



Tracy Edwards Log Book

September 20th, 1989

What a horrible day, with squall after squall. There was wind just before the rain and then no wind in it or afterwards. Typical Atlantic squalls really. It rained on and off all day. The course varied from 300' to 180'. Difficult to know which is the best tack as the current is still pushing us. One minute we had the windseeker up and then No. 1 heavy, then the genoa, then the wind up so the No. 3 then wind down so the No. 1. We must have changed sails over twenty times today. What a nightmare and completely exhausting.

When it rains you find the leaks! We found that the galley has a leak through the port compass housing and also the Nav station through the starboard housing. Electronics wet and also the charts. I took the panel off and stuffed kitchen roll in as we can't do anything till we get to port. Michele's bunk was also soaked through due to a cockpit leak. We put a wire through the drain to clear it.

Then the wind at one point went from nothing to 25 knots in seconds - it really

keeps us on our toes. We needed all hands on deck very quickly quite a few times.

Everyone was wrecked; wet clothing everywhere. It was hot and damp down below as the hatches had to be shut but the crew are learning valuable lessons about keeping clothing dry. We need to be very disciplined about this when we are in the Southern Ocean where the elements will not forgive carelessness. There were a couple of horror show on deck. We tacked without moving the sail we had just taken down. It got swept to the rail and nearly off the boat. It took eight of us nearly an hour to get it back, whilst taking a reef and putting the No. 3 up - again! What a night. The sky was huge tonight and when the clouds cleared the stars went from horizon to horizon like a billion diamonds spread on a black velvet cover. Stunningly beautiful, it made us all feel very small and very insignificant, and very lucky. Finally got a little sleep at midnight - knackered. Wind kept coming round during the night. Spinnaker up soon?? Please!

Miles to go 2,989