

“Mary Ann” in Friesland July 2012

Some jottings of our holiday on the Friesland canals and lakes in our Capecutter 19 “Mary Ann”

Day 1: 2nd July 2012 Launch at Heeg

Arrived at Foekema's Watersportbedrijf at approx 13.00 after an easy drive from Europort. Very impressed with towing performance of new Freelander 2.



Pleasantly informal reception.

Hot sunshine.

I prepare boat for launching whilst Jen explores the village for provisions.

Boat duly launched without any hassle, good concrete ramp with jetty on both sides.

Tie to jetty and erect cockpit tent for first time.



Walk around village and buy an up to date ANWB Wateratlas at De Jong Watersport.

A cool beer at a canalside cafe. Very pleasant watching the world go by.

Make arrangements with the boatyard (yacht haven). Car and trailer locked in compound, no need to pay until we return at end of holiday.

Sort boat out ready for first night aboard.



Day 2: **3rd July 2012** **Heeg to Oudega**

Weather sunny 22C F2-3 SW.

Slept in forward Vee berth, Jen found it cramped.

Leisurely breakfast at Foekema's JH Heeg. Pack new cockpit tent away and cast off @ 11.35.

Motor into Hegemeer.

Sail WSW down Heegermeer. Hot in boat.

Initially one reef plus staysail only, wind soon drops and use full main plus staysail and yankee.



Good sailing 2.5-4 kts. Pass a Shrimper No. 809 in light airs on way (12.06). Sail to Gastmeer, motoring into the centre of village.

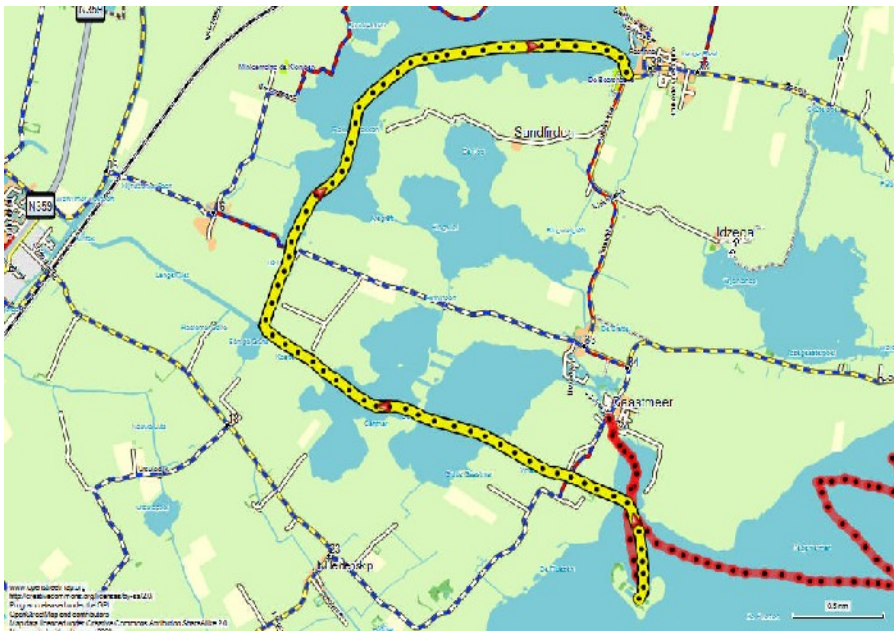
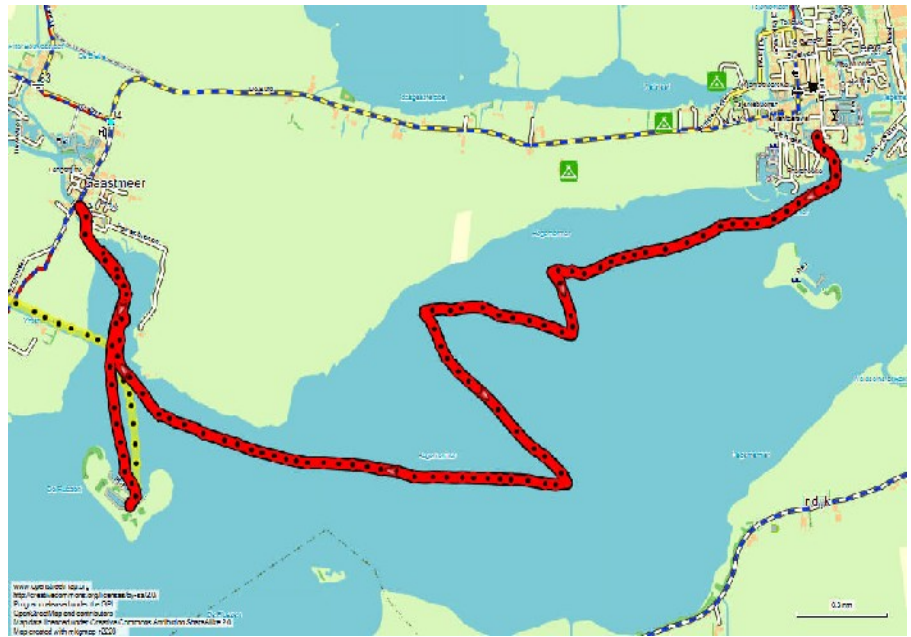


