

20th November 1989

It is getting warmer; lots of birds now following us. Meanwhile the pressure is building on me to do the right thing. The compasses seem ok; Sat Nav still on the blink from time to time. We spotted another iceberg, a large one. The wind is yuk (technical term!) and the sea is big and sloppy. I got some weather charts and as a result I am heading north slowly. Rucanor have given up to go north of Kergeulen.

I can't make up my mind; it is one of the most difficult decision I have ever had to make. I think E&L are going north too. There is a high pressure system over us and its taking its toll. I am now terrified to use the telex because it has been screwing up the B&G (boat instruments) system. We heard today that Fortuna have two guys injured and Schlussel has bust a pole.

Stress and strain all round in this unforgiving ocean. The position reports have become the most important part of the day. We are all becoming physically, emotionally and mentally knackered.

