

TNS392

Barcelona – Barcelona



The Voyage Crew



The Anke Posse



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Hello, my name is Rachael McMillan and I am a youth worker at Girvan Youth Trust, through my involvement with GYT I have had the opportunity to be involved with the Jubilee Sailing Trust for a few years now. I went on my first voyage in 2010 and since then have taken part in a few JST voyages and day sails and I am now an ambassador for the Trust. I work as a full time youth worker at Girvan Youth Trust, mainly within a peer buddying project for young people with additional support needs. The main aim of this voyage was for a colleague and I to accompany 2 young males who regularly attend the Youth Trust. The 2 boys have been identified as having underlying potential to become future buddies / role models for other young people that attend the youth club. The voyage would therefore provide a unique opportunity for us to assess their potential as future buddies. We hoped that they would enjoy the voyage and want to return again and with time become a JST buddy for a local young person.

The chaos of Christmas was over and it was time for adventure! On the 27th of December I began to prepare for my 4th JST sailing voyage. Accompanied by 3 other young people I set off for Glasgow airport, a train journey and short bus ride later we arrived at the airport to fly to Gatwick where we would set off for Barcelona the next morning. After an eventful flight we all landed safely in Gatwick, made our way to the hotel and after a quick room swap with the boys we were settled in for the night before the early flight in the morning.

Our flight was an early one, when the alarm went off at 5am it was safe to say we were all a bit bleary eyed as we set off for departures to catch our flight to Barcelona, again after



another eventful flight, I've never seen a plane 'wobble' so much during take-off never mind in the air. We arrived in Barcelona where we faced our first real challenge - find Jenny. We had arranged to meet with a girl Lucy and I had sailed with before who would be coming on the same voyage, little did we know it would be such a challenge. Turns out Barcelona airport has not one but three terminals and after at least half an hour of trying to find each

other we discovered we were not even at the same one! Mission accomplished we were on our way into the city centre to begin our trek to the ship, trek is the correct word to use here as we must have walked for miles!! Once locating the ship we managed to leave our luggage on board before heading back into the city to do some more sight-seeing. Barcelona was beautiful so many pretty things to see and do, from looking at magnificent historic buildings to being lassoed by street performers!



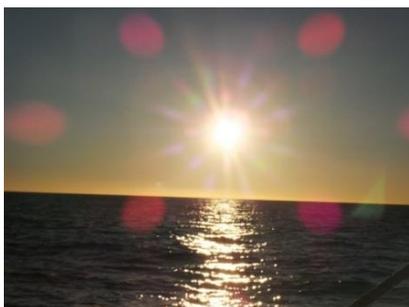
Finally the time had come to head back to the ship (after a McDonalds of course) to meet all of the people we would be spending the next 8 days with! With mixed emotions we arrived at the ship to be greeted by the watch leaders who then went on to show us to our bunks. I was in Aft Port watch (later known as the Anke Posse) we were led by Anke (Anchor) the watch leader. Zack and Jenny were also in my watch along with 5 others: Becky, Bob, Moe, Moh and Meyrick, already it looked like it was going to be an interesting voyage. Shortly

after arriving Anke told me that I was going to be a buddy for one of the female members of our watch, me? A buddy? Responsibility? Surely not! But yes true enough I was Becky's buddy for the week and we shared a cabin together. At first I was really nervous as I'd never been a buddy for someone I didn't know aboard the ship, I had no idea I was going to be a buddy and had no idea what Becky would be like, safe to say I was pretty nervous. However once Becky arrived the ice was well and truly broken as she discovered me wrapped up in my duvet in the corridor attempting to make my bed! Becky was slightly older than me and had a slight visual impairment (which meant I had to keep the cabin tidy!) but she seemed nice enough and I was sure we would get on fine. I helped her make her bed then we went to explore and meet the rest of the voyage crew before gathering in the lower mess for our safety briefing and introductions to the permanent crew. Introductions over it was time for dinner before setting off ashore for a brief "getting to know you session", I had been lucky and managed to escape watch for the night.

Day 2 saw us up bright and early woken with the sound of Lucy's lovely voice over the tannoy system telling us it was time to get up. It was going to be a busy day as today we were going to set sail! After breakfast we were given more safety briefings and took part in evacuation drills. Those on the Evac team were trained how to hoist the wheelchair users up the stairs in case of emergency. I was given the role of life jacket distributor, this meant that I was responsible for issuing Port watches with life jackets when the alarm sounds. After all the safety briefings we were given the chance to go aloft. As always I put on the harness and began to get scared, even though I've climbed the mast before I still get scared but anyway I did it and squeaked the whole way up and down. Whilst at the top I chose to soak in the beautiful scenery whilst some of the others went out onto the yard (once is enough for me!). After we were finished aloft we prepared the ship before setting off to sea. My watch was on watch as we left port therefore we were up on the bridge and it was a busy watch, once clear of the harbour we began to practice bracing the yards with a short sail setting talk before putting what we learnt into practice. It was early bed for the Anke Posse as we were on the dreaded 12-4am watch.



