

Tracy Edwards Log Book

September 17th 1989

I had a rude awakening at 0400 listening to the main flogging itself to pieces. The boat was going round in circles – bloody wind! Tanja in her usual subtle quiet way, was flinging sails around the boat looking for the wind seeker. Got up and gave her a hand but we couldn't find it anywhere. Some bright spark had put it to bed in a bunk.



With much cursing we flung it on deck only to find that the blessed wind had come up and we were doing 7 knots. Got into the Nav Station and the wind dropped, came up again and then died. Course non-existent.

Back to my bunk, pillow overhead. Back up on deck and we put the No. 1 Light up but only ghosting along at 1.3 – 1.4 knots. Arrghhh!! It is so hot you cannot move and when the generator is on we are being boiled alive, naked and sweating.

We spent most of the day ghosting along with the No 1 Light or the wind seeker up. People tried to sleep and failed. There was a bit more wind this evening which is usual. Strange sky with strange cloud systems all jumbled up together.

Stars hidden and the moon trying to get through. The position reports at 2100 however made all our misery worthwhile. With Integrity, L'Esprit, Schlüssel and La Poste are all behind us with Rucanor 33 miles in front. And then at 2300 she was only 15 miles in front. We acted as Duty Boat as Integrity is having radio problems. La Poste has wind at last – bless!

Miles to go – 3,195

Average speed – a truly pathetic 5.2 knots – groan.....