

Cherbourg Rally Report

Three boats sailed (yes sailed) to Cherbourg. Rumours was the advanced party, sailing on Thursday to check out the French fishermen, all was well. Clearly the French protesters have a rota and it was the fishermen's turn to have a bank holiday off and the farmer's turn to protest. Manic and Liberté both sailed Friday, what a fantastic day, sunshine, 12 to 18 knots from WSW sailing on starboard tack hard on the wind all the way. Manic being quicker only had to motor the last hour when the wind dropped completely. The weather was great on Saturday and Sunday very sunny making for lazy days. On Saturday after drinks on Rumours we went to the Café de Paris, where Kim had booked a table for the nine of us. (Marianna and Caroline stowaways on Liberté and Rick and Jill on Manic) The food was great and there was constant laughter from 8.00 o'clock when we arrived until well after 11.00pm when we were the last to leave. We retired to Manic for coffee and more laughter.

On Sunday Rumours and Manic left for St Peter Port, apparently Diamond Blue also decided to sail to St Peter Port from the Solent with a bit of lobster fishing on the way! When last heard from they were all still in St Peter Port. Liberté set sail early Monday with thunder and lightning rolling around Cherbourg the rain soon eased off and it turned into a nice day. With little wind from the NE and some very strong tides it was a motor all the way back, with some rather lumpy and confused sea as soon as we left the Grande Rade. My stowaways did a fine job crossing the shipping lanes while I got some rest.

Lets hope the rest of the year brings sunshine and good winds.