



Jubilee Sailing Trust - TNS 421

Southampton - Southampton October 2014

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My name is Lorna. I am 24 years old and I am an administrator at Girvan Youth Trust. I first became involved with GYT in March as a volunteer Administrator following being made redundant from my full time position at one of our local manufacturing companies. In June I got a part time Administration contract and in November I will have a full time contract – Cluster Project Volunteer Co-ordinator. During my short time with GYT I have got involved with so many different activities/training opportunities which I would not normally get involved in, So when I was approached by my boss Bill to take part in the JST Voyage from Southampton to Southampton and to accompany two young people, my first initial answer was NO!! Not because I was ungrateful but because I was absolutely terrified!! With every opportunity I am given I always think of all the negative aspects and then in turn find myself not wanting to get involved. Anyway after a month or so and after many discussions and lots of reassurance from my colleagues and family I found myself all packed and ready to go on my first Sailing adventure.....

Day 1

We arrived at Southampton around 1pm and we were ready to get on the Tenacious, Maxine and Andrew hurried up the gateway to the ship where as I hesitated and needed help from Tom (standing on shore) to even get me aboard. Once aboard everything happened so quickly and we were introduced to our watch leader Simon where he showed us to our bunks and got us our “oily’s” and then introduced me to my buddy Anne. Shortly after, all voyage crew met in the lower mess where we were introduced to all the permanent crew members and were given the Health and Safety talk. It was then announced that we would have a practise safety drill. This made me anxious as we were getting “stuck in” already but it was also good for me as it was an ice breaker to get to know the other crew on board. Once we had completed our first task as a whole team our watch was called for early dinner. We had left the dock and were heading for The Isle of Wight and we were on the 6-8 pm watch. Slightly terrified and oblivious to everything happening around me I got into my “oily’s” and headed to the top deck to meet the rest of our watch (even walking up the stairs to the deck frightened me and I held on for dear life all the way up) Once on the bridge we were given a quick talk of what was expected of us and my first duty was to be on Starboard watch. (Standing on the Starboard side of the ship and looking for any ship’s and buoy’s in our sight) After 20 minutes we were switched round and I got my first shot at helming the ship. Standing behind the wheel took me right out of my comfort zone as I had no idea what to



do but I quickly picked up on this and Simon was very encouraging and complementary which made me go on and in turn I found myself smiling and really enjoying the task in hand. For what seemed like 30 minutes was actually 2 hours and we were released of our first watch duties. We all headed down to the lower deck for a cup of hot chocolate, a seat and a chat to relax from our very busy first day. At 10 o'clock we were shattered and went to bed awaiting our 7.30 am wake up call for breakfast the next day.

Day 2

Awoken by the wakeup call at 7.30am I quickly remembered I was still on the ship and I had made it through my first night (nowhere near what I thought it would be like..... in a good way!!) After a quick change I made my way to the lower mess where we all had breakfast. As we had anchored last night at The Isle Of Wight and were not setting sail until the afternoon we didn't have to follow our 8am to 12:30pm watch so instead we were told that we would have the chance to climb the mast. (This was what I was not looking forward to as heights is not one of my strong points either) Anyway shakily getting into my harness I could feel my body was like jelly and that I had broken into a cold sweat. Simon could see that I was getting myself worked up over it and said he would wait until the end and climb up along side of me. Still feeling nervous I accepted his offer and I waited anxiously, I tried to distract myself until Ed shouted over at me that it was my turn. I slowly walked toward him and placed my hand on the side of the rail and with all my effort I tried to make my way over the side of the ship to get in position at the bottom of the mast but I physically couldn't lift my feet from the ground.... I wanted to give up but Simon told me to give it another shot as he knew I could do it, so with every ounce of effort I tried again and finally managed to get over the side and positioned at the bottom. This alone was an achievement and I could have quite happily gone back on deck but Simon spurred me on and I just went for it and didn't look down... For what seemed like forever and with a jelly like body I froze on the fourth level of the mast and couldn't go any further. I quickly got back down and could not have been any happier to be safe and back on deck, also that I had over come one of my fears by even putting myself in that position as I was so determined that I couldn't do it. With everyone's excitement we stopped for smoko (coffee and cakes on deck) After smoko the atmosphere around everyone was on a high and we all joined to learn about the sails before we got chance to set them. Even though there was a lot of information to take in with all the different phrases used and all the names for the sails I found myself really involved and loving every minute of taking part and working together with a team of people I had only just met. Finally at half 7 we were getting ready for our first night watch from 8pm til midnight. The scenery was amazing.... random flashes of light



appearing from nowhere in the distance and above was thousands upon thousands of bright stars that looked close enough to touch. It was about half past 11 and we were looking forward to getting to bed when the Captain informed us that because we were sailing through the night and the wind had dropped that we would have to take the sails down. As you can imagine this is not what you want to hear when you're just about to go to bed, but nevertheless our watch and the next took together as a team and brought down the sails that we had put up in the afternoon. The sail's were finally down and we were good to go to bed... absolutely shattered but felt some sense of achievement as I couldn't wait to tell my family about the things I got involved in today.

