a marina berth but it's a handy mooring

Explored Tobermory and looked at the distillery – Cruise event tonight with a fish and chip supper in McGochans pub, nearly all the others wearing the malts Cruise fleece – Taurus all in the new Ire/Sco gilletts

£10 per night on the mooring. – lots of swell every so often for no reason but a comfy night.

**Engine 4 Hours      27 Miles**

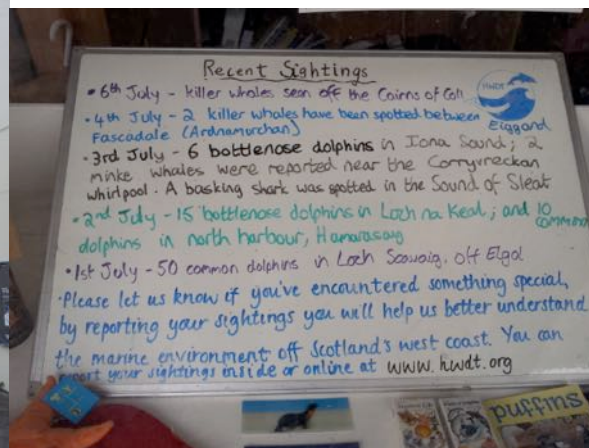




Café Fish



Distillery



Whale watching

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Rest Day – again already!**

Moved from Mooring into the marina once the other cruisers left

Relaxed in Tobermory and found the most fantastic fish restaurant in the ferry terminal – Café Fish – had a great long lunch in the hot sun



Ardnamurchan Point



Loch Scresort



Rhum BBQ

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

### **Tobermory to Rhum**

06:30 Left the pontoon to catch the last of the tide up the sound – outside the sound the tide is insignificant – HW Dover 04:20

07:30 Flat calm passin Ardnamurchan Point – the most westerly point of the mainland, flat calm and sunnu

11:00 Passed Muck and Eig and close to Rhum – saw two basking sharks close inshore and a Mienke whale near the entrance to Loch Scresort

12:15 Anchored for the first time in Loch Scresort, Rhum. The rest of the fleet arrive throughout the afternoon

Ashore for the evening for a BBQ in Rhum village hall, venison sausages and wine from the post office shack, had to borrow glasses – a great evening finished off with a couple of pints in the castle bar.

**Engine 3 Hours      29 Miles**



Cuillins, Loch Harport



Talisker, Carbost



Our Sponsors

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012-09-04**

#### **Rhum to Loch Harport, Skye**

- 09:45 Up Anchor and off to Skye – dead calm and motor sailing again
  - 10:30 Wind picked up and sailing well alongside the Skye shore – Cuillins look good – named after famed Irish Hero Cuchullin!
  - 14:30 Turned into the entrance for Loch Harport and had a long pleasant motor sail up the Loch – Cuillins looked fantastic
  - 15:15 Picked up a visitor mooring opposite the Old Inn, Carbost close to Talisker Distillery
- Ashore to taste the delights of the Old Inn – do great sea food – showers available for sailors

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

Rest day enjoying Carbost, Talisker and the Old Inn for Lunch, In the evening there was a coach trip to Mingalish Parish Hall for Supper and a tasting of the Talisker

**Engine 3.30 Hours 30 Miles**



North Skye



Purser at the helm



Hard Times

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012-09-04**

**Loch Harport, Skye to Duntulm, Northern Skye**

07:00 Heading out of the Loch under motor as no wind

08:00 out into the sea and the wind has picked up and sailing well to the north, very blustery around the point and long tack out into a choppy sea. Tacked back almost to Uigg and out again. Decided we would not make it around the northern tip and found a great anchorage

17:30 – dropped anchor in Duntulm, very remote at the northern tip of Skye. Set the lobster pot for the first time

Life is getting difficult as we have no ice and tonic is on rations.

**Engine 2 Hours      54 Miles**





Raasay Sound



Colin the Crab



Portree

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Duntulm to Portree, Skye**

09:00 Collected Lobster Pot – biggest Crab ever – Colin, start delayed why we boiled him

10:30 Away around the northern point

11:30 We are now heading south for the first time after reaching 57degrees 42' 725N. Pleasant sailing as we enter the Raasay Sound – sea flat calm

Dolphins galore in the sound – spectacular scenery

16:00 emptying the water tanks as it is contaminated following a top up in Carbost – container tainted the water

16:45 Now on a borrowed members mooring in Portree close to the pier. This is the capital of Skye and is full of souvenir shops

Colin Crab as a starter followed by the old favourite Bacon and cabbage.

