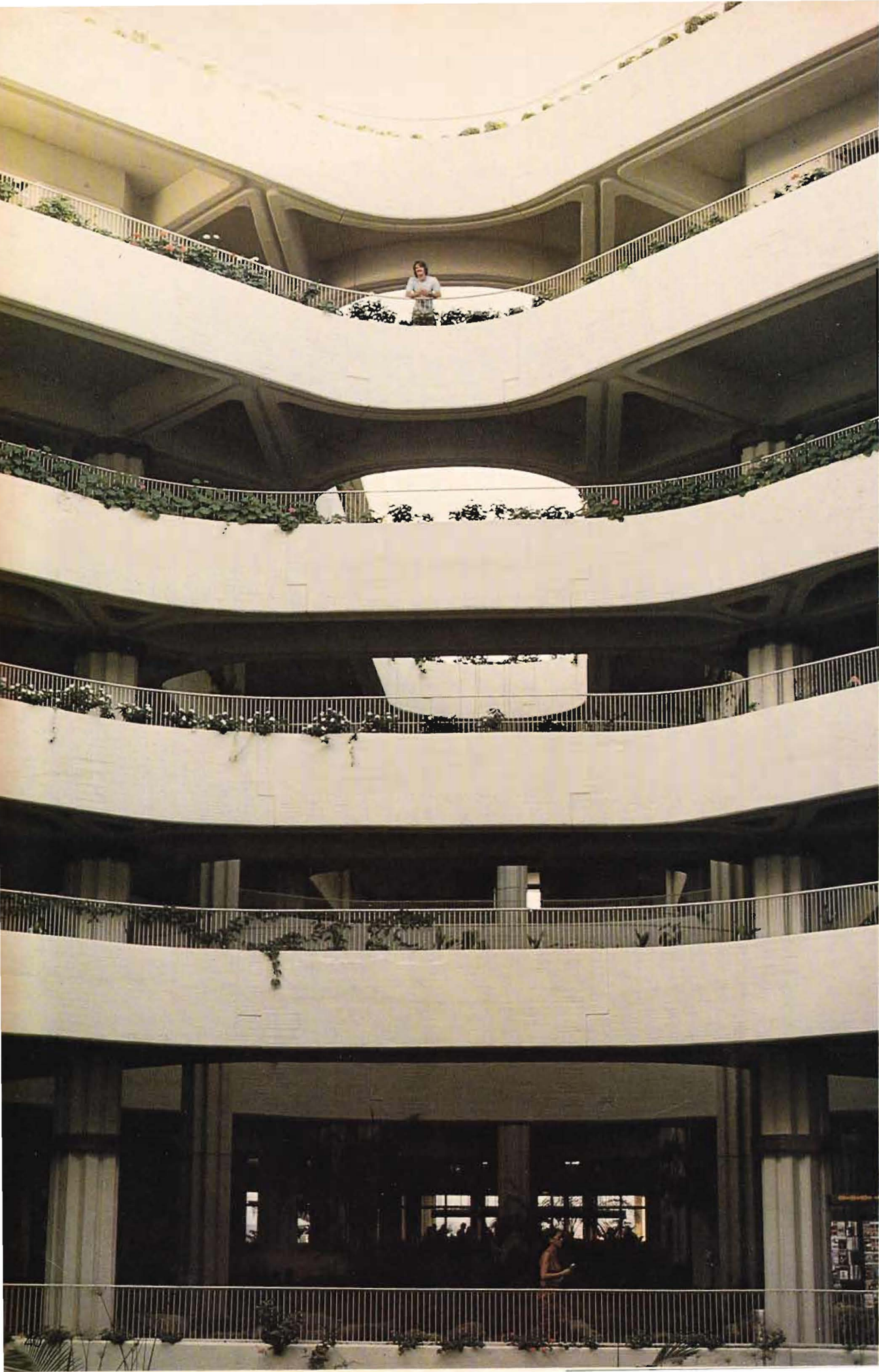


 **HOBIE**

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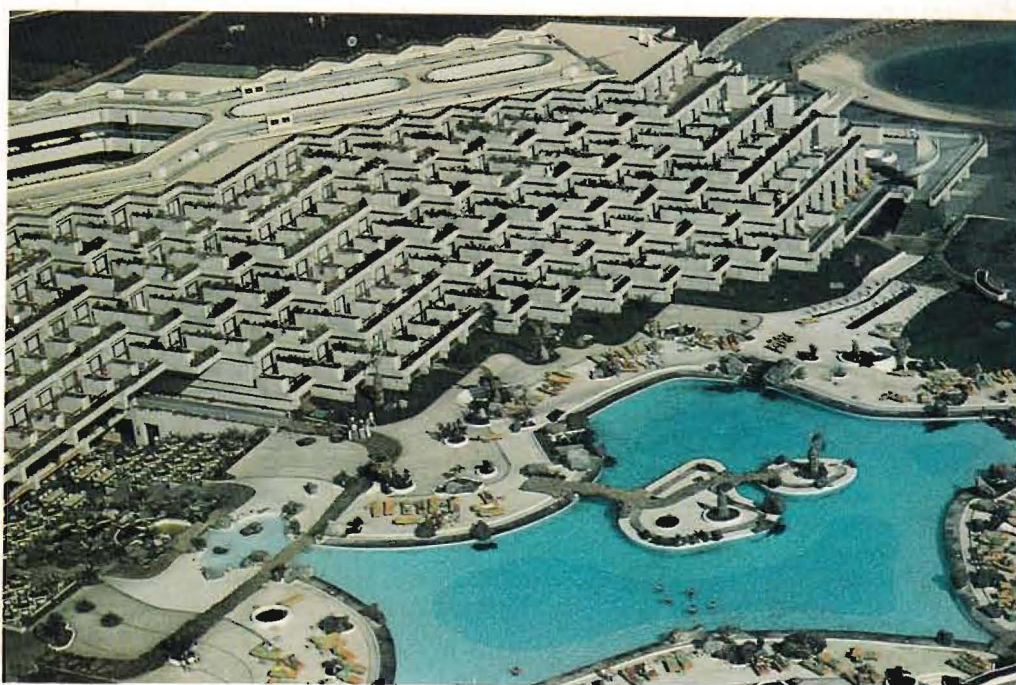
4° Campeonato del Mundo - Lanzarote, Islas Canarias

The 4th Hobie Cat 14 World Championships

Dean Froome of Hawaii is now the DUAL 14 and 16 HOBIE WORLD CHAMPION

(left) Dean Froome — at the top.

The trophies were metal replicas of this typical Lanzarote windmill, located near the lava gardens of the hotel.



An aerial view of Hotel Las Salinas and its gigantic salt water pool.

A helicopter was available on Saturday to give press members a "bird's eye view" of the action.



Photos by Jake Grubb

Our location in the bizarre, volcanic landscape of the Canary Islands lent not only a magnificently unique backdrop to this year's Hobie 14 World Championships but also contributed to a frustrating complex of unique problems that clouded the regatta's success.

It was soon evident that the symbolic mixing of foreign waters into one international urn during the dramatic opening ceremonies was a far easier task than the actual organization of the many differing countries, languages, and procedures into such a monumental world event. Despite the efforts and good intentions of the organizers from all the participating countries, communication and logistic problems persisted throughout the event (resulting in a formal complaint submitted by five European countries and Tahiti).



*Worlds design Hobies
streaking past
the lava jetty.*

Perhaps the singularly most effective and driving force in the event was the adaptability and skill of the competitors. Despite late starts and disputed courses, race action remained intense throughout a gamut of 25 mph gusts, sporadic drifters, 50° shifters, and the first rain showers to be seen in Lanzarote in the past ten years! And in an unequaled display of complete, all-around sailing talent, Dean Froome of Hawaii captured the World Championship with flawless light weather sailing and shrewd racing strategy. Dean (and his 16 crew, Johnny Driscoll) swept up the 16 World Championship last November with an unforgettable display of all-out heavy weather raging against the trade-winds of Hawaii. The contrast of the two events' weather conditions could not be more pronounced nor could the perfection of Dean's performance in both competitions—a true World Champion.

