

Tracy Edwards Log Book

7th January 1990 – Running down the east coast of North Island

As it got light this morning I thought we could start coming in; that's when we lost the wind and then, suddenly I saw L'Esprit and Rucanor coming out. They couldn't see us because we were up sun. Then the wind shifted and they didn't use it as well as us. Phew! We managed to shake them off a little.

I decided we had to keep off as far as possible to keep the wind. WE have been getting about 8 knots from the boat. I have been praying all the time that L'Esprit and Schlüssel would stay in close but it has been a nerve wracking day! All the Division D bots are so close together. I have been up now since Friday – about 48 hours, but there is no way I can sleep.

We have had the spinnaker up ghosting along. Then just before the finish the wind really dropped. We cut inside the islands which is something I wouldn't have done unless we had Mandi. Because she knows this area so well it was simple – and safe. When it got dark we had about 25 miles to go.

I forgot to report to the Race Office at 25 miles. When I finally did it was 15 miles; L'Esprit were reporting their 25 miles to go. We knew then that we had done it. In fact they were much closer – only six miles behind because they had got their position wrong!