**Engine 2.5 Hours    26.5 Miles**





**Views of Plockton**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Portree to Plockton**

10:00 Changing the water again as there is still a taint – all agreed it is much better now

10:45 Departed Portree – 8 knots westerly winds, very pleasant sailing down a very pretty sound

More Dolphins, at least 50 all around us. Spectacular scenery on both sides and a very interesting trip through the narrows and across to Plockton, around the islands

15:30 decide to anchor close to the landing pontoon rather than pick a visitors mooring up as they are father away

Ashore for a beer or two and booked a meal in the Moorings restaurant for later – this was excellent – scallops again!

**Engine 3 Hours      23 Miles**



Distillers Choice



57 Degrees



BBQ

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

### **Rest day in Plockton and BBQ**

Pleasant relaxing day in Plockton, A very pretty village. The Plockton Sailing Club are providing a BBQ for us all tonight and Talisker are bringing a selection of their goods for us to taste

The money raised is to go towards sailors facilities in the Sailing Clubhouse

5 different Taliskers are on offer for tasting – we are getting used to having eight whiskeys before dinner! – The Distillers choice was the favourite but the 57 degrees North is pretty good

Great evening



Under the Skye Bridge



Inverarie, Knoydart



Nosing on "Spray"

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Plockton to Loch Nevis**

06:00 Left Plockton to catch the tide through the Kyles – HW Dover 11:00- Calm morning

08:30 Through the Skye Bridge and into the Kyles – full of Dolphins again

11:00 entering into Loch Nevis and on to Inverness – the most remotest place in the Mainland – The Old Forge Inn is an award winning seafood pub that you have to book – remote!

15:00 On the "Spray of Wight" nosing a selection of Malts and the Bushmills, Take Note -water kill Bushmills.

Raining a bit but travelled ashore to find a very remote and interesting community – Pub is fantastic with great sea food – scallops again

Caught mackerel late at night while having a nightcap

**Engine 5 Hours      30 Miles**





Castle Tuam



Loch Moidart



Rocks in entrance

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

### **Loch Nevis to Loch Moidart**

07:00 Leaving Loch Nevis, again its flat calm

08:00 Past Mallaig and now sailing – steady vertical rain, very soon its light to zero wind

11:00 Entrance to Moidart – very tricky navigation, all books and charts wet, lots of Islands to identify, going very slowly

11:45 Anchored in a bay by the castle, very pretty, still wet. Mike the purser lost his phone ashore

Eggs and Beer for breakfast – times are hard – this is no luxury cruise!

Mackerel for dinner followed by sausage, mash and onion gravy.

**Engine 5 Hours      26 Miles**



Tobermory Highland Games



Tobermory – again



End of cruise supper

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

### **Loch Moidart to Tobermory**

06:10 HW Dover 12:00 - Left Moidart a lot faster than we went in as GPS had kept the trail between the rocks

06:45 Out at sea again, Flat calm to start with then great sailing along the coast and into the sound of Mull after rounding Ardnamurchain point again – Heather on the bow looking a bit worse for wear but the mint plant still survives!

11:30 Managed to get a berth on the pontoons but had to wait outside for boats to leave - £10 per night on pontoons

Great lunch again in Café Fish. Then a quick visit to the Highland games that take over the golf course

Final Cruise function tonight – a sea food extravaganza in the Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory preceded by an extensive tasting of the two Tobermory whiskeys.

End of the official Malts Cruise

**Engine 2 Hours      27.5 Miles**





A Whale off Tobermory



Crew relaxing



Flat Calm at the Lismore Light

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

### **Tobermory to Dunstaffnage**

08:00 HW Dover 12:40. – Departed Tobermory – very little wind and a calm sea, did manage to unfurl the jib for a while but then dead calm at the entrance to Loch Linnie.

13:15 In Dunstaffnage – refuelled both water and diesel - £20 per night

A hot and sunny evening and dinner in the Wide Mouthed Frog, Scallops again!

Final evening for this crew so plenty of tastings and nosing as stocks reduce.