Hobie Headquarters for this year's championship series, the Las Salinas Hotel, was a five-star extravaganza. The towering, open-air central lobby was a maze of tropical growth and fountains. All the luxurious rooms had ocean views or panoramas of the expansive salt water swimming pool complete with bridges and lush islands. The full-service, plush dining room could well be termed "full menu" also—the long list of soups, salads, meat and fish entrees, and desserts left one deliberating over preferences—except that there was *no choice*, you got it all! Each meal was at least three combined... when you finished your steak, potatoes, and vegetables and waited for the flan dessert, here came Jose with a full plate of fish, more potatoes, more vegetables. All the waving, explaining, and pleading was to no avail—it didn't belong to the next table, he didn't forget that you already ate, it was all yours and if you were any kind of sport at all—you dug in and plowed ahead. There was no respite at breakfast or lunch—they were minimum ten course too!

We were a massive invasion to say the least, numbering in the four hundreds including competitors from all over the world with their families and followers, in addition to a large contingency of US Hobie dealers who earned trips during an incentive selling contest over the past year. We kept the hotel staff a bit in awe but they kept up with little trouble.

Tuesday's qualifying races saw the only stiff winds which the event would experience. The first day's late start was an ominous warning that even when translations were understood, the countries' differences in handling details and procedures were varied and confusing. Quite a few less-experienced sailors left the beach and powered into the 25 mph gusts without tightening battens and considerable sail damage resulted. Political friction and communication gaps between various Spanish sailing associations led to a shortage of chase and press boats. Business priorities played their part—one skipper and chase boat promptly left the course mid-race each day at 11:00 to go in and take his boss water skiing for two hours!

Three races were staged Tuesday with 105 skippers competing for the remaining 17 qualified spots. The top twelve sailors



Wayne Schafer and Dean Froome sharing the knowledge that brought them 2nd and 1st place in the World's Championship.



Clustering at the start...

Photos by Jake Grubb

from each of the three races competed in an early race on Wednesday and their two score totals were used to select the top 17 for final competition.

On Wednesday these 17 new qualifiers joined the 55 prequalified skippers in Races 1 and 2 of the final series. The wind remained at 12-15 knots, still healthy sailing combined with a strong current. The USA made a strong showing on the first day as did Tahiti and France.

The results of Race 1 brought on a flurry of protests and a subsequent appeal which shadowed the results for two days until a final decision was posted. Canepa's first place position was questioned due to disputed finish line boundaries and the Race Committee was protested. It was found by both the Protest Committee and later by an Appeals Committee that insufficient information was given to the skippers regarding finishing boundaries; consequently Canepa's first place finish was validated, as well as those of three other skippers involved in the same mix-up.

We woke up Thursday to light winds which all but disappeared as the day progressed in an inverse proportion to the increase of problems. As the breezes lightened in "this land where it always blows" it also started to shift in varying increments. Marks were reset numerous times in an effort to establish fair courses.

Another contended situation arose when

the second race of the day (Race 4) was shortened midcourse. As the race progressed, it was evident to the Race Committee that due to both the light, erratic wind and the prevailing strong current, it would be impossible for the boats to finish the course. In an attempt to salvage the race within the time limit, the course was shortened after a few of the lead boats had rounded the last turning mark. Due to this variation in procedures, a protest was filed and upheld. Based on this technicality, race results were nullified. Race 5 was then delayed as many boats had to be towed in from the course, unable to make headway in the light wind against the current. A further delay of two hours ensued until minimum conditions prevailed for another race. So of three races held on Thursday only Races 3 and 5 were official, leaving Race 4 to be rerun on Friday with time growing short. Accumulated standings were nebulous, some skippers had only one score after Race 4 was thrown out.

Organizational efforts were intensified and Friday's starting time was one hour earlier. The chase boat situation had improved due to many late night conferences; Lou Murillo, the beach captain, was performing his usual magic in Hobie repair and boat assignments, greatly hindered by a confusing system of differing hull numbers and sail numbers on each boat.

