



Tracy Edwards Log Book

Tim Madge wrote the book Maiden with Tracy and followed Maiden around the world.

He wrote;

A half a dozen other launches escorted Maiden in to Prince's Wharf as they motored in whilst flaking the mainsail and stowing the spinnaker. The wharfage in Auckland opens more or less directly on to the town; access to the Whitbread areas, the arrivals pontoon and the yachts was relatively free and easy.

Maiden's shore crew, with the Royal Jordanian Girls, powered away from Maiden to make the final preparations for Maiden's berthing. When the launch turned into the area of Prince's Wharf one of the team casually remarked about the number of birds settled on the roof of the Wharf's main shed. 'That's not birds,' came the reply 'that's people!'

In the two hours since they had left the dock to meet the girls on Maiden, something in the order of 14,000 people had gathered – they occupied every inch of dock space, they crowded along the roofs of the buildings, they spilled over into the streets of Auckland. This was the scene, eerily silent, into which Maiden glided, a half hour after finishing the leg.

'It was just unbelievable' Tracy said later. 'We just couldn't grasp how many people had come to see us in at 1am in the morning.'

For the New Zealand rigger, Manid Swan, it was the crowning moment of her Race. She admitted that after this the rest of the race would be just like a delivery! There was something of this feeling in all of them. The City of Sails had taken Maiden to their hearts.

There was more to this triumphal entry. Before she left Fremantle, Tracy admitted she felt it unlikely they could win this leg. The expected wind conditions, with a lot of beating, the shortness of the leg, the tactical considerations and her own tiredness, all would seem to conspire against success. To triumph here then, was pure – magic...

Auckland had always been a special place for Tracy. In her first Whitbread, in 1985, it had been here that she had come after her first leg on Atlantic Privateer, itself the unexpected winner of the leg. She recalled just how big a welcome the Kiwis had put on, never fully believing that it was going to happen for her. Now it had.