This Purser was unable to give a refund other than a lot of loose change

**Engine 4.25 Hours 28 Miles**



Final Visit with this crew



Waiting for the Liberty Boat



New Purser being lulled into a false sense of security

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012.**

### **Change over Day**

Final Distillery visit, Mike T ashore to catch Bus to Glasgow at 14:00 – Major restocking at Tesco's and waited for Graham to arrive by Train and Ferry

16:00 Graham now on board and a quick visit to the waypoint bar for those first drinks and handing over of the Pursers duty

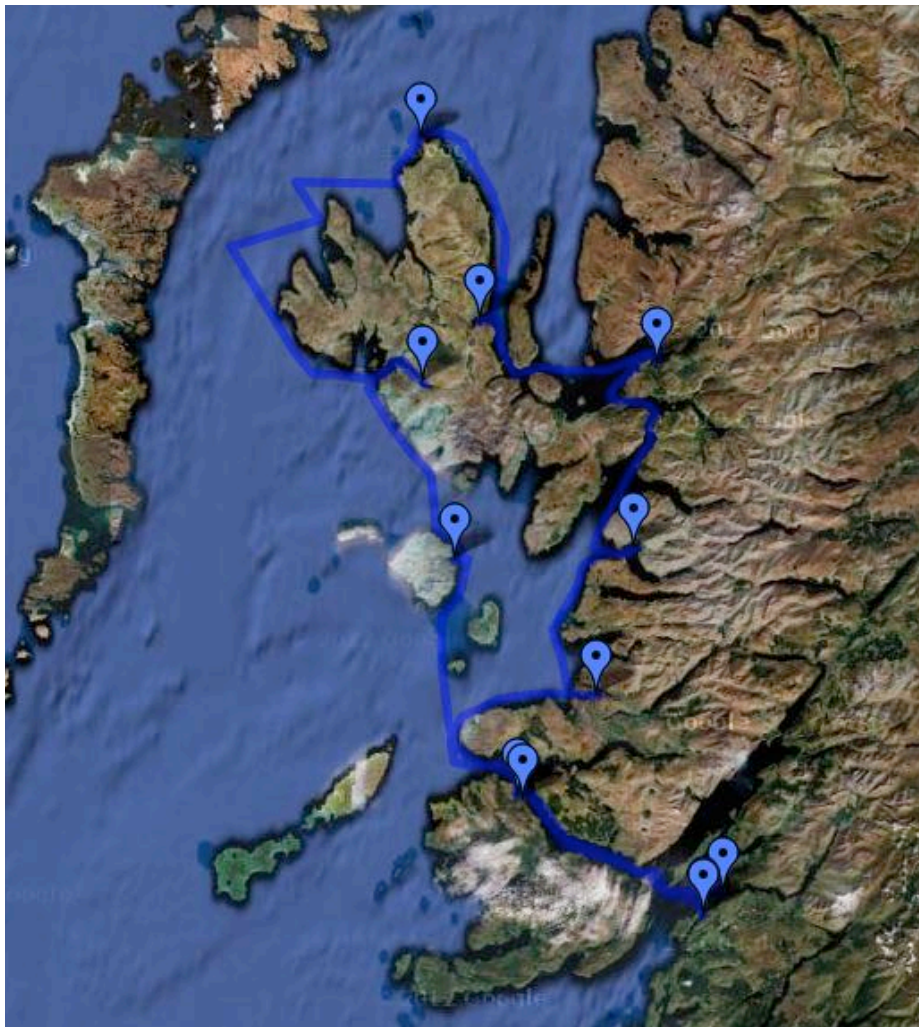
Nice Dinner on Board as the weather starts to deteriorate and a poor forecast for Tomorrow.

£22 per night

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012.**

An enforced rest day due to storms in the sound and in the marina – explored Kerrera island and watched yachts getting pounded in the sound before they had to turn back and try to get into the marina – FULL!

**Engine 2 Hours      5 Miles**



## The Malts Cruise

Day	Towards	Engine	Miles
1	Tobermory	4	27
2	Rest Day	0	0
3	Rum	3	29
4	Loch Harport	3.5	30
5	Rest Day	0	0
6	Duntulm	2	54
7	Portree	2.5	26.5
8	Plockton	3	23
9	Rest Day	0	0
10	Loch Nevis	5	30
11	Moidart	5	26
12	Tobermory	2	27.5
13	Dunstaffnage	4.5	28
14	Oban	2	5
<b>Totals</b>		<b>36.5 Hours</b>	<b>306 Miles</b>





Locking in



Overnight berth



Our Lock Monkey

## **Voyage 3 – Homeward bound**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012.**

### **Oban to Crinnan Canal**

08:00 HW Dover 02:00 Departed Oban in a 10 – 15 knots SE – it is wet, wet, wet. Entered the sound of Luing at the perfect time, wind had dropped so motor sailing and recorded 12 knots over the ground – big tides! – passed through the “Doras Mor” without any problems – slack water

13:00 Docked through the first two automatic locks and into the Crinan for a short cut to the Clyde. £ 90 for the transit and up to 3 days to complete.