Wind was extremely light at the outset of the races but in true sporting effort, increased as the day progressed—seemingly in recognition of all the increased efforts and need to finish a minimum race series.

Race 4 was rerun without a hitch and due to many commendable efforts, three more races were held, giving each sailor a four race series over the three days with one throwout.

Scores were accumulated for Friday night's Finalist Banquet and yet another unfortunate discrepancy noted. The Protest Committee, hard at work handling the unusual array of problems, had itself erred in offering Tom Whitehurst a DNF score instead of a DSQ in one of the first races. The scoring committee altered his throwout and dropped him from first place finalist to fifteenth. With the exception of this late notification, the banquet was a tremendous success. The location was all but indescribable; somehow "a huge tiered cave with tranquil pools and tables nested into the ledges" does not begin to capture the amazing expanse and beauty of the natural rock wonder. It was enough to momentarily quiet the Hobie crowd as they entered with the kind of awe that takes your breath away. And "quieting a Hobie crowd" is almost a contradiction of terms.

In a huge amphitheater under the stars, encircling a pond of swimming turtles (who couldn't have cared less that we were there), the top 36 skippers were

Eric Hasselbach of South Africa heads out through the chop off the hotel beach.





Blain Dodds of South Africa placed 5th overall breaking the USA sweep.

announced. Point spread among the top ten was unbelievably tight and more than a few bets were floating among the predictors. The top placing skippers that evening with two final races yet to run on Saturday were: Schafer - USA (9), Froome - USA (9½), Eddington - USA (11¼), Piccolo - Brazil (14), Hatfield - USA (15¼), Balthaser - USA (15¼), Canepa - USA (16¼), Dodds - South Africa (18), Fabre - France (20), and Kitty Salmon - Tahiti (22¼).

World press coverage had been extensive throughout the series with more than 40 foreign correspondents in attendance. On Saturday a helicopter arrived on the scene to give all press members an aerial view of the course, hotel, and island attractions. Barring the difficulties of the regatta itself, the rest of the event—location, nightlife, and side activities: the inimitable "Hobie Life"—were extremely successful and drew glowing reports from the foreign press. An abundant luncheon banquet was spread at poolside on the final day and the crowds lined the walls and beaches for a view of the race action (B mark was moved close into the hotel's docking bay and you could see the proverbial whites of the racers' eyes as they rounded).

The wind filled in to only a medium breeze, never exceeding 11 mph. The action was tame but competition still close. New names crept into the top 10 lists for each race with most of the series leaders placing well in only one of the two races.

And after it all, Dean Froome, "Menino", emerged as the 1977 Hobie 14 World Champion—a title to carry simultaneously with his current 16 World Championship. Proving that his 16 win in Hawaii was not due to "home court advantage" and heavy wind specialty, Dino pinned down the 14 World title in Lanzarote with masterful use of sailing strategy and light air know-how. He's going to be a formidable barrier to work around for some time to come. His series score was 6-3-¾-7-¾ (with an 11 throwout from the last race on Saturday), for a total 17½.

In second again (Hobie calls him Mr. Avis) was Wayne Schafer of Capo Beach, California. Wayne has been closer to more titles, more times than anyone. His skill and knowledge are undeniable and have

been noted many times. Perhaps a telling indication of his stature came in an informal talk I had with Dean Froome who was relating a problem he had during the competition and explained... "I talked to Wayne about it and he told me..." In the long list of terms and praise recorded about Wayne, it occurs that no one has mentioned his handsome mug, which doesn't help him win but keeps the crowds happy...

Another Californian whose name is prominent in all Hobie competition, Randy Hatfield, took third in the Worlds with 30¼ points. Turning in a crop of 6's and 9's and a decisive win in Race 3, all his finishes were in the top ten for a consistent overall performance.

Tom Whitehurst, a newcomer to the international Hobie roles (but an olympic competitor in other classes) appeared in 4th position overall with 32¼ points (and were it not for a DSQ in Race 2 on the first day, Tom would have been hard to beat for first place). He came from Florida and descended quietly on the masses in Lanzarote... his name was soon closely watched as he turned in one top performance after another. Quite definitely the "dark horse" that almost stole

The finalists were announced Friday in an open-air amphitheater under the stars at the natural rock wonder of Jameos del Agua.

the show, he has established himself as the guy to look out for in further competition.

