

British team enters race

SB 10/8/8

By Cindy Luis
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Channels are nothing new to the English.

Neither is the sport of canoeing. But combining the two—crossing a channel by paddling an outrigger canoe—is new and different. It's that challenge that brings members of the Royal Canoe Club, the oldest canoe club in the world, nearly halfway around the world to compete for the first time in the Bankoh Molokai Hoe, Sunday's Molokai to Oahu outrigger canoe race for men.

In the very best British tradition, the English white-water river paddlers will give the 40-mile trek across the Kaiwi Channel their all, "hoping to be more than respectable," said team captain Chris Harrod. "No way are we going to win. We're just looking forward to finishing and having a good time."

Five English paddlers will team

with four members from Offshore of California to form one of the 49 nine-man entries. The race begins at 7:30 a.m. off Hale O Lono Harbor; a course record would mean a finish prior to 12:48 p.m. off Ft. DeRussy Beach.

The non-record number of international entries includes first-time crews from New York and Arkansas and two teams from Canada. There are also four teams from Tahiti and five from California; 1985 champion Illinois Brigade withdrew this week due to financial reasons.

Four Hawaiian islands are represented in this, the 36th year of the race. Oahu has 25 canoes, Maui and the Big Island four each with two from Kauai.

"We first heard about this race from the BBC special in 1982," said Harrod. "The film presented two clubs, Outrigger and another Hawaii team. It showed the level of training and commitment that

was needed. Five years of planning and here we are."

Harrod had to choose between doing the Molokai Channel and the Ironman Triathlon, scheduled for Saturday on the Big Island. He chose the paddling challenge because it was so far removed from anything he had done athletically.

"Besides, I leave for France Monday to do the Nice Triathlon next weekend," the 34-year-old said. "I wouldn't have missed Hawaii, it's so beautiful. I had a call from England today. They had their first frost."

Harrod and his mates are used to chilly conditions when they paddle canoes, the traditional C-1's (singles) used internationally. Unlike outrigger paddling where the paddler is on a seat and paddles on both sides of the canoe, Harrod is used to kneeling in his craft and only paddling on one side.

"I like the symmetry of (outrig-

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CANOES: English team competing in Molokai Hoe

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ger) paddling," he said. "We've had injuries from just paddling on one side.

"And this is a different type of racing, distance not sprint. Our races are 40-minute blasts."

That's about the length of time that, with open water crew changes, Harrod will be spending in the canoe at any one time. It's the crew changes that add to his challenge.

"I had been paddling with Offshore for about two weeks before we did the Catalina race," Harrod said of last month's 31-mile Catalina to Newport Beach event. "We're in the canoe at the start of the race and one of the guys says, 'Oh, by the way, No. 5 has never done a change.' Everyone turned back to look at me with a 'WHAT?' I knew what changes were from the film but I learned quickly how to do one."

Molokai Hoe Entries

No. Team	Home	CL			
1. Outrigger #1	Oahu	G	18. Kailua #2	Oahu	K
2. Tahiti	Tahiti	G	19. Kailua Masters	Oahu	G
3. FFPF	Tahiti	G	20. Leeward Kai	Oahu	G
4. Imua #1	Calif	G	21. Outrigger Masters	Oahu	G
5. Offshore #1	Calif	G	22. Outrigger Sr.		
6. Hanalei #1	Kauai	G	23. Masters	Oahu	G
7. Hui Lanakila	Oahu	K	23. SurfSports	Oahu	G
8. Kamehameha	Hawaii	G	24. Waikalua	Oahu	G
9. Tahiti Nui	Tahiti	G	25. Hawaiian Warriors		
10. Anuenue	Oahu	K		Oahu	G
11. Haleakala	Oahu	G	26. Lokahi #1	Oahu	G
12. Healani #1	Oahu	G	27. Lokahi #2	Oahu	G
13. Healani #2	Oahu	G	28. Ka Moi	Oahu	G
14. Honolulu	Oahu	G	29. Koa Kai	Oahu	G
15. Hui Nalu #1	Oahu	G	30. Manu O Ke Kai #1	Oahu	G
16. Hui Nalu #2	Oahu	G	31. Manu O Ke Kai #2	Oahu	G
17. Kailua #1	Oahu	G	32. Wainani	Oahu	G
			33. Offshore #2	Calif	G
			34. Imua #2	Calif	K
			35. Newport		
			Outrigger	Calif	G
			36. Team Ontario		
			Masters	Canada	G
			37. False Creek	Canada	G
			38. Royal Canoe Club	England	G
			39. Arkansas		
			Outrigger	Arkansas	G
			40. Atlanta Division	New York	G
			41. Faaa	Tahiti	G
			42. Kai Opua	Hawaii	G
			43. Kai Opua Masters	Hawaii	G
			44. Puna	Hawaii	G
			45. Hanalei #2	Kauai	G
			46. Lahaina	Maui	G
			47. Kihel	Maui	G
			48. Hawaiian	Maui	G
			49. Hawaiian Masters	Maui	G

Key—G: fiberglass. K: koa.

(Crews are allowed to change up to three paddlers at a time. Relief paddlers are dropped into the water by an escort boat; the relief paddlers pull themselves into the canoe when it passes with the relieved paddlers rolling out into the water to await pickup by the escort boat.)

"I almost gave up canoeing, I was getting so bored with it," said Harrod, who has been paddling and rowing the past 10 years. "That's why I turned to triathlons. This has my interest up again."

It may not be the River Thames but the colors of the Royal Canoe Club, founded in 1860 outside of

London, will be displayed proudly on Sunday. The Union Jack has returned to Hawaii.

NOTES—Jerome Malama was honored by the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association for his contributions to the Molokai Hoe at last night's reception at the Waikiki Aquarium . . . New awards will be presented in several categories this year from the last-place crew to oldest paddler. The makule award apparently will go to Canada's Ontario Masters member Bill MacIntosh, 62. He beats out Outrigger Masters paddler Hank Lass by a few months.