

7th April 1990

We've managed to keep the wind for the past two days although this afternoon the wind has come aft and dropped a bit. It was cloudy yesterday but today there has been blazing hot sun with a nice cool breeze. The night before last after I finished doing the Chat Show I had a call from two old friends of mine. Phil Wade on a boat called Gandalph and Peter Mullins on a boat called Chaptiva III.

Phil was on Drum and stayed with me in Hamble for a while and Peter was chartering in Antigua when I was there. It was great to hear from them. Peter gave me the times for the frequencies for English Harbour so I called and got Crackerjack, another boat I know. The Skipper Peter told me to try again in an hour; we had a nice long chat.

Then I called English Harbour Radio and told them I would call later if they could get Jol and Judy Byerley to the radio. Jol and Judy have lived in Antigua for years and have a yacht brokerage. I lived with them when I had no home and no job. They've always looked after me and are my second family. They have always been there when I have needed them. Two very dear friends. By this time I was missing Antigua like crazy.

When Jol did come to the radio I had a terrible lump in my throat. I wanted to turn Maiden round and head for security! We had a good chat and I said I would try and get down from Ft Lauderdale for a couple of days. I would love to but not sure I will have the time. (I did actually take a few days off – the first in the whole Race and I did fly down to Antigua).

It certainly cheered me up to hear all of my old friends. I'll try and call again tomorrow. We should go round Antigua at lunchtime on Monday. I heard today that the Maxis are just two days away from the finish. Merit is 250 miles behind Steinlager which made me feel better. Everyone makes mistakes – except Mile Quilter – Navigator on Steinlager!