

It's A Hobie World

A special luster, an international ambience enveloped our Club during the first Hobie 16 World Championship Regatta early last month to enhance OCC's image as a world center of water sports.

And the event was a smashing success.

As host Club for races which attracted more than 100 aspirants—representing 17 foreign countries, several Mainland states as well as Hawaii—we offered the warm hospitality of staff and members, attentive cooperation and assistance and near-perfect physical facilities for the six-day event. Counting families, friends and just interested spectators there were more than 400 visitors during race week.

The weather cooperated too, providing the full range of sailing conditions.

And Hawaii skippers sailed off with six of the top ten honors in the big, first world regatta. Our Club standard-bearer was commodore and sailing committee chairman, Hal Hutchings. He took third place in the winners circle.

"The competition was intense, the conditions totally unforgiving and the laurels well-earned," wrote Beth Parker, Hobie Cat Association publicist and editor, in her final release. "The challenge is on. The first champions won in their own territory and will have to fight to keep the title in all conditions across the sailing world. But for now, it's pau and as one of the winners said, 'when the world comes to your neighborhood you can't let them steal the pie from your own backyard.'"

For the record, here are the statistics: There were 52 skippers and crews for the two-man boats pre-qualified for the event from previous regatta competitions. An additional 77 entered the first two days of pre-



OCC's tall oceanfront palms gracefully interwoven with the stark slim masts of the Hobies clustered along Outrigger Beach—the definitive illustration of the first Hobie 16 World Championship Regatta. Jake Grubb photo.

qualifying races; of these, 32 were selected for a final total of 84 officially entered in competition. These sailed six races each over three days, alternating races and changing boats; there were four races daily. Finally, the top half—42—raced the final two races, Sat., Nov. 6. Winning positions were then computed on the basis of seven of the eight official races each skipper and crew had sailed.

The top ten were: Dean Froome & John Driscoll, Kailua and Lanikai; Jeff Canepa & Richard Loufek, Capitola and Newport Beach, Calif.; Harold Hutchings & Howard Lynn, Honolulu; Jerry King & Pat Love, Newport Beach and Honolulu; Rick Naish & Jeff Faulkner, Kailua and Kahaluu; Keith Baxter & Mike Malek, Kaneohe; Danny Gale & Doug Polsey, Honolulu; Herb Andresen & Albin Lemquist, Kailua and Kaneohe; Geoff Horsley & Bob Forbes, Sydney, Australia; and Bill Sykes & Lyn Kreibig, Sydney and Canberra, Australia.

Sponsors were the Irvine, Calif.-based National Hobie Class Association and the Hawaii HCA.

Milling about on the Hau Terrace were Hobie Alter (creator of the craft) and his two sons (all were

competitors); Doug Campbell, president of Coast Catamaran, manufacturers of the craft; Sandy Banks, overall chairman; and Bob Brown, Coast Cat's public relations director. Club manager Norm Reide was wreathed in smiles; the Club was busy. Sailing committeeman and event chairman for the Club, Dave Hoffman, helped keep everything smoothly coordinated among the various official participating organizations.

Commodore Hutchings was especially pleased over the stimulation and excitement offered non-sailing and sailing members, especially the youngsters—P.J. Wheelon, Todd Bradley and Don Machado, for example—some of whom got a chance to participate.

Beach captain Wayne Faulkner and his staff, Kip Kennedy and Fred Frizzell, did yeoman service during the week. Visitors, official and otherwise, were generous with their appreciation and compliments.

Bob Brown put it straight: "Nowhere else in the world," he said, "have we ever held an international, national or regional Hobie regatta in a better location. This is beautiful."

There's a little extra shine on OCC's international reputation.