Day 3

Woken up for breakfast at 7.30 am, I was feeling very refreshed from yesterday. Our watch was next on duty 12:30 til 4pm but because we were arriving in Cherbourg at 12 noon we were relieved of our watch. After breakfast we got to experience 'happy hour'. I was a bit reluctant to start with as I had no idea how exactly we would achieve cleaning a ship.... but hey ho it was the happiest I have ever been cleaning. The 'oldie's were the life and soul of the party and us 'young yin's were in barrels of laughter. Smoko was called at 10.30 and it was announced the pilot from Cherbourg would be joining the ship at 11.15 to sail us in. I decided it was probably time I had a shower (normally very clean and shower once/twice a day) since we were allowed shore leave. We all got spruced up and left the shore at 1pm. Five of us from our watch stuck together, myself, Andrew, Maxine, Jack and Sam and we had such a fun time exploring Cherbourg.

We all got presents to take back and we met up with the rest of our watch to have dinner. The atmosphere round the tables were amazing and we were laughing like we had known each other for years, we decided to head back to the ship to relax as it had been a long day finally getting to stretch your legs and plus I had also "volunteered" myself to take part in the anchor watch from midnight til 2am. This watch was not just as fun as the others as



there wasn't much activity to do expect checking round the ship every half hour, manning the gateway and completing the log book every hour so myself and Ken (also on watch) just sat and chatted and got to know each other better. (My favourite as I really enjoy listening to other people's stories and pasts). By the time 2 o'clock came I was frozen and drenched because it had started raining so this woke me up completely and I ended up not going to bed until 4 am.

Day 4

I woke up before the wakeup call and I felt weak. I checked my phone and it was 6 o'clock so I had only had about 2 hours sleep and by god did I know it. I skipped breakfast that morning and tried to get a few hours sleep. We were scheduled to leave Cherbourg after lunch at 1pm and face the 24 hour sail back to the Isle Of Wight. I slept through lunch and woke shortly after with the background noise and went for a shower and headed up the deck for some fresh air. I made it just in time to see us head back out and I was really excited for the journey back home and although I still wasn't feeling the greatest I was still having a ball and was so proud of myself for the achievements. Taking in the scenery leaving Cherbourg there was a call out over the tanoid for all crew voyage to meet on deck to help set the sails. Standing in our allocated positions we worked together perfect as team and got the task in hand completed much quicker than normal. I couldn't quite believe how 2 days ago I knew nothing of how to sail a ship and now I knew all the correct terminology for the sails and all of the different techniques involved with sailing. The sails were up and



we were thanked for our help and were told that we now had free time. Myself and Maxine decided that we would chill out in the lower mess before going on watch at 4pm. No sooner had we sat down and had a giggle were we being called for our watch. Our watch conducted as normal and we took on our usual duties either on watch or helming. Standing on Starboard watch I could feel that the wind had picked up a considerable amount and I could feel myself starting to shake with the coldness. 6pm arrived and I was glad to be relieved of watch and to be heading down for dinner in the warmth. The captain came and announced to us all that we were expected to hit a small storm tonight but that it was nothing to worry about. Everyone around me just carried on as normal when the captain left but I was absolutely terrified and this was the news I had dreaded to hear. After dinner 'the smokers' went on deck for a cigarette and already we were starting to see the effect of the storm brewing. The wind had picked up and the waves were making a splash against the ship when in contact, the ship was slightly keeling to the left and I was a little off balance as we had experienced nothing but soft water. After about half an hour I went back to the lower mess and enjoyed the company of others around me but could notice through the small windows how hard the water was smashing against it, the boys were intrigued to go on deck and have a look before going to bed, so feeling brave I tagged along. As soon as we reached the deck at the door the wind was against us and the rain was hitting off our face, it looked as if the water had risen so much and as it was much darker all we could see was white waves surrounding us. This was enough for me so I headed down stairs and went to