Discover a fixed low bridge (not on our map!), nowhere to tie up, so turn about (12.26) and head for Langehoekspolle (island).

Tie up next to Shrimper 809 @ 12.43. Lunch in cockpit, hot in sunshine.



5.6 Nm.



5.5 Nm

Made chilli bean casserole for dinner.
Gentle stroll around village (Oudega) before
turning in. (Forward Vee berth again).

Total distance: 11.11 Nm
Max speed: 5.0 Kts
Moving average: 3.0 Kts



Day 3: 4th July 2012 Oudega to Woudsend

Weather still very warm (reached 27 C), muggy!

Better sleep last night, probably due to being so tired after a busy day.

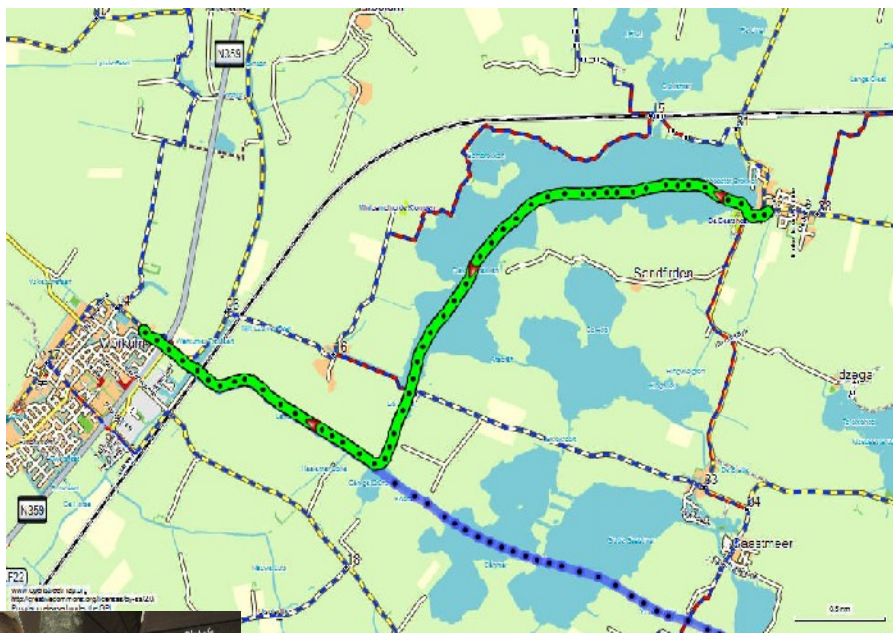
Cast off @ 11.10 and slowly motored into the centre of Oudega before turning about and entering Aldegeaster Brekken.



Sailed (full mainsail, staysail & yankee) all the way to De Gruns (12.16). Motored to Lange Fliet and motor sailed along Lange Fliet to Workum.

Not much delay at the two bridges and tied up at mooring just past roadbridge (12.58).

This leg 4.4 Nm



Shopping and lunch in Workum. Very hot by now!

Cast off @ 15.31 and motor direct into wind all the way to Heegermeer (16.34).

Sail ENE up Heegermeer and entered Waldsteiner Rakken @ 17.40.

Motor to Woudsend and take berth at De Rakken Jachthaven. (Only €10.50 for night)



7.6 Nm on this leg.

First box berth of the trip.



Pleasant walk in village and a cool beer at a canalside pub. Jen discovered Rosé beer. Still 27C @ 19.00.

The end of an excellent day!

