

unpleasing fourth in a thoroughly enjoyable race.

Next came the main event, a long planned return to Southern Brittany. I had crewed on Steve's Coaster *Spray* two years before, when the weather and sailing had been fantastic. Mary had therefore been persuaded to accompany me by tales of blue seas, gambolling dolphins, sandy coves and plentiful cheap marinas. I was particularly keen to show her the beautiful coral beaches of the Glenan Isles, home to the famous sailing academy. Steve had done the organising, and *Pamela* and *Spray* would



Briefing at Port Louis

be joined by four Dutch boats comprising three Coasters and Michel Martin's Drifter 22, *Dulcibella*. Port La Foret marina, with its large slipways and plentiful parking was the start point and we all enjoyed a meet-and-greet evening meal. Peter Kiers became weather guru by virtue of his access to the Windfinder app which gave detailed forecasts of wind, tides and wave heights throughout the day. The forecast was F4-5 North Westerly which seemed fine for the 10 mile trip south to the Glenans. Peter did mention that we should aim to leave by midday, then something about waves, but I was sure it would be a *morceau de gateaux*, as they probably say in France after a few red wines.

Midday next day came and went. People were still ambling about, finishing shopping, chatting etc, so we didn't leave harbour till around 1400, or midday Drascombe time. Conditions were cloudy, but otherwise as forecast. Two of the other Coasters, *Windroos*, sailed by Fred and Ils Roos, and *Vet Free*, sailed by retired vet Bert Zwaag, joined in starting on jib and mizzen, while *Spray*, *Batyr* (sailed by Peter, and Phillip Scheers) and *Dulcibella*, had their mains up, probably reefed. Good progress was made for about three hours with all boats remaining in sight, but the