

I should like to thank you and the James Myatt Trust for helping to fund my participation in the Atlantic Challenge 2009. I was part of the crew on Rona II a Bermuda Ketch owned by the Rona Trust.

We set sail from Halifax Nova Scotia on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, we were racing against 11 other boats in various classes. Our Atlantic crossing was truly amazing, the weather did its best to make it a real challenge, with F10 winds and 45ft waves most of the way; we were wet all the time, with huge waves crashing over us the inside of the boat was just as wet as the outside, we were latched on the entire time but a scary moments for me came when a massive wave nearly took me overboard.

Crew spirits were always high, we made up lots of songs and chants to keep moral going through some tough demanding watches. Cooking, eating and sleeping is also quite a challenge when the boat is at a 45%, but every mother watch came up with some very interesting menu's and treats to keep help keep moral high.

We regularly saw dolphins, made friends with a Gannet and even saw a shark lurking around and on one calm day we managed a swim in the very cold Atlantic. We coped with every sort of weather the Atlantic could throw at us, except the sun. It was an experience I shall never forget and I feel privileged to have sailed across the North Atlantic with a group of people that shall remain my friends for life, and to top it off We WON the race.

The race lasted 16 days then we spent some time sailing around Scotland, relaxing, eating, sleeping and best of all daily hot showers, before heading into Belfast on the 13 August for three days of celebrations, sail parade and prize giving.

Thank you once again for helping fund an experience I shall never forget  
Yours sincerely

*L. Price*

Lee Price

