

Tracy Edwards Log Book

September 4th 1989

There was a stunning sunrise this morning and Tanja, who is sharing camera duties with Jo (when she re-joins us next leg) was on it like a shot! With the sunrise came the loss of wind but at least we were on course. I listened to the Argos Satellite positions from the Race Office at 1000. The Maxis were 80 miles ahead which was no surprise; Rucanor and L'Esprit were 30 miles ahead with La Poste and Schlüssel ten miles behind. What a disgusting position! Dawn and I tried to figure out why we were doing so badly. I told Michele to steer for speed.

The wind was up and down all day and all over the place – everything Maiden hates. The day was mostly grey with the cloud base low and menacing. The sun did try and peek through but gave up after a while.

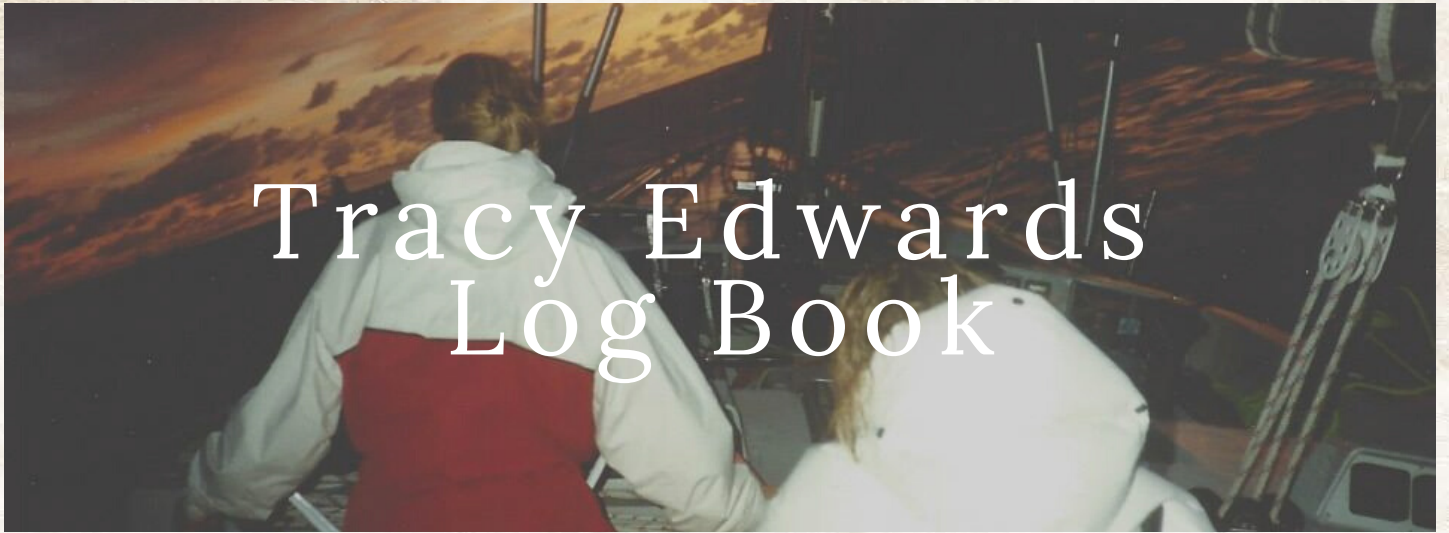
The wind did pick up around mid-morning but still all over the place. The speed of the boat is bad – poor baby. But everyone is getting on so well which makes up for it a bit.

We know we can do better with more breeze. Our time will come. Gybed at 1730 and the wind followed us round but we stayed our course.

I called in at the 1100 schedule to La Poste. Rucanor was even further ahead. I don't think we are racing the boat enough; it is difficult. Got some weather charts – ugh! The high is moving very slowly.

I slept from 1500 to 1800. Dawn woke me up and asked if we should gybe as the wind was pushing us up and up. I said yes. When I got up I went through the weather charts again – not much to see. I wish I could source better charts. Kristin was busy making dinner.

The wind was coming up all the time and although our course is not good (at 240°) at least we are doing 8 knots. The sea is quite calm for the Bay of Biscay and the current is pushing us forwards and out. There are good wind clouds on the horizon; we will keep going out as we have wind. Dinner at 1900 was – yum – chilli with cucumber and yoghurt!



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Everyone was sitting around, listening to music and eating. Domestic bliss – haha!

There was a lovely sunset and we have a really good speed. I feel close to God – what a lovely feeling, I am so happy I could explode. No press, no people, no noise, no hassle. Here we are, having a hell of a time.

Mandi has really come out of herself – great to see. Everyone shines in their own special way. Rock on! A great evening's sailing. I am so comfortable on the boat now that I can't believe how unhappy I was before. There is peace and comfort in my soul.

The wind has been coming up all evening. We have now changed to the 0.75 spinnaker; so even the boat speed is up. At 2300 I called Equity & Law. They are close to Finnisterre and they have 30 knots of wind; Rucanor has 25 knots. But Equity are 140 miles ahead, Rucanor 90 miles.

Unbelievable! We should be next to them, especially as we beat them so soundly in the Route of Discovery Race last year. I decided to stay up all night.

24 hours run of 140 miles.

