

Monday, May 3, 2010

Yachts and Motorbikes

Saturday was a beautiful day for a day-sail, plenty of sun and 20knots of wind. Because it was 1st of May and a national holiday, the bay was packed with Yachts and Surfers, a couple of regattas were under way too. I joined the fray to test my wind-vane. There was only little swell, but the wind was strong enough to get an idea whether my latest modifications had improved the effectiveness of the wind-vane. At first I only let it steer Vespina while motoring, to see whether it works at all. And it did! Then I unfurled the genoa and tried all angles to the wind. Close-hauled and on a reach the wind-vane worked extremely well, and the pins I had inserted prevented it from getting mis-aligned. I sailed along for about an hour like that - wonderful. Then I changed course downwind. There the wind-vane didn't hold the course as steady. But if I don't set the main-sail and thus avoid the threat of a chinese gybe, then it should be good enough. Quite happy I returned into port and had a nice seafood dinner at the "Taberna del Marinero" before taking a taxi to Jerez to look at the hundred thousand motorbikes that were expected for the race on Sunday. Insane. I-n-s-a-n-e. It really got me motivated to watch the race on Sunday. Most visitors arrived on their bikes, of course. Ups. Helping hands Sunday morning I went to the race-track in Jerez early to see the 125cc race, where Pol Espargarol, the guy I've met on Friday, competed. The Circuito del Jerez is a very fast track, with many high-speed corners and plenty of opportunities for overtaking. And boy, did they make an exciting race out of it. The crowd went wild. And when in the end Pol won the race, I was very happy. It's not often that you meet the future winner before a race, and it adds a nice personal touch to the whole experience. Thanks Antonio, for making that possible! Pol kissing the trophie. Nasty, nasty! After that was the Moto2 class race. All bikes share the same powerful 600cc engine, which keeps costs down and the performance of the bikes comparable. As a result the starting grid is huge - 42 bikes, the bikes stay close together during the race, and the positions during the race change often. I didn't know any riders, so I felt a little detached. But the lead changed so often during the race, that it was dramatic anyway. Nice silver pants. Aussie Stoner finished 5th. Then the MotoGP class with famous riders like Valentino Rossi, Dani Pedrosa, Casey Stoner etc. The deafening noise, pure power and ridiculous speed of the bikes is enough to have the blood boil with adrenaline. Pedrosa was in the lead for the most time, and managed to gain a small lead over Rossi and Lorenzo. Eight laps before the end of the race Lorenzo began to attack his teammate Rossi on 2nd in earnest, and managed to pass him with five laps to go in the race. But would he be fast enough to catch up with Pedrosa in the remaining time? Everybody was on their feet. Lap after lap Lorenzo gained on Pedrosa, and it looked like he might just make it - or just Rossi finished third. not. With one lap to go last year's second caught up with last year's third, and the bikes locked in a battle that stretched across five corners. And Lorenzo came out victorious, to race to his first victory in the season. The guy was so happy that he got off his bike during his celebration lap and jumped into a pond, lol. I've been to a number of races before, mostly Formula 1 and DTM. Formula 1 is faster, but MotoGP is so much more exciting because there is a lot more action on the track. Anyway, check out the movie: I couldn't make out any public transportation after I've left the race-track. The few hitchhikers were completely ignored, and so I just walked for two hours into Jerez, where I finally found a taxi at a gas-station. Back in Puerto Sherry I met Antonio in the "Taberna del Marinero", where we concluded the evening with a can of his awesome Dwarf 8 bio-drink, served on ice and mint-leaves. So, really a nice weekend for me. I missed my friends, but I guess you can't have it all. The plan for today is to replenish my provisions and plan the trip to the Canaries. I hope the weather let's me leave soon.

Posted by Axel Busch in Vespina at 04:29

Sorry to hear about the long walk back into Jerez, but glad to see you made it to the track and got to watch the race, awesome!! And to see a snippet of the race is a real treat, thanks for making the video.

Cheers,
George

Anonymous on May 3 2010, 16:05