

Thursday, April 29, 2010

### **Vespina 3.0 and new plans.**

The last three days I've been working on Vespina again. It sure feels like I'm working more than sailing . But I'm not complaining. All the people I've met on the way spend months, often years, working on their boat before they left home. And I basically just grabbed Vespina and started. The plan was to get going, and then see what needs to be done and do this as I move along. I can't say the plan didn't work - even if it's a lot more work than I had imagined. I've always said I never wanted to own a boat, because I imagined it would be a lot of work. Chartering is so nice: hop on, sail, hop off. Let others do the work. Now I know in detail what that work is. In part it was just maintenance, and in part it was repairs due to the rather windy conditions. But a large part comes from converting Vespina into a boat that can be safely sailed alone for extended periods. I hope that in the last three days I made some more progress in that last direction: by fitting a self-tailing winch for the Furlex, and by improving the wind-vane. The old winch. The new winch. Self-tailing. Awesome! I cannot count the many cries of frustration that the old winch caused me to shout into the wind. It is the combination of where it is placed, and that it is not self-tailing. I wouldn't believe how much that complicates operations if I hadn't experienced it myself too often. Rolling the furlex in and out became the most dreaded piece of work on the boat. Far worse than reefing the main-sail. I wanted to replace the old winch with a self-tailing winch a long time ago, but the shipchandlers were never able to get one. Or "in three weeks". Yeah, sure. Double that time. But the shipchandler here in Port Sherry said his supplier has one on stock, and I could have it the next day. Hurraaay! Two pins should make all the difference. Now the cogwheel can't slip anymore. The second improvement regarded the main character of my nightmares: the wind-vane . I'm kidding of course, it's a long time since I last had a nightmare. I like my wind-vane, even though it doesn't work. But maybe it will work from now on, because with the latest improvement it cannot slip anymore. Check out the pictures: the pins and corresponding holes are new, and will hold the rod, the spacer and the cogwheel forever aligned. Now the screw through the middle only has to hold the cogwheel in place, but not transmit the torque anymore. I further optimized the setup by changing the way the line to the tiller runs through the reels, and by replacing the rusty and slightly too short chain across the tiller with a longer one made from stainless steel. While I was in the vicinity I put a new coat of varnish on the tiller. I also spent a whole day on "the war on rust". Which is a lot more meaningful than the war on terror. And you even see progress . My trusted companions in that epic battle are: A grinder, a screwdriver, a can of rust-converter, a can of primer and lots of paint. Especially the combination screwdriver + rust-converter is pure magic for places where I can't reach with the grinder. Poke the rusty bits with the screwdriver and generously apply rust-converter. Does the job! Then it was time to inflate the dinghy and try my outboard engine, because it's anchroing weather now - bye bye Marinas. Well, the engine didn't start. So I serviced it, which is a very oily affair. Unfortunately it still doesn't start. So I'll have to look into that a little more tomorrow. My new stainless steel frame at the back is quickly becoming my favorite item. Not only does it securely hold the equipment mast in place. It is also great for attaching the clothesline and, even better, a lift for the outboard engine. Hehe. So despite the fact that I'm still not over the Atlantic, the morale is good. The plan now is to test the wind-vane on a day-sail in the bay. If it works I'll spend a night in Cadiz itself and stock up on fruit, vegetables and water, and then head for the Canaries. If it doesn't work ... nah, it will work.

Posted by Axel Busch in Vespina at 14:21

Nice to see you sailing... (oups!) working on Vespina,  
(I didn't really understand what happen with the self steering gear, but forget it!)

I put ImprÃ©vu in the water next Tuesday,  
and a friend comes with me to sail to Corse,  
so we gonna have good whisky on board,  
and the spring will be so much appreciated after this so cold and hard winter!

I hope everything is ok for you,  
and wish you good trip,;

Ciao Axel,

Arthur.

Anonymous on Apr 30 2010, 03:00