

A photograph of a person wearing a red jacket and a red hood, standing on the deck of a boat. The person is looking towards the camera. The background shows the boat's structure and a clear sky.

Tracy Edwards Log Book

5th February 1990

Up late – 0630. Just couldn't wake up. There was not a breath of wind, we were doing a knot. All Division D boats very close with the Maxis on the horizon.

It was very hot; everyone very relaxed and happy. In the afternoon the wind started to come up; Cyclone Nancy might hit us but Cyclone Olaf will miss us. I can't decide whether to dive south or go gradually. Maiden hates these light airs and we must find wind quickly or lose this leg right at the beginning. All the other boats are better in light airs. I wonder what L'Esprit will do? They are faster than us in these conditions, but the weather is so wishy washy (very technical!) we will stick with them until something definite comes up.

There is a good atmosphere on the boat; lots of happy chatter, mostly about men! I slept in the afternoon. I am doing lots of thinking about the future – its crossroads time. I got up and the wind was up; L'Esprit got it first and started to move slowly away from us. Schlüssel is to leeward and Rucanor on the horizon in front with La Poste to weather with L'Esprit.

We waited for L'Esprit to gybe; of course they waited till after dark but we saw them anyway and went with them. After we followed they continued to take miles from us; we were heading straight for the East Cape. At least the wind was getting up. This race is won or lost for us on navigation and reading the weather. So far, I have done OK but I am nervous now, a bad start and light airs makes me feel under pressure and its only day 2!

Let's get back to the Southern Ocean!!