11.30pm came round far too quickly, armed with 11 layers I waddled my way up onto the bridge for watch. It was a beautiful night, the sky was alight with stars and visibility was great! There were a few ships to keep an eye on but other than that it was pretty quiet, we had to fill in the weather log every hour to monitor different things such as temperature, wind direction and wind speed. The wind speed picked up half way through the watch which meant it was time for sail setting stations as we were about to set some sails! I am proud to say that at 2.30-3.30am 5 members of the Anke Posse successfully set 8 sails ourselves, despite a few members feeling rather green around the gills. Finally 4am came round and we were off to bed before our wakeup call at 8! By morning we were sailing along nicely at 5knots and we were pretty pleased when we saw our sails were still up. After breakfast we were told that we'd spend



another night at sea before arriving in Denia to spend the New Year. We took part in our first Happy Hour, we were on deck so had scrubbing brushes at the ready and were scrubbing away til everything was ship shape (sea air really does scabble your brain)! After lunch we adjusted the sails again and tacked the ship so that we could get the most out of the wind before some much deserved sunbathing. After dinner we were on watch again, looking out for pirates before another early night as we were on the watch we had all been waiting on... 4-8am.

Awoken with a fright around 3am by a fellow voyage crew member attempting to put my lee cloth up as he was worried I was going to fall out the bed, I was not expecting it. Half an hour later I was woken again as it was the moment we'd all been dreading, time for watch. 13 layers on (I wasn't taking any chances) I headed sleepily onto the bridge, in darkness it's



rather difficult to tell who's who or what's what in Bob's case. I was sent to the port side to lookout, I stepped back for a moment to shield from the wind and as I was there Bob came over to ask if I'd like a sweetie however it wasn't me he asked... it was the compass stand! Like I said, sea air scrambles your brain. We had a pretty uneventful watch, no pirates again, although we did have to handle some sails, the brought in the course on the main mast and fore mast. As 8am was getting closer the sun was beginning to come up

and then we had to keep close watch as we could see a few things on the radar and Ali wanted to find out what they were. Denia was close as we were approaching the island and it was clear we would be arriving soon.

Not long after breakfast we were told it was all hands to harbour stations as we were beginning to come into port. I was part of the mooring team which meant helping to get the mooring lines ready for when we go alongside in Denia, I also had to help with the heaving lines to allow the linesmen to secure the mooring lines before helping to ensure they're tight onboard. Once the ship was secure and everything was in order we were granted some shore leave and set off to explore. We headed ashore for some lunch and then the real mission began, the search for the octopus. Ali, the cook, had sent us into Denia in search of an octopus for the night's dinner luckily we managed to find one in a local supermarket. After the octopus was secured Anke, Jenny and I had another mission to complete - find something ridiculous for the Anke Posse to wear at dinner that evening. The dress code, as stated by the captain, was alternative black tie therefore we were off in search of something to wear! We came across the strangest shop with the strangest things inside, we managed to purchase 9 pairs of crazy glasses for everyone in our watch! Missions complete, we headed back for the ship to prepare for the evening's festivities.



Once back at the ship we went into the upper mess to prepare our balloons for the balloon competition between the watches, we prepared our balloons to look like members of the permanent crew who we would impersonate as part of our skit. Dinner time came round and the AP watch arrived in style with our crazy glasses, from that moment on we became

the Anke Posse. Today was my day for Mess Duty so before dinner the messmen were called into the upper mess for a run-down of our Tapas dishes before being tasked with giving them the hard sell, can I just say the octopus stew was absolutely fantastic, full of flavour and highly recommended. After dinner we had some more fun and games before moving the party on deck to await the New Year. By 11.45 we had all moved onto the bridge to bring in the New Year armed with 12 grapes and a glass of champers before moving into the town to join in with the street party celebration. The next morning was a



shock to the system, awoken early to fulfil my messman duties. I then helped out with the shop before finishing off in the upper galley and then helping with the assisted climbs, was great to see Moh Moh being hoisted up the mast and seeing Simone, Christianne and Hav climb to the first platform. After the assisted climbs we headed to the beach and you'll never guess what we spotted.. PIRATES!! That evening I headed ashore with the rest of the voyage crew for a lovely evening meal before we set sail the

next day.