Total Distance: 12.14 Nm
Max speed: 6.0 kts
Moving average: 3.2 kts

Day 4: **5th July 2012.** **Woudsend to Sloten (via Balk)**

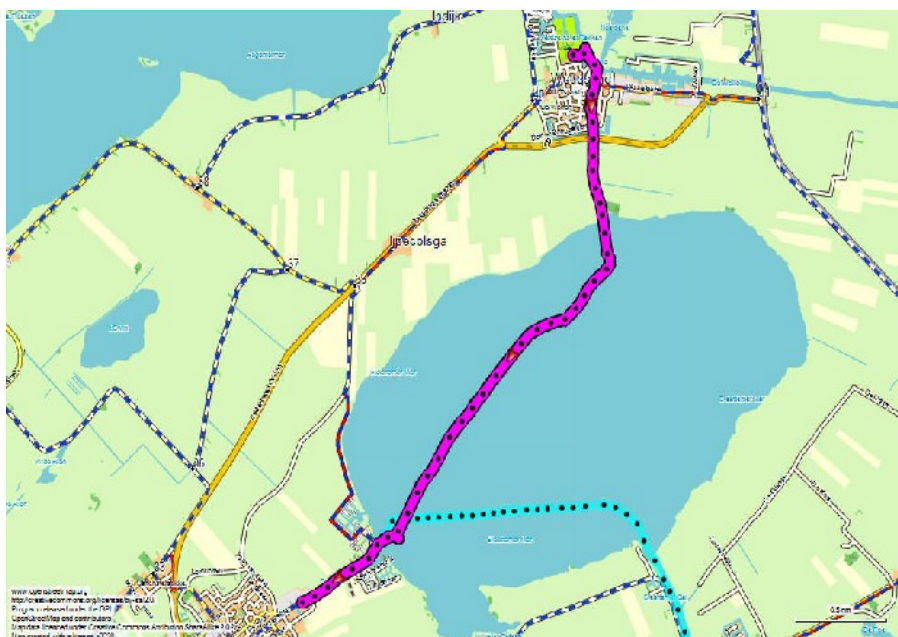
Leisurely start to the day, did not wake until 8.50, Jen complaining about Vee berths again, will try quarter berths tonight. Had been a rain shower earlier, the first of the hol.

Morning bright and sunny but muggy.
Jen visited shops to buy bread (and beer) for lunch.

Cast off from marina jetty @ 12.03 and motor to bridge at Woudsend. Minimal delay and through the bridge.

Hoist sails as soon as clear of Woudsend.
Enter the Sleatermeer Mar @ 12.20 and set course for Balk.

Good sail to Balk gentle breeze but steady 4kts. Arrive off Balk @ 12.52 and lower sails.



This leg: 3.6 Nm

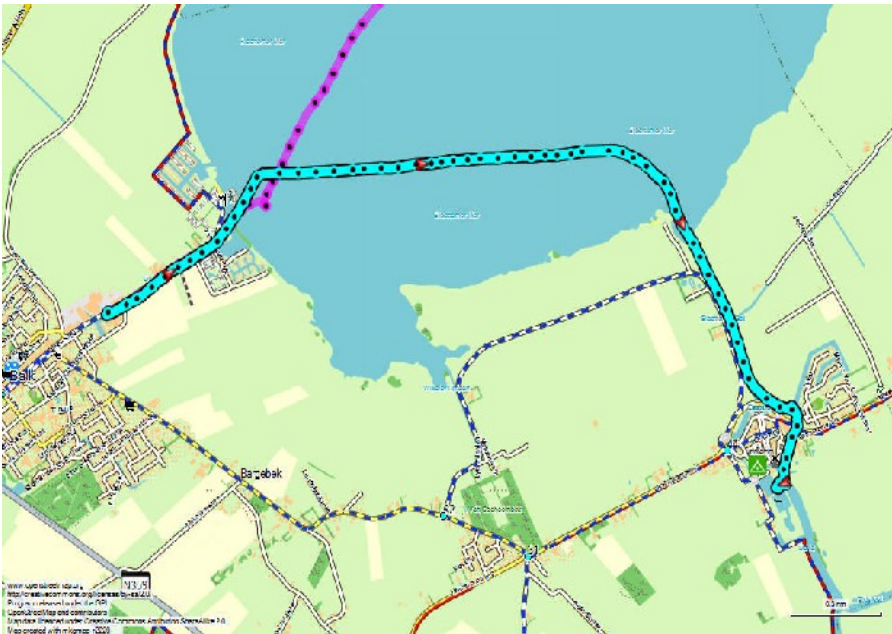
Motor into Balk and tie to jetty @ 13.05.

