

Torben Sell
29 October 2023

While the Six Gales Roared

A logbook ballad

1 - Pre departure

I longed to sail from Granton port
But strong winds blew from the South
No point in setting off just yet
While the first gale roared



Third reef and reefed jib (W F5)

3 - Scarborough

Scarborough was the harbour in
Which Ingrid once became mine
No surprise that luck would shine
Upon our return to this town



Celebrating my job offer with a seafood platter



Leaving the Forth

2 - Granton to Scarborough

Then off I set across the Forth
with thunder trailing behind
But Ingrid flew and soon I knew
The winds on this passage are kind



Rylan playing the guitar

My pal Rylan came visiting
All the way from Canada
When I got a permanent job offered
In Edinburgh

We drank Whisky and beer, champagne and wine,
Caesars and more
And to cure our hangover -
we drank another dram in the morn'

I longed to sail from Scarborough
But strong winds blew from the West
No point in setting off just yet
While the second gale roared



Sunset on passage to Helgoland



Happily flying the spinnaker

4 - Scarborough to Helgoland

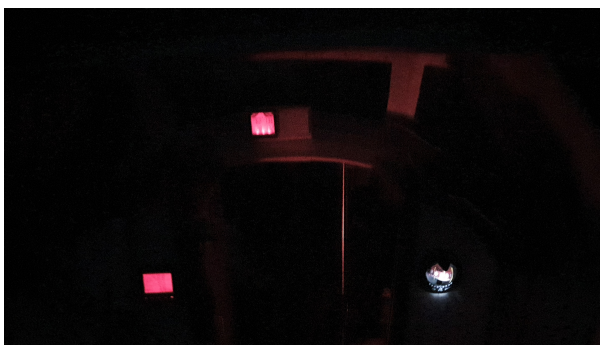
Then winds were good and east we went
Three nights to Helgoland
Winds calmed down and the spi went up
My solar shower was grant



Hajo getting some well deserved sleep

5 - Helgoland

The custom officer on Helgoland
Didn't take long to return my docs
Fortunately they didn't check my hold
Which was full of Whiskey, wine, and port



Sailing up the Elbe at night

6 - Helgoland to Kiel

My pal Hajo came sailing next
We avoided the fishing boats
And we flew up the river Elbe
With eight knots over ground

But Cuxhaven traffic called us up
In the middle of the night
No more sleep for me

* sigh *



Entering the Kiel Kanal

My dad enjoyed the Fjord of Kiel
 And the sunset after that
 But when the swell hit us with all its force
 His stomach suddenly soared

So one more night I didn't sleep
 But sleep is for the weak
 Lübeck welcomed us lovingly
 But alas the rain was bleak

The Kiel Canal was welcomed then
 As I slept most of the length
 Avoided the rain and ate nice meals
 Hajo here showed his strength

7 - Kiel to Lübeck

In Kiel I spent three hours
 Out of which I slept two
 Hajo left and my dad joined here
 The wind? A gentle force five



Me and my dad arriving in Lübeck

8 - Lübeck to Weiße Wiek

In Lübeck I stayed for some days
 At the Travemünder Woche
 I was on a safety boat
 A dragon sunk
 And I wanted to sail on



My crew for one of the days



Always stay hydrated!



Another day, another crew

9 - Weiße Wiek to Copenhagen

My autohelm had served me well
 But on this passage it decided
 To spin me around and around and around and around
 And all that in another squall

Not often do I lock myself
 Inside the cabin and pray
 But a surprising thunderstorm tested me
 Ingrid and I persevered

A short passage to the Weiße Wiek
 Brought a respectable squall
 Ingrid didn't mind it much
 And fun is was for all

I longed to sail from Weiße Wiek
 But strong winds were coming soon
 So quickly off the lines I cast
 Before the third gale roared



En route to Weiße Wiek



Entering the Kattegat

I longed to sail from Kastrup next
 But strong winds blew from the West
 (again!)
 No point in setting off just yet
 While the fourth gale roared

10 - Copenhagen to Lillesand
 Then off I set, the Kattegat
 Welcomed me with a swell
 The masthead light didn't like it much
 And off in the sea it fell
 Blubb blubb blubb blubb

Appeased by this gift the Baltic Sea
Was kinder then to me
No attacks are to be reported from
The orcas I saw passing by



The new masthead light

We also went on a rowing trip
And I learned how to gut a fish
His family visited Ingrid too
And the fjord views I had were bliss



Sunset in Lillesand

13 - Egersund
In Egersund good company
Kept me entertained on my neighbours' boat
We finished my last bottle of wine
It was time for us to sail home



Approach to Lillesand

11 - Lillesand

Hajo was near Lillesand
In a cabin in the woods
He helped me to climb up my mast
To fix those broken lights



Hajo's cabin in the woods

12 - Lillesand to Egersund

I longed to sail from Lillesand next
But strong winds blew from the West
(once more!)
So only up the coast I went
While the fifth gale roared



Approach to Egersund



Leaving Egersund

14 - Egersund to Granton

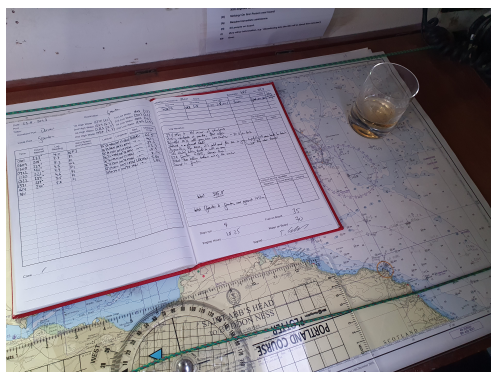
Not much to report from this last leg
 Melancholic it started, I cried
 I was beating into the sea
 With two meter waves
 Force five
 Big swell
 Night
 Force six
 Bum
 Bum
 Day
 Ouch
 Bang
 Bum
 Night
 Bruise
 Wake Up
 Bum



Choppy seas and sunset in the middle of the North Sea



Edinburgh in sight!



Back home after 1492 miles

The last day took me up the Forth
 And a calm cloudy day it was
 My solar shower didn't work
 But a wee dram warmed up my heart