September 21st, 1989

When I got up on deck it was grey and drizzling but we were doing 8 knots in the right direction – little jig was danced. A good steady breeze but there was no smiling from the crew; welcome to reality!

I managed to get through to Portishead Radio and called Howard who gleefully told me that we have overtaken Rucanor! JOY!

I told the girls and then there were lots of smiles, they were ecstatic. I can’t believe it – we are leading out class – again (Route of Discovery). We spent the morning tacking – a lot, a lot. The wind died and we ended up crashing about in the still huge seas. It was very wearing on the nerves.

2,832 miles to go and we should cross the equator in 2 days?