



Tracy Edwards Log Book

12th November 1989

A strange day. This problem with the course and the magnetics of the compasses dominated most of it. The wind came up and went down again. It was foggy then cleared then came back. There was a very quick chat show in the morning – no dramas. Rucanor is 70 miles behind.

Everyone was a bit depressed with the position reports last night but we perked up today. I spent the day trying to work out the best course for east. Is there a magnetic anomaly round here or is it the compasses. I sent a telex off for Tanja tonight and then saw Janne's name on it and started to cry. It all came out and I couldn't stop. I kept seeing his face so clearly. It sank in that I will never see him again.

But despite this I have never been so happy at sea before. I feel totally and utterly free as if the last strings have gone. I wonder how the girls feel about all this. I know that most of us appreciate what all this means. Jo certainly feels it. It is as if we have both been looking for this all our lives and now have finally found it – along with many other things along the way. I am totally in love with life at the moment; I think that is why I cried when I thought of Janne. I do feel a lot of pressure as well.

Sometimes it's like a time bomb waiting to go off. I have never wanted to win anything as much in my life as I want to win this leg – and the race of course.

But now I feel so much more capable than on the first leg. The girls help. If I was on shore right now I would be in one of my most dangerous moods when I start shocking people, getting loud and aggressive. The sea channels this feeling and gives it direction. Everyone should do this once in their lives; complete.

Dinner tonight was lamb and peas; my favourite. I am eating like a pig at the moment consuming calories to keep warm. I wonder what I look like under all these layers. It will be a novelty to see my body again. The wind died away again this evening and came aft. Should we go north or south? The low to the south would be a better bet but would we get there in time. I'll wait for the chat show to see what everyone else is doing before making a decision.

The chat show: JESUS! Creightons called us to tell Liverpool Enterprise they have a problem; they wouldn't give us the details but said they would call us after. I relayed all this plus the rest.



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What I heard was 'man fell overboard today. He was in the water for 25 minutes; he had been resuscitated but is suffering from hypothermia and now looks as if he has pneumonia'. We changed frequencies to 6 Megahertz which was better. Claire had put their medical kit together for them so she spoke to John Chittendon, the skipper. I said we would radio watch for them constantly in case they needed any more advice.

I hope the guy is OK. Four men overboard so far. God almighty. Claire and I stayed up for the 0100 call. Meanwhile, I worked out the positions; Rucanor are 90 miles behind, L'Esprit 141 behind and Schlüssel 213 miles behind!!! Better to go north now to catch that low, but gently, slowly, so as not to lose any more miles and to keep speed up. The wind remains all over the place but visibility is much better.

