



Tracy Edwards Log Book

29th October 1989

I spent Friday night until 0200 packing and still didn't get it all done. I hope Sarah-Jane can do it. I didn't sleep very well: in the end I got up at 0500. I was very, very nervous, much more so than in Southampton. Actually I was terrified.

But, yesterday Saturday 28th October and the day of the start, when I looked out of the window it was a nice clear day – although there was no wind – not good! Howard came up; I phoned my brother Trevor and Mum; tearful goodbyes. Howard and I talked about how much more money we need to keep the boat going. He went and I finished packing my sea bag, picked up my boots, took one last look around the room and then went down. Duncan took my bag to the boat – what an angel. I walked down with Howard.

It was really quite calm. I put my stuff on board, unpacked everything and put it away. Got the Sat Nav cranked up, charts all sorted and ready to go, instruments on. Here we go again I thought! Girls were ready and raring to go so it was 'let's go, engine on'. Poodle did the lines using the Zodiac – a nice manoeuvre to get us out. No problem. Everyone on the dock cheering and clapping. We motored out to the start line staying close to NCB Ireland.

Then at 1115 all the crews on the boats lined up on their aft decks for one minute's silence and to throw wreath's into the water for Alexei and Janne. It was an incredibly emotional moment to see everyone do this. I cried and I couldn't stop for a while. It was all just too much; Oh Janne!

Let's get the hell out of here. We got the main up and the headsail with just 20 minutes to go. It was a very close start – Michele was steering. For us it was an absolutely brilliant start and Michele put us right up with the Maxis! Fisher and Paykel were over and had to go back – poor guys. Anyway, back to us! We got to the first mark where we made a perfect rounding just behind Rucanor. The up with the spinnaker – the WRONG spinnaker!

We nearly missed the second buoy and had a horror show. But when we made a gybe to get back round it was not half as bad as L'Esprit who lost loads to us. Rucanor had to beat back and go round it; we took truck loads out of her. Unfortunately Schlüssel and La Poste didn't miss it. Maiden, L'Esprit, La Poste, Rucanor all in a line.

We spent the rest of the day racing within sight of each other. It was very close.

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We did the first duty boat round: there was a bit of confusion with the channels but I finally sorted it out. I talked to NCB Ireland after that and then Dalts (Grant Dalton Skipper of Fisher and Paykel) who told me that Balls (NCB Navigator) was 'boring'. I can see the chat show turning into a free for all!

I am writing this on Day 2 because I was really seasick last (first night) but I put the pressure point wristbands on and they worked!