bed. It was exactly 11.30 pm and I was in bed with my earphones in trying to drift off to sleep but the weather had got much worse and it was unbearable for me. The ship was now steadily keeling to the left and it was as if the ship was on a slope. I was really scared by this point as all around me was the sound of the waves hitting against the ship and every 10 seconds the ship would take a fall down to the left making me fear that I would fall out the top bunk. I managed to time myself and get down from the bunk when it was keeling to the left and I made my way out to the bottom of the stairs. I sat there swaying with the ship until I heard Simone and Sophie coming along the corridor. When they got me I burst into tears because I wasn't alone and they helped me up to the top deck where I would feel less movement. Walking along the corridors and up the stairs was a very hard task and I really struggled to keep my balance but was glad when we reached the top. Sophie had finally talked me into going on deck for a bit of fresh air as I had been sick and just as I finally picked up the courage to go out a massive wave came from the right of the ship straight over the top of us pushing the ship further on the left side, I got such a fright and let out a scream and ran back inside to the small mess area and sat for hours with Anne moving with every movement of the ship. Although I was introduced as Anne's buddy when we got on the ship I felt that our roles had reversed as Anne was there with me all night telling me about her life experiences. I suppose you could say I felt reassured that Anne was with me as she has had many a year experience of life at sea so in actual fact Anne should have been my buddy as she supported me a lot through the voyage in which I am very thankful for. I had completely forgotten that our watch was on duty from 4am until 8am when they started to arrive in the mess for a coffee before going outside. I had a talk with Simon and there was a few that couldn't manage the watch that morning, me included so we sat in the mess until half past 5 until Tom came and told us to get some sleep. There was 3 of us in the mess and we all steadily made our way down to the lower deck, we were off balance and had to hold on to save us banging off the left hand side wall. I climbed into bed and lay awake praying for the morning to come and that everything would be ok.

Day 5

I woke up at half 7 with the wake up call for breakfast, I only had about an hour and a half by the time I had managed to fall asleep and I could feel the strain from yesterday. I turned round and decided I couldn't face breakfast. I woke back up at half 9 and went for a shower to wake my self up. I headed upstairs to meet the rest of my watch and we were told that 'happy hour' would be starting at half 9. Happy hour was just as fun and we were all discussing the storm last night and how each of us coped with it, happy hour passed quickly and smoko was called on



the top deck and we had birthday cake for Nick's birthday. This gave us all the boost that we needed and we took in the sights surrounding us. The waves were not just as harsh this morning but you could tell that there had been movement during the night. Realisation had hit us and Andrew, Maxine and myself realised that we were leaving first thing in the morning so we made the most of our time left on the ship. We headed down to the lower mess and played cards with a group of friends we had made, The atmosphere was great and the room was filled with laughter from all the surrounding tables and I couldn't believe this was my last full day on the ship. The day passed very quickly as we had lunch and then again spent the rest of the day having a laugh with the friends that we had made. Our group was next on watch at 6pm til 8pm but because we had arrived back at The Isle of Wight in the afternoon and had anchored for the day we were again relieved of our watch duties. Dinner was called and then it was announced that we would be having a group quiz later on. 8 o'clock came and we were all huddled round the tables conferring with our groups (I got 2 questions correct out of 50) The quiz finished and our team was 3rd. Everyone split up and most people went to pack for leaving the next day. It was getting late and most people had gone to bed so we started to say our goodbyes as we were leaving at 7 in the morning and we wouldn't be able to say bye.



Day 6

It was my last day of being woken on the ship. It was 6 o'clock and I woke up with mixed emotions, happy because I was going home with all my achievements but sad because I had met a great bunch of people and was sad to be leaving. I went for a shower and got the last of my things together and headed on deck to make our way to the Isle of Wight via the rib on the ship. Although I had overcome so many fears I really wasn't looking forward to climbing down the side of the ship but with the encouragement from our watch I made it

safely in the rib and held on until we arrived at the dock. From there things were hectic and we were on every mode of transport available, from getting a Taxi to the other side of Isle of Wight to then getting the Red jet across to Southampton where we got a direct flight to Glasgow and drove home to Dailly. Finally I was home and I had completed my journey.

At the beginning of the trip I was very júbious and reluctant to take part but by the end of the week my thoughts had changed and I had such an amazing experience (excluding the Thursday night when we hit the storm). I met some amazing people and conquered so many of my fears by even giving things a go, If it wasn't for the support of the JST crew members or our voyage crew then I would still have been standing at Southampton harbour waiting to dock. For me personally, participating in a tall ship voyage has worked wonders for me. Typically when hit with a new challenge I would drop out immediately (fear of the unknown) but the fact that I had a supporting role of buddying 2 young people I knew that backing out was not an option. Being a new employee with GYT I had never had the experience of supporting 2 young people on a trip before by myself so this as well made me anxious, don't get me wrong there were times that I felt that Maxine and Andrew were there to buddy me but we worked great as a team and I am so glad I got the chance to accompany them. My new motto is not to say no straight away to new challenges but to give things a go because I will probably end up enjoying the experience. Without the support from GYT, the opportunity from JST and the funding from The Royal Thames Yacht Club Charity Trust this 'chance of a lifetime' would not have been possible so I truly thank you all for giving me this experience and having the great memories to go with it.

