



Tracy Edwards Log Book

September 16th 1989

Woke at 0400 to the sound of laughter on deck because a flying fish had landed in the cockpit. I felt much better. We were also doing 8.7 knots in the right direction - I could have wept for joy. I think I made the right decision to gybe out. It is so satisfying making a good decision that makes the boat go fast.

The position report at 1000 yielded more good news; we have gained a further 22 miles on Rucanor and 26 on L'Esprit - in fact we have gained the most out of all the boats. I posted the positions and then plotted the important ones on the chart.

L'Esprit and Schlüssel are a long way East and Rucanor is, as always, West.

It was a real scorcher today and as we had to run the generator all day it was like an oven below decks and unbearable. I have worked out a good system with Portishead Radio now transmitting on 16MHZ and receiving on 12MHZ. The reason to call them today was to speak with Admiral Charles Williams (Chairman of the Race Committee) at the Southampton Boat Show.

The BT stand then broadcast my interview over the loudspeakers at the show. It was completely incongruous, me sitting in the Nav Station stark naked and sweaty, talking to the Admiral and everyone at the Boat Show.

Fun and laughter at sunset on deck.

Suddenly the talk has turned to men - it must be time to get there! God knows what the guys would say if they hear what we say about them. Dinner was ok but my thoughts are also turning to food. A nice dinner with a glass of wine, or two or three. I listened to the evening Argos position reports and guess what!!!! We have taken 16 miles out of L'Esprit, 16 out of Schlüssel and 29 out of Equity. Things are looking good. It looks like Steinlager is out of the Doldrums; they could be in Punta in 12 days.

Then we had the chat show at 2300 and joy of joys we have overtaken L'Esprit. I could barely contain myself. We have also caught up another 22 miles on Rucanor and 36 on Schlüssel who are now only 1 mile ahead. Everyone is ecstatic! And so to my bunk for sweet dreams...