Due to the high water level the canal closed down at 15:00 forcing us to overnight in Dunardry Lock while the staff released water out to sea.

Had to dine on board as no civilisation close by – Pork and minted peas – the only time bothered by midges

**Engine 8 Hours      26.5 Miles**





A Nice day in the Crinan



Hovercraft at the Oystercatcher



Ducks stood on the Otter Spit

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Crinan to Otter Ferry, Loch Fyne**

09:30 Motoring again through the canal – great scenery

14:15 Moored in the last basin before the sea lock – saw Hannah G II and Boogaloo, both from Howth waiting outside for us– all had lunch

15:30 Docked out to join the other two Howth Boats in Loch Fyne – Humid and very warm but little wind. Decided to go to Otter Ferry and moor at the Oystercatcher pub who have moorings and a restaurant.

17:10 On a mooring at the Oystercatcher – a few boats around including two small hovercraft – a great way to visit a pub  
Dinner ashore and Robert from Hannah G came back aboard for a nosing – left worse the wear!

**Engine 7 Hours      11 Miles**



Hannah G II arrives



4 Howth Boats in Line



Tir na nOg has arrived

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Otter Ferry to East Loch Tarbert**

08:00 HW Dover 02:50      Departed Otter Ferry avoiding the spit at low water – sticks out a long way into the loch, clearly marked by all the ducks standing on it!

Calm and sunny day again

10:15 Entered East Loch Tarbert, Very pretty town and marina - £18 per night. Tir na nOg arrived at 15:00 to make 4 Howth boats all in a row. A good sociable evening with Tir na nOg on board for dinner – Baked ham again!

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

A rest day in the marina – very hot and sunny, sight seeing, lunch, fishing and a few drinks

**Engine 2.25 Hours 10.5 Miles**



Leaving E.L.T



Aran



Troon

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

### **East Loch Tarbert to Troon**

08:30 HW Dover 05:20 – Soon deteriorated into gusty weather as we approached Aran – original plan was to enter Loch Ranza but wind increasing and now southerly

11:00 After discussions with Tir na nOg altered course to Troon as it wasn't a pleasant sail – a bad gybe enforced the decision.

15:00 Very glad to get into Troon and be tied up. Hannah G made it to Lamlash at anchor in a big swell.

Troon a big marina with good facilities and an excellent bar and restaurant – very busy – Cullen Skink and Haggis!

The Australian Malt Cruise Boat was in the Marina.

£22 per night

**Engine 2 Hours 36 Miles**



On Route to Stranraer with Tir na nOg



Ailsa Craig

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Troon to Stranraer**

09:00 Departed Troon a good sailing wind but slightly on the nose when out of the loch. Managed to sail into each bay and then motor sail back out to sea and tack again

Some heavy rain but conditions improving all the time, kept in close company with Tir na nOg

Loch Ryan very pretty with a big ferry terminal

17:30 Tied up in Marina – all closed up but other visitors furnished us with the codes for access - £16 per night

**Engine 2 Hours      44 Miles**





In Loch Ryan



Portpatrick



Crown Hotel, Portpatrick

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Stranraer to Portpatrick**

10:00 HW Dover 08:15 – Departing up Loch Ryan and around the Rhins and great sailing all the way to Portpatrick

15:30 Tied up in Harbour after running aground in entrance. There is a N.I. rib raid for the RNLI and it is very busy – rafted up until they left and moved to a ladder - £16 per night

Dinner in the Crown Hotel, Cullen Skink and Scallops

**Engine 2 hours**

**26 Miles**



The Mourne in Ireland



Ardglass pool – LW



Ardglass Golf Club

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Portpatrick to Ardglas, N.I.**

06:00 HW Dover 03:00. – Left Portpatrick in Convoy with Tir na nOg.

Great sail reaching all the way in 14 knots of wind – warm and sunny with lunch on Board

13:15 Tied up in Marina - £22

Dinner was our last Ulster Fry and a few drinks ashore

Hannah G II arrived from Cambletown – Boogallo heading to I.O.M.