Pleasant picnic lunch in cockpit, but sky now very threatening, thunder could be heard and unbearably muggy.

Wander into town for a look around, too dark to take photos. Starts to rain as we walk back to boat. Shelter in boat until rain stops.



Eventually cast off @ 15.55 and motor back into Sleatermeer Mar and set course for Sloten.



No wind!

Motor directly to Sloten and pass under bridge @ 16.53 after a short wait.

Arrive at Jachthaven Lemsterpoort 17.06.
€8 for one night stay.

Moor in box @ 17.10.

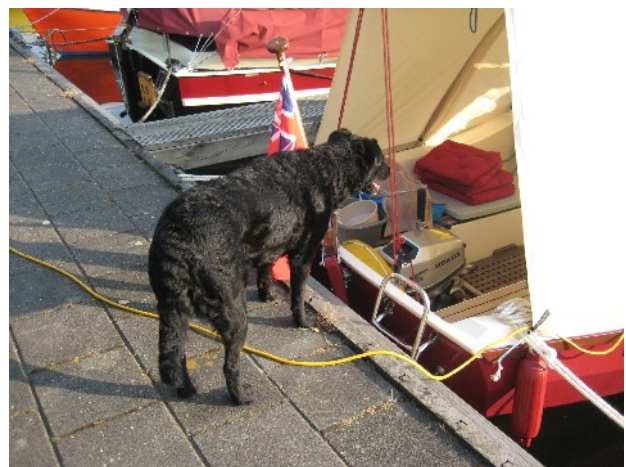


The “natives” are very friendly!



Sky clears and sun returns.

Tea and cake in cockpit.



Full ablutions and get dressed for a meal "out".

Pleasant walk to restaurant t'Bolwerk.

Excellent meat, white wine, lamb shanks, zander fillets, followed by excellent coffee, €58. Good value for such quality.



Sloten is picturesque little village



A strange day weather wise, which curtailed the sailing. However it finished on an excellent note with a super sunset.

Distance travelled:	6.83 Nm
Max. speed:	3.5 kts
Moving average:	3.4 kts

Day 5: **6th July 2012.** **Sloten to Echtenerbrug**

Better sleep last night, quarter berths get the thumbs up from the crew!.

Dismal start to the day. Slight rain shower earlier. Wind moves from a F4 easterly to a F4 southerly in one hour.

Very high humidity and low cloud everywhere. Oilies donned in anticipation!

Cast off at 11.09 and motor south straight into wind reaching the west end of Langesloot @ 11.20.

Hoist staysail and put one reef in mainsail and sail to Rengersbrug (11.42) at 4-5 kts. Continue to Groote Brekken and cross the Prinses Margriet channel and turn north under staysail only (11.48).

Wind now a F5 southerly doing 4 kts under staysail only. Deploy yankee and jib pole, steady 5+ kts. Swell is increasing (to about 1 metre).

Very overcast with odd drops of rain.

Turn into Follega Sloot @ 12.16 and sail (reefed) main and staysail to Follega Brug. Minimal delay and through the bridge @ 12.40.

Sail into Tjeukermeer and pass under road bridge at 12.51 and head for Marchjepolle (Island). Good sailing in channel 5-6 kts with reefed mainsail and staysail. Go about at 13.06 and head for island.

Run aground on sandbank (with keel fully down) whilst running at 4+kts at 13.06. Stuck fast in sand being driven on by a F6 wind and waves.

Jumped into water (just over knee deep) and attempted to push into deeper water, this proved impossible against the wind. Eventually carried the anchor (full 40 metre rode) upwind and planted it. A combination of full ahead with the motor and continuous hauling of the anchor line saw us freed at 13.46. Eventually tied to jetty on island @ 14.04 and sorted the boat out. It is amazing how much sand came on board with the anchor. Lunch in cabin. Also cleared the paddle on the log which had become clogged with sand.



Cast off @ 15.50 and headed straight for Echtenerbrug and the MeerKoet Marina. Tied up at marina @ 16.18.

€14 for box berth with electricity included, the most expensive so far, but good facilities.

Note the shorts hanging up to dry, the result of today's paddling in the Tjeukemeer. (At least the water was warm!)



We walk into town and do some food shopping and have a drink at a canalside bar. The weather is now brilliant, cloudless sky and hot sunshine!

