



Life onboard... 2

The sail to Las Palmas Grand Canaria went very smoothly, quite a lot of rolling from side to side to start with, but most people found their sea legs quickly and there were glimpses of dolphins, turtles, a few people saw whales breaching and large shark swimming by!

Our dry dock time here in the ship yard in Las Palmas is going well, there's a lot of work going on, which also brings its share of 'opportunities' to solve along the way.

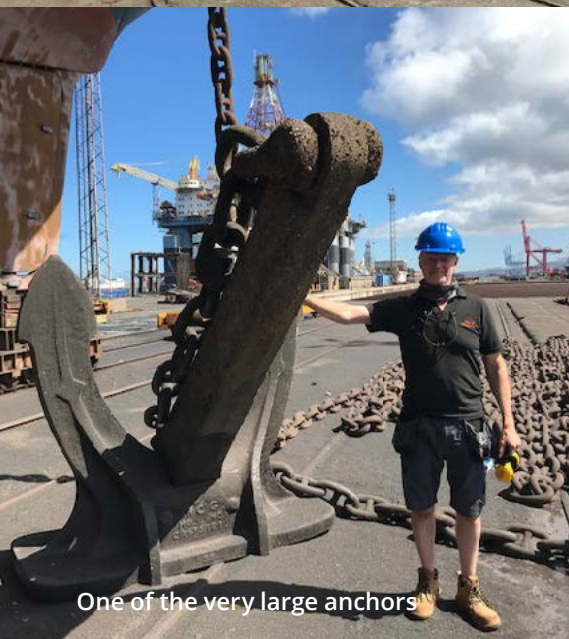
Getting the ship out of the water was an incredible feat managed very smoothly and remarkably quickly by Astican the company managing the ship yard here and they are carrying out a lot of the work the ship needs doing.

There's also no air conditioning or air circulation working whilst the ship is out of the water and the ship is basically a large metal box sitting in the sun all day as it heats up like an oven with temperatures reaching the mid 30's (celsius) so keeping hydrated is essential.

We have had a lot of problems with the vacuum system on board and constantly having to ask for help from the hotel engineering department for 2 or 3 guys to help out in solving the issues we have been finding, which in turn prevents them from doing their jobs and sets their schedules back, but without the vacuum system even in one section of the ship going down prevents about 40 or 50 people from being able to use the toilets and showers in their cabins and having to use 10 public bathrooms around the ship which can then get very busy!



10 flights of stairs to get into the ship (keeping us fit!)



One of the very large anchors

Whilst the Astican workers were sand blasting one of the starboard sewerage holding tanks inside to clean it and enable a good inspection of the walls for soundness they also sand blasted various pipe work in the tanks as well, (these pipes being the vacuum pipes going down from the forward decks above to the black and grey water storage tanks), these pipes were badly corroded and pitted and a lot of holes appeared resulting in a huge loss of vacuum for the entire forward decks on board, it took 5 of us a day and a half to find the leaks!

The timing of this problem has been a small miracle, as the vacuum system has been struggling for quite a while now so to be able to carry out these repairs in dry dock instead losing vacuum during the sail back to Africa or even for it to happen during the field service and to even find the problem within a sealed tank 10 months away from the next ship yard time would have been nearly impossible to fix!

The teams working on the tanks are going to renew the pipes on the port side of the ship as well, as they are of a same age and been subject to the same conditions.

Even carrying out the everyday tasks of maintenance and lists of repairs and constant updates i have had to borrow someone from the engineering department as one pair of hands has not been enough how the ship will cope or has coped on the past during field services is nothing short of incredible.

There really is enough work for 2 full time trained and qualified plumbers on board just to bring the existing equipment and plumbing up to date and maintain it.

A huge thank you to the Plumbers Livery and Dr Keith from the UK for helping with this urgent request for a Plumber. We are incredibly grateful and can't thank you enough for your generosity.