

# The Tall Ships Races 2018

## James Cook Skippers report

Ocean Youth Trust North participated in the Tall Ships Races 2018 (TSR 2018) for the first time since 2010. Seaham High School loaded the ships stores and delivered James Cook safely to Sunderland from Royal Quays Marina, North Shields ready for the start of Race 1. Berwick Youth Project, who had booked the voyage 2 years previously, embarked in Sunderland and raced to Esbjerg, Denmark. They were joined by three trainees sponsored by Sunderland County Council. Concentration was key in a race of light winds, with the finish time brought forward in order to allow the fleet to reach Esbjerg in time for the shore side festivities.

Keswick School embarked in Esbjerg for the Cruise in Company to Stavanger, Norway. James Cook joined other 'small ships' to explore Stavanger Fjord and Lysfjord, the highlights being seeing Pulpit Rock, of Mission Impossible 6 fame, from the water and from land 600m above. Two nights were spent at anchor with the small ships fleet and one night alongside in Jorpeland before arrival in Stavanger.



Durham Explorer Scouts embarked in Stavanger for Race 2 to Harlingen in the Netherlands. The start was delayed by 24 hrs due to strong winds, however, the Race proved challenging nonetheless and the Scouts rose to the challenge, acquitting themselves admirably and winning the prize for the youngest crew.

Rotary Youth Development Under Sail embarked in Harlingen for the recovery voyage back to Royal Quays. Two days were spent exploring the Dutch Frisian Islands of Terschelling and Vlieland before re-crossing the North Sea in stronger winds than Race 1 to Esbjerg.

James Cook is built for safety and crew welfare and not for speed, however, she did not disgrace herself and came 27<sup>th</sup> overall and 7<sup>th</sup> in Class C. For all crews TSR 2018 was a once in a lifetime experience of 'Adventure under Sail' and interest is already high for TSR 2019.