Quarter berths again tonight. 👍

Distance covered: 10.3 Nm
Max. speed: 6.0 kts
Moving average: 3.4 kts

Day 6: **7th July 2012.** **Echtenerbrug to Sneek**

Another leisurely start to the day. Walk into the village to buy bread, cheese and post postcards.

Weather, fine and sunny again, wind S to SW F0-2.

Cast off at 11.13 and motor into the Tjeukemeer and enter channel going due N. Hoist mainsail (one reef) and set staysail with jib pole and unfurl yankee.



Gently run at 2-4 kts, very pleasant in cockpit in hot sunshine.

Crew happy with light winds and hot sunshine.



Enter the Skarster Rien (canal) @ 12.08 and continue to sail due N at 2-4 kts but wind is very fickle.



Eventually. (12.36) drop sails and motor to bridge (290). Reach bridge at 12.48 and wait 10 mins for it to open. Again set off at 12.58 and tie up just before Scharsterbrug (289) at 13.06.

Nice lunch in cockpit (bread rolls, cheese, beer) in hot sunshine.

Cast off @ 13.49 and continue to motor sail (staysail) towards Langweer. Enter Langwarder Wielen at 14.17 and bear NE towards Alde Wei (canal). A short delay

waiting for the bridge (288a) to open at 14.32. Continue to motor sail (staysail) N towards Sneekermeer.

Enter the meer @ 15.04 and immediately raise (reefed) mainsail, deploy yankee.

Meer is alive with sailing boats, lots of traditional dutch amongst them, very impressive sight.

Pass between Greate Griene and Lytse Griene (island) at 15.22 and bear due W for Sneek.



Drop sails at 15.35 to enter channel and prepare to cross the Prinses Margriet Canal.

Cross canal at 15.44 and head for Sneek. Turn into Broersleat at 15.55 and arrive at a jachthaven @16.10. No one around so give up and head for the centre of Sneek @ 15.19.

Eventually tie up at the JH de Domp @ 16.54.

Excellent JH, friendly staff, good facilities. Most expensive yet at €29 for two nights, but that included all hot water and electricity.

Another cool beer in the restaurant at the marina.



Have an evening walk into Sneek and eat an excellent meal at a canalside restaurant. Very pleasant sitting outside eating in the late evening.

A good day, excellent weather and some good (if gentle) sailing.

Distance covered: 15.68 Nm
Max. speed: 5.6 kts
Moving average: 3.5 kts



Day 7: 8th July 2012. (In port Sneek)

A day off from sailing.

Weather forecast has been consistently poor for this day, so decided to have a day "in port" and visit the Boat Museum.

Forecast was correct, rains heavily from about 10.00. Walk into town and have a light lunch at a waterside pub ('t ouwe vat), another Uitsmijter! (bread covered with ham then cheese and topped with three fried eggs)

Duly visited museum which had been extended since our last visit (2002?). A gentle stroll around the old town centre then back to the boat.

Rain stops and a fine evening is the result.

The Jachthaven/Camping De Domp is a very pleasant environment especially considering how close it is to the centre of town. It is worth remembering when considering where to stay with a caravan (or boat).

Eat on board.

And so to bed (quarter berths again).

Day 8: 9th July 2012. Sneek to Heeg

Woke to find that the cockpit tent was actually dry after the previous day's rain, however it was blowing F6+ from the SW. This caused a rethink to the plans. There would be considerable swell on the meers and we would be spending most of the day heading into it!

Removed the staysail to improve visibility and reduce windage. Fitted mainsail cover. Cast off at 10.41 and motored into the Houkesleat and headed east out of Sneek.

Unfurled yankee @ 11.04 but left engine on tick over until we were safely past the Prinses Margriet canal.

Entered Sneekermeer @ 11.23 and headed NE. Absolutely flying along under yankee only (reached 7 kts) but the swell was building quickly.

Abandoned plan to visit Akkrum and took the route between Greate & Lytse Griene. Beat S. under yankee only (with sprayhood) but eventually had to motor as it was becoming a little lively for the crew. Headed S. on Noarder Alde Wei plugging into the wind using motor only. This leg: 8.3 Nm



Tied up for lunch at Joustersluis @ 12.27. Warm in the cockpit with the mooring sheltered from the wind. Ate and read a chapter or two ("You are awful" by Tim Moore) before setting off again @ 14.20.

Minimal delay at bridge (288a) then more plugging direct into the wind before tying up in Langweer (New) harbour @ 15.08.

