



Tracy Edwards Log Book

September 3rd 1989

Everyone has slipped into the watches very well – Kristen is proving to be a real star with the cooking. Dawn fits in really well even though she has only been with us a short while.

When it got light we were about 15 miles from the French coast and about 40 miles from L'Ouessant. Rucanor and L'Esprit were way ahead. We crawled along the coast until morning. The wind died at 0600 and we were also dead downwind which was a nightmare.

We reached L'Ouessant about 1400 but did not go on the inside of the channel as both Rucanor and L'Esprit had screamed along the outside. We followed although the wind was still poor.

I finally managed to get some weather faxes through this afternoon and the wind picked up slightly. There is a huge high pressure over the NE Atlantic moving very slowly. At least the other boats will be in it at as well.

I slept from 1430 to 1630 a wonderful deep sleep, the first for ages. When I got up we were still coasting along, course not too bad, so I decided to stay inshore as there is no wind further out. After dinner I took a turn on the helm; ugly wind but are doing OK in the circumstances, about 30' above course at 4-5 knots. The floater was up – a nice sail. The foot of the main is a bit too long and the shackles fell off the slides so Tanja had to go up and replace them.

Evening has now closed in, a new moon hanging low in the sky, gentle music on deck, Radio 4 on in the Galley. I love evenings on Maiden. La Poste controlled the evening schedule; it is quite entertaining listening to the French and Germans speaking in English with each other. They are very serious. They gave their positions which were not so entertaining for us – not good. L'Esprit 20 miles in front and La Poste just behind us.

Gybed into the Bay of Biscay, coasting along. I spent the night up and down and finally slept on deck. 24 hour run of 98 miles – again!