**Engine 1 Hour**

**41 Miles**



Tir na nOg going Home



Naval welcome off Howth

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.**

### **Ardglass to Howth**

06:00 Departed Ardglass a little after Tir na nOg and Hannah G II.

Strong winds but good sailing most of the way

Had to motor sail as wind changed and the rain and mist came, could not make Lambay so had to tack inside

A wet and unpleasant day

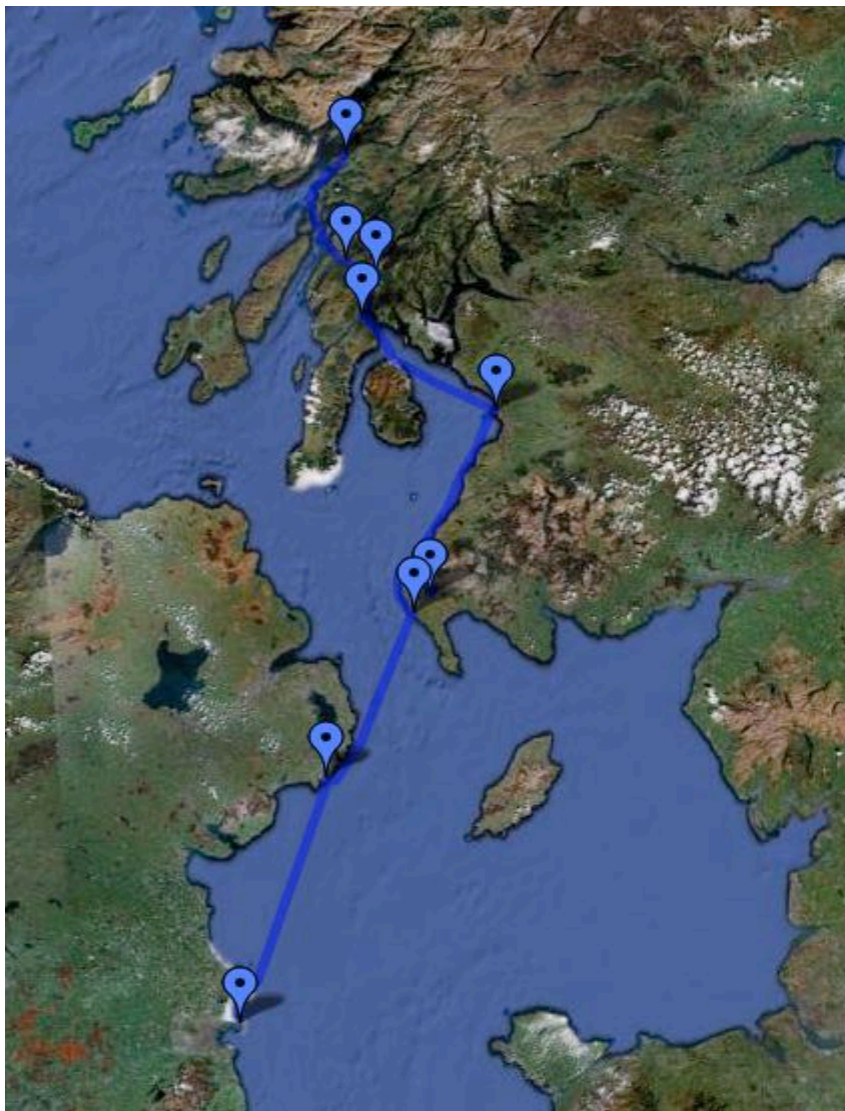
17:00 Into Howth Marina - €30 for unloading and ashore to sleep

Emptied boat the next day and moved back on to moorings Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of August after going to Poolbeg for a few days

Away for exactly 6 weeks

**Engine 4 Hours      51 Miles**





### Homeward Bound

<b>Day</b>	<b>Towards</b>	<b>Engine</b>	<b>Miles</b>
1	Crinan	8	26.5
2	Otter Ferry	7	11
3	East Loch Tarbert	2.5	10.5
4	Rest Day	0	0
5	Troon	2	36
6	Stranraer	2	44
7	Portpatrick	2	26
8	Ardglass	1	41
9	Howth	4	51

**Totals** 28.5 Hours 246 Miles

**Grand Total – 6 Weeks - 99 Hours 811 Miles**