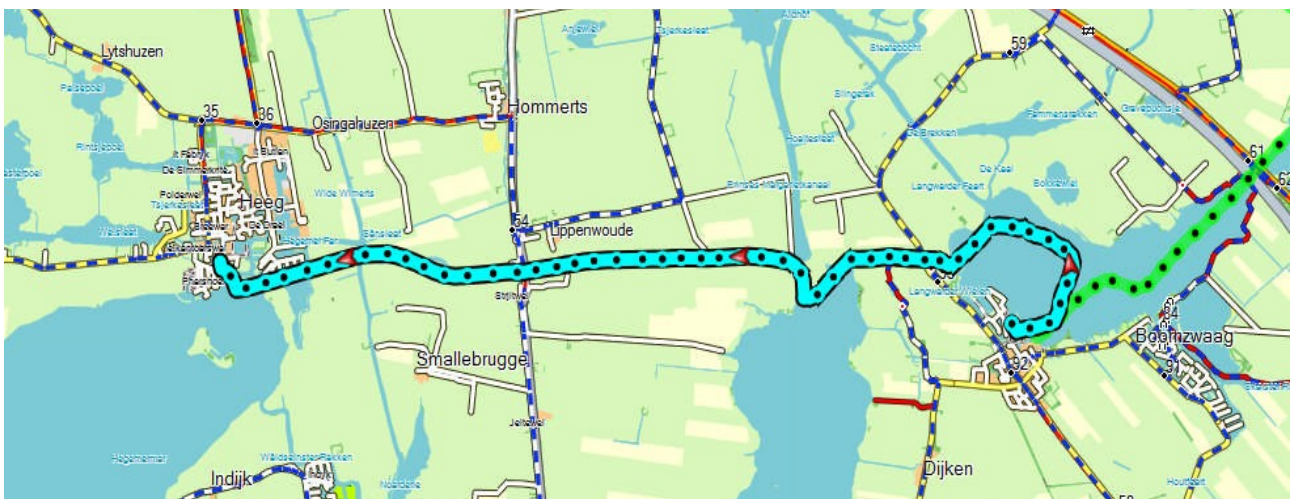


We had a pleasant walk around the village including coffee and apple cake at a streetside cafe.



Set off on the final leg @ 16.31. An uneventful journey, motored all the way into the wind with the sprayhood in use.

Arrived at Heeg (Foekema's) @ 18.04 and tied to the same jetty we left a week earlier.



A not unpleasant day, but much more motoring than sailing. A constant F6 all day. Boat handled conditions well, motor never missed a beat. Very impressed with the fuel consumption of the Honda 5. Still over a quarter of a tank remaining after a weeks work.

Tomorrow, not intending to sail, will visit Lemmer by car.

Distance covered: 13.9 Nm
Max. speed: 7.0 kts
Moving average: 3.5 kts

Day 9: 10th July 2012. (Lemmer)

Another scheduled day of no sailing.

Bright and sunny but feels fresher.

Motor into Lemmer and park (free) not far from town centre.

Sightseeing/shopping walk around town.



Lunch at a waterside (Italian) cafe, pizza and wine. Again it is hot in the sunshine.



Eventually return to car and fill up with diesel before returning to Heeg.

Last night on boat!

Quarter berths have proven to be the best option for sleeping.

Have formulated a number of ideas on how to make the boat more habitable which will be acted upon.

These include:

- Moving canvas pockets from forward (They had already fallen off) to aft (near quarter berths).
- Fitting permanent (wooden) storage shelves/cubby holes where pockets were previously.
- Fitting some kind of permanent storage system (for clothing) at the forward end.

Day 10: 11th July 2012. Haul out and head for home!

Wake up to find it is raining.

Forced to take down cockpit tent wet (the only time this happened).

Pay dues at reception, total bill €70.80 for launching and recovery, 10 days parking of car and trailer and three nights berthing, very reasonable and with good facilities.

Recover trailer from storage and prepare the boat for haul out.

Haul out boat single handed in spite of the pouring rain. Freelander handles this task without effort.

Just as I complete the task of lowering mast sorting all the rigging and tying onto the trailer the rain stops!

We have a final walk around village and a superb meal at the restaurant "Jonas in den Walvis". Unfortunately we realise later that I had left the Land Rover umbrella there.

Set off for Europort at approx 15.00.

A most enjoyable holiday.

Dennis & Jen.

The route: 70 Nm travelled.



Note: GPS maps provided (free) by OpenFietsMap and used on Garmin etrex Legend Hcx. (<https://sites.google.com/site/openfietsmap/>)