



Tracy Edwards Log Book

7th February 1990

Position; 44' 46" S 171' 09" W

The weather was much colder today; everything was grey, damp and cloudy. We saw our first Albatross today and I thought of Jannis. A lone comment from the cockpit 'Yep we're back!' The mood on board is still unbelievably good, better than ever before, despite the lousy wind. Everyone is so happy with everybody else, it is impossible to describe. It feels as if going back to sea is coming home. Not once have I seen any agitation or loss of patience by anyone.

At 1400 I was grabbing a nap after the chat show. We had caught up on Rucanor and L'Esprit, who I could see on the horizon ahead. Clare woke me up to tell me that Rucanor had hit a whale and were calling me on the VHF. I spoke to Bruno who was very upset. There is damage to their rudder, taking some off the bottom and loosening the quadrant so that it was swinging freely in its bearing.

They had been taking on water, but after they had stabilised the quadrant it had stopped and they were able to pump out. There has been no other visible damage, Bruno said.

However, they had lost their radio tuner and asked if we could call the Race Committee which I did. They are going to have to go back to Wellington for repairs – poor guys what a shame. They will lose at least six days. I called the Race Office again, who had the message totally wrong. I spent the afternoon on the radio. I checked with Wellington that they could take Rucanor and then called the guys back. They have 300 hours of fuel with 400 estimated time to Wellington. They had dived in the meantime and found the skeg was damaged.

Apart from all this it was an incredibly boring day! No wind but we have caught up on L'Esprit who have had even less. Strange day with what little wind there was coming aft and then right on the nose, and from 19 knots to 9 in seconds. The sun was out for a while but then it was cloudy. We are on the right side of the High and we should get the Low tomorrow. The Maxis have all shot off with loads of wine – as usual. Our ETA is now 5th March. Jo started us on the freeze dried food today, so dieting is easier!!

We nearly ran an Albatross over; it looked very indignant as it took off. That is the first time I have ever seen one at sea and not in the air.