



Tracy Edwards Log Book

23rd December 1989 – Fremantle

Leg Three from Fremantle, Australia to Auckland, New Zealand, 3,434 nautical miles. What a brilliant start!

Most of the yachts filed past us and cheered us before we crossed the start line. We were right up with the Maxis, between Steinlager and F&P; I looked one way and could see Peter Blake looking down at me; then I looked the other way and there was Grant Dalton.

The weather was very squally and we were on a beat up to the first mark. L'Esprit and Rucanor were behind, Schlüssel just in front. Just by tacking properly we managed to get ahead of the rest and when we left the Australian coast we led the Division D boats.

We have started as we mean to go on and because we won Leg 2, the most difficult leg in the Whitbread, the pressure is now immense! We have to win this leg!

In 1985 I became the first woman to sail on an Ocean Racing Maxi in the Whitbread Round the World Race and consequently the first woman to cross a finish line on the winning boat; and that was on Atlantic Privateer sailing into Auckland, New Zealand!

So now I am back 4 years later and I am skippering my own boat (as well as navigating) with the first all-female crew to sail or race around the world. It took so much to get us here and I could not be prouder of what we have achieved for women's sailing. Really looking forward to this leg!