Breaking the USA sweep, Blain Dodds of South Africa latched on to fifth place with 34 points. Blain found time amidst his life as an active high school student to win the South Africa Hobie 14 National Championships this year against stiff competition (three other South Africans placed in the top 20 of this Worlds).

In sixth was Kitty Salmon of Tahiti, three time Tahiti National Champion and fourth overall at the last 14 Worlds in Puerto Rico. His young teammate, Eric Paofai, placed 18th overall in his first World Hobie competition, having recently converted from international surfing contests.

A name that emerged in this year's USA 14 Nationals in an impressive second place—Don Balthaser of Texas—reappeared in the World's top skippers in seventh place. Following closely in eighth position was Nelson Piccolo, three time Brazilian National Champion.

Both Hobie Alters placed in the top 20; Dad in ninth, and Hobie Jr. in sixteenth. Mike Collier and Leonard Mann, both of South Africa, placed tenth and eleventh respectively. Their teammate, Gerhard Koper placed fifteenth, joining together as four skippers from South Africa in the top 20 (seven in the top 36) to pose a threat as one of the major upcoming nations in competition.

Last year's World Champion on 14's, Jeff Canepa, placed twelfth overall as a result of two poor finishes on the final day of racing.

France had two competitors in the finals—Andre Fabre captured a hard fought 15th place and teammate Carlos Berioux took 22nd.

Australia had three skippers in the top 36—Kerli Corlett, Malcom McKercher and David Bray—dropping down a bit from their previous two years' showings. Other countries with collective showings in the finals were Brazil, Holland and West Germany.

Competitors ranged in age from 15 to 54, journeying from 21 countries all over the world to match their skills. The





The gloomy skies of a Sahara Desert scirocco (dust storm) backdrop the race action. Photos by Jake Grubb

waters off the coast of Africa presented a unique array of conditions, unusual even for the Canary Islands' skippers. The night life raged as ever bringing a friendship bond to all who participated. Dino returned to Hawaii—practically a super hero. And work is underway already to establish international organization that will alleviate the communication and logistic problems suffered this year so that future championships run smoothly.

For the usual Hobie respite, most of the international group hung up their racing togs and headed for sunny Spain—which is everything everyone has ever promised. The glowing reports in travel brochures are ALL TRUE! Sleepy towns, cobblestone streets, sangria all-too-free-flowing, and relaxation at last... a chance to forget the racing and enjoy the friends. Competition was completed for the year but the friendships had just begun.

Prequalified Skippers

UNITED STATES:
Hobie Alter, Sr.
Hobie Alter, Jr.
Jeff Alter
Rick Eddington
Jeff Canepa
Jeff Hamilton
Randy Hatfield

Charlie Kroger
John Kuc
Dave Lung
Mike Lung
Wayne Schafer
Miles Wood
Bob Beauchamp
Don Balthaser

CANADA:
Brian Price
Carmen Yousie

HONG KONG:
Martin Dives

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
Kevin Page
Malcolm McKercher

AUSTRALIA:
Rod Waterhouse
Peter Backhoos
David Bray
Graham Corlett
Steve Hickford

BRAZIL:
Nelson Piccolo
Carlos Biekarak

EUROPE:
Beriou - France
Ludwig - Germany
Mueller - Germany
Fabre - France
Heilbron - Holland
Cuanillon - Switzerland
Bossink - Holland
Schuetze - Germany
Maxwell - Switzerland
Kappelman - Germany
Tamata - France

SOUTH AFRICA:
Hasselbach
Koper
Whitehead
Collier
Dodds
Lethbridge

HAWAII:
Dean Froome

PUERTO RICO:
Enrique Figueroa
Ismael Ramos-Soler
Fernando Gonzales

TAHITI:
Kitty Salmon
Do Salmon
Eric Paofai

Results of Lanzarote Qualifying Races: Top 17 Skippers (Position)

