



Tracy Edwards Log Book

3rd November 1989

Yesterday was a great day although not enough wind. It turned into a lovely night sail though. This morning we had a full main and No. 1 up. There is a front moving towards us; I hope we are in the right place.

It is difficult to tell as the lows are above and below us at this latitude. The air is most definitely getting colder now and the extra thermals are coming out of bags, along with extra socks. I plotted out position in the early morning – we had a good night's run. Couldn't sleep at all, too hyped up, thinking too much all the time. Everyone is still in good spirits. I think it is a relief to have some good weather.

We had a long talk on deck today; marriage, babies, returning to normal life. Everyone is terrified by the thought of the end of the race. Even I get nervous. Sally reminded us that today it is a year since we sailed out of Cadiz to start the Route of Discovery Race to Santa Domingo, following Christopher Columbus across the Atlantic. We won.

We have all been together for so long now, 8 of us for a year and a half and the others for six months – and more. It suddenly occurred to me how much I will miss everyone when it's all over. A sobering thought.

Then we got the 1100 positions and found out that we are ahead in the class, although everyone is in a good position and it is still anyone's race. I gave a pep talk; let's race this boat to the limits, kind of thing. I got it right by going slowly south instead of diving like most of the other boats. The homework paid off and I am really, really pleased – and so are the girls.

Then, in the afternoon the wind dropped and swung ahead. The night closed in and we were all reminded of exactly where we are.

It is very cold now, wet and the grey hangs over and around us like a cloak.

But, down below, the Nav station and galley are becoming a hive of activity, especially around meal times. Now Jo is back we feel strong, invincible and confident. We are a team, an army, a family and we would die for each other as we live for each other. I wonder how many skippers in the race could write that?



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We heard this evening that Creighton's have restarted from Punta.

Miles to go: 6,570
Course; 160 degrees
Barometer; Dropping
Temperature; 4 degrees

