1st January 1990

What a day! There are two low pressures heading for us. We may miss the next high. In the morning we had good speed with the wind coming aft. Later in the morning we gybed; we were doing a good course and speed. Then the spinnaker tripped – again! It took everyone on deck to get it back together. I had rushed up on deck to help, not really thinking and the next thing I knew, I was swept off the deck as the spinnaker refilled. No harness, no life-jacket; after all my telling the girls never to be on deck without clipping on. I only just avoided going in the water. Angela grabbed me, thank God and dragged me back onto the boat.

Mikki was getting over 19 knots out of the boat with just the main up. Then we put the Reacher up and Tanja pushed the speed to over 20 knots. How differently we all perceive danger now. Everybody is so much more confident of themselves and of everyone else’s ability. Where we would take the spinnaker down in 40 knots, we now take it down in 50 knots.

Rucanor is now 30 miles behind and Schlussel 19 miles. But L’Esprit is now only one mile away.

Position: 43° 28” S  149° 18” E.