Up bright and early to our first drizzly morning, we set sail just after breakfast to begin our journey to Barcelona, as always the wind was not in our favour... there wasn't any. Anyway engines on we were off, luckily the rain didn't come too much and we were nice and dry whilst having our sail setting talk about the different sails on the ship. We then had happy hour and had some more scrubbing to do cleaning the deck house, and Ayden who was left on the helm. Early lunch for the Anke Posse, burger and chips!!! Then we were on watch, again no pirates. Thankfully managed to squeeze in a nap before dinner, after dinner we had a pretty quiet night ahead of us as again we had the 12-4am watch. 12 o'clock came, the layers went on and we were back on the bridge for another chilly watch. Safe to say, although the watch wasn't too eventful sea wise it sure was an interesting one, topics ranged from favourite movies to alien life on other planets. Again we had a few sails to set before we were off to bed to heat up and catch a much needed extra few hours' sleep. The next morning I almost slept through breakfast, it was one of those mornings where it was even more difficult to get out of bed, that said I was up and ready for some toast. After breakfast I was faced with an interesting challenge I did not expect, help Simone manoeuvre in her wheelchair. This proved to be an interesting challenge as it turns out, we are rubbish! Between getting wedged in the toilet and the lift closing as she was trying to get into it I've never laughed so much. My aim was to encourage and assist her to allow her to do it for herself instead of being wheeled but between us, my directions and her manoeuvres it was a disaster, we got there in the end though after much hilarity.

Up on deck we began to prepare for happy half hour before Smoko. After Smoko we had a lovely surprise! There wasn't any wind and we weren't moving very fast so were just bobbing around however we had company. Quick look! 2 dolphins were spotted on the Starboard side! That was it, everything was abandoned as everyone made their way to look at the dolphins, they were so close to the ship we couldn't believe it. 2 dolphins soon



became 9 dolphins and there was just no way anything was going to get done. We'd been trying to get hands aloft to stow the sails and an hour later Ben was at the end of his tether these whales just wouldn't leave us alone but it was such a magnificent sight not to be missed! They soon left us and it was back to normality, we switched the engines back on and made our way towards Barcelona preparing the ship for port. A quick power nap before watch was in order, 3.30 came and it was time for watch. Not long into the watch we were coming into harbour, we were all sent to harbour stations ready to begin our approach. I was given the task of completing the checklist for the captains' log. Quick as a flash we were alongside, the ship was secured and we were back where we began.

That evening we all had dinner aboard the ship for the last time, it was nice eating together as voyage crew before getting ready and heading ashore one final time. We went as a big



group for the final time before we all left in the morning.

After a brilliant night of socialising with the group, we retired back to the ship. Jenny and I had drawn the short straw and were on harbour watch early morning. With a few hours' sleep, Jenny and I made our way on deck for our harbour watch, luckily it was a short shift.

Everyone was called early that morning so that we could get

everything organised for disembarking. We were responsible for the wakeup call so at 7am, bing bong! "wakey wakey! Rise in shine, its 7am and it's a beautiful morning!" came over the tannoy followed by the Duck Song to brighten up everyone's morning. As soon as everyone was up it was time for last minute packing before the final happy hour. After breakfast we said our goodbyes and a group of us went off into the city to do some sight-seeing before our flight later that night.



Overall, as always this was a fantastic experience yet again. I've managed to build on knowledge and learn new things as the week went on. I've gained loads of new skills for example, how to manoeuvre a wheelchair round the ship both at sea and in port. This proved a lot more difficult than I thought and also made me think about those who use a wheelchair full time aboard the ship, it was a tricky thing to try and master and I can only imagine how hard it would be in the likes of a force 10!

I made lots of new friends and gained experience talking to and working with people I didn't know. And also successfully (I think) became a buddy for the first time for someone I didn't know. It was also a challenge as I didn't know I was going to be a buddy and had no idea what I was going to have to do, however it was a good experience and I'm glad I had the chance to do it.

I'm also very proud of the 2 boys that accompanied us on the trip, they done really well despite suffering from sea sickness and being out of their comfort zone in more ways than one. I really do think that in time they would become brilliant buddies for other young people that attend Z1 Youth Bar.



I'd like to say thank you to the JST for providing the opportunity and support to do this.



Also thank you to The Royal Thames Yacht Club for granting me a bursary to be able to go on the voyage.



I'd also like to say thank you to Girvan Youth Trust for allowing me to take part in the voyage and accompanying the boys to go on their first voyage.

