

**Preparing to Cross**

**Biscay**

**March 18th CA House, Limehouse, London Programme**

**10.00-11.00 Registration Tea and coffee available**

**11.00 Welcome Judith Grimwade Biscay Section Secretary**

**11.05 – 11.50 Dr. Andrew Eccleston** ***“Crossing Biscay. What about the Weather*?”**

 *Andrew will highlight some of the sources of weather information that can be used to prepare for a Biscay Crossing. His talk will include a set of real data gathered over several days with the aim of identifying a ‘weather window’ for making a safe a passage.*

**11.50 – 12.35 Chris Singer *Crossing Biscay***

*Chris and Sue Singer have made several Biscay Crossings, in both directions, some longer than others. They sail a traditional boat and prefer to use the wind rather than motor.*

**12.35 – 14.00 Lunch**

**14.00- 14.45 Robert Stevens MD of Topsail Insurance Ltd *Insurance for Offshore Cruising***

*Rob started in marine insurance 32 years ago and in that time has built up a wealth of experience. He established Topsail and from small beginnings of insuring the Blue Water Rally fleet, has built up the company to be recognised as the specialist yacht cruising insurer. Rob will be giving an overview of what insurance you may need to think about when going further afield, both in terms of the boat and your long duration travel insurance.*

**14.45- 15.30 Miranda Delmar-Morgan** **Editor of Reeds Marine Distance Tables and Reeds** **Maritime Handbook** ‘***I wouldn’t have started from here*’**

 *Last year, Miranda and her husband, Edward, sailed from Hamble to Baiona and back again, via La Rochelle. This curious routeing will be explained. She will discuss the various downwind canvas options and discuss the trials, tribulations and pitfalls of cruising shorthanded, tackling an ocean passage, landfall and departure points, and the tiresome bit in between. She and Edward cruise extensively on Polar Bear, a timber, Holman & Pye, 3/4 tonner which was abandoned in the 1979 Fastnet Race.*

**15.30 – 16.00 Tea**

**16.00-16.45 Peter Lyle  *"From Bénodet across Biscay  and back ... the best laid plans  "***

*Getting there was the easy bit. Coming home was another story.*

**16.45- 17.30 Judith Grimwade *The Coastal Route to Spain****.*

*If a Biscay Crossing is not possible what are the advantages and disadvantages to Cruising South of the Gironde to the Spanish Border and beyond?*

