



JULY 5, 2010

## Rally Portugal aboard Blue Chip of Cowes

Pete & Sue Jenner

We joined Blue Chip of Cowes in Oeiras, Portugal for the last two legs of the Rally Portugal. Blue Chip is a Beneteau Oceanis 473 owned by Jez and Swee Symonds.



Our first leg was a 50 Nm downwind passage from Lisboa (Oeiras) to Sines. Winds were light at the start, but very quickly filled in to 25 knots with gusts up to nearly 30 knots. With full main and boomed out genoa we made rapid progress touching 12 knots several times.

The second leg from Sines to Lagos was 75 Nm, again downwind but in lighter airs. We left Sines just as it was getting light and had a pleasant sail down to Cap San Vincent where we dipped our ensign in respect to Lord Nelson who fought one of his three famous battles off the cape. On rounding the cape the wind settled onto the beam and made for a fast reach to the finish line just outside the Marina De Lagos. In all, Blue Chip had covered nearly 1000 Nm since leaving Plymouth in early June.

We spent a week on Blue Chip and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Although only a part of the rally for a short time, we found the camaraderie and friendships formed between the crews of the twenty or so yachts quite amazing. Anyone with a boat in England looking for a fun way to sail to the Med the Rally Portugal is to be recommended.

Our thanks to Jez and Swee for letting us share their adventure and their hospitality.

For more photographs, please visit the CBYA website at <http://cbya.org/BlueChipOfCowes.aspx>