



Hubert Rubbens, First Master Chief at the Marine, started Ostend at Anchor in the year 2000. He also participates in several regattas and you can find him at the Royal Yachtclub Oostende (RYCO) and the Royal North Sea Yacht Club. Besides the fact that he is an avid sailor, he's also a Tintinophile. During the many runs and bicycle rides he generates the best ideas for the next editions of Ostend at Anchor.

## **How did you come up to organise something?**

Actually because the Amandine was set ashore. We created Ostend at Anchor to make sure that this piece of maritime heritage remained in the picture! Where we in the year 2000 had a festival of barely fifteen boats and three tall ships, Ostend at Anchor grew to a mega festival with at least 160 ships and 200.000 visitors.

## **Have you encountered problems while organising for the first time?**

Ostend at Anchor is partially subsidised by Toerisme Oostende for which we are grateful. Nevertheless I must find over 200.000 euro of sponsorships yearly and that's quite a task! And the responsibility for such a festival as well as new guidelines and rules are demanding more and more of me.

## **Which edition you personally find the most beautiful?**

Given the fact that, besides I'm a sailor, my second hobby and passion is Tintin, I found the edition of 2007 where Tintin was the theme the most beautiful. I organised an exhibition, in a black box, where all ships that Hergé drew, were presented to the audience. Each hour we received over 2000 visitors... A huge success!!! And nice on my resume, given the fact that fondation Hergé and Moulinsart actually aren't easy to work with. But once they trust you, everything works!

## **Are you trying to reach something with your events?**

I want to sensitise the visitor, adult and child, for the preservation of our heritage. Apart from an experience event, Ostend at Anchor's task is to keep promoting heritage! Too much of our history is lost, and our future remains the most important, but you may never deny your history!

## **What can we expect in the future?**

Top events up to 2018.

## **According to you, to what should organisers pay attention?**

Don't start to be hoity-toity and stick to your audience so that you also know what they think of the festival. Of course your contributors remain important as well. In my case they are even friends for life! And finally you have to stay true to yourself. Sometimes the Ostend say: 'Hubert is mayor of Ostend again for the coming four days.' Realize that it's over after those four days!

**Thank you for the interview Hubert.**

**We wish you good luck with organising Ostend at Anchor. We look forward to the next edition: folklore in the fishery!**

**Kevin Simons**