

Tracy Edwards Log Book

4th January 1990

We had loads of wind today, beating our brains out in 40 knots right on the nose.

Absolutely dreadful conditions; three reefs in with the No. 3 up.

L'Esprit was right next to us, suddenly which is crazy after 2,200 miles of hard ocean racing. She was coming right out of the water as she shifted ahead. Then she passed ahead and swung to starboard. Right at that point she dropped her main! It literally just dropped to the deck, we couldn't believe our eyes. We later found out that their main halyard had gone. Her course was not as good as ours though. So, we just carried on bashing our brains out.

They were steadily losing to us as the wind came. We then spotted them behind us and to starboard. We have been doing a straight course and they have basically circumnavigated us! Then the front went through; quite incredible. One minute it was behind us and the next in front. When British Defender called up later to ask when it had gone through, I told him 1019. He said back 'that definite huh?' and I just said 'Right!'