SOUTH AFRICA:
Leonard Mann (1)
Frank Meneses (4)

FRANCE:
Foquet (3)
Roland (5)
Hank Pauloo (12)

BRAZIL:
Pereira (8)
Messner (16)

GERMANY:
Carlos Backhausen (9)

NETHERLANDS:
G. Loos (14)

USA:
Tom Wickenhauser (2)
Steve Leo (6)
Ron Wagniere (7)
Tom Whitehurst (10)
Bill Whitehurst (17)
Jack Sammons (11)
Carlton Tucker (13)
John Hamilton (15)

Top Ten Skippers in each Championship Race

Wednesday, Race 1

1.	Canepa	USA
2.	Dodds	SA
3.	Alter Sr.	USA
4.	Maxwell	Swit
5.	Martins	Braz
6.	Fabre	Fr
7.	Beriou	Fr
8.	Corlett	Aust
9.	Mann	SA
10.	Balthaser	USA

Wednesday, Race 2

1.	K. Salmon	Tahi
2.	Schafer	USA
3.	Paofai	Tahi
4.	Collier	SA
5.	T. Whitehurst	USA
6.	Froome	USA
7.	Foquet	Fr
8.	Piccolo	Braz
9.	Hatfield	USA
10.	Roland	Fr

Thursday, Race 3

1.	Hatfield	USA
2.	Koper	SA
3.	Froome	USA
4.	Loos	Neth

(Continued... Top 10)

5. Wagniere	USA
6. Bray	Aust
7. Schafer	USA
8. Beauchamp	USA
9. Eddington	USA
10. Hickford	Aust

Thursday, Race 5

1. Eddington	USA
2. Jeff Hamilton	USA
3. T. Whitehurst	USA
4. Lethbridge	SA
5. Piccolo	Braz
6. Koper	SA
7. Hasselbach	SA
8. Fabre	Fr
9. Backhausen	Germ
10. Beriou	Fr

Friday, Race 4 (rerun)

1. Whitehead	SA
2. T. Whitehurst	USA
3. Jeff Hamilton	USA
4. Piccolo	Braz
5. Mann	SA
6. Cuanillon	Swit
7. D. Salmon	Tahi
8. Canepa	USA
9. Pauloo	Fr
10. Paofai	Tahi

Friday, Race 6

1. Froome	USA
2. Alter Jr.	USA
3. Schafer	USA
4. Balthaser	USA
5. Heilbron	Neth
6. McKercher	Aust
7. Tucker	USA
8. Mann	SA
9. Canepa	USA
10. K. Salmon	Tahi

Friday, Race 7

1. T. Whitehurst	USA
2. Wood	USA
3. Mueller	Germ
4. Schafer	USA
5. Piccolo	Braz
6. Hatfield	USA
7. Froome	USA
8. Collier	SA
9. Lethbridge	SA
10. Yousie	Cana

Friday, Race 8

1. Balthaser	USA
2. Eddington	USA
3. Corlett	Aust
4. Alter Jr.	USA
5. Dodds	SA
6. Fabre	Fr
7. Beriou	Fr
8. Canepa	USA
9. Backhausen	Germ
10. Martins	Braz

Saturday Finals, Race 1

1. Froome	USA
2. Alter Sr.	USA
3. Tucker	USA
4. Dodds	SA
5. Alter Jr.	USA
6. Hatfield	USA
7. Schafer	USA
8. Koper	SA
9. Collier	SA
10. Cuanillon	Swit

Saturday Finals, Race 2

1. K. Salmon	Tahi
2. T. Whitehurst	USA
3. Biekarc	Braz
4. Fabre	Fr
5. Cuanillon	Swit
6. Paofai	Tahi
7. Mann	SA
8. Loos	Neth
9. Hatfield	USA
10. Corlett	Aust

HOBIE CAT 14' **4th WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP** **LANZAROTE/ISLAS CANARIAS** **SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 1, 1977**

POSITION	SKIPPER	COUNTRY	SERIES				FINALS	TOTAL POINTS
1.	Dean Froome	U.S.A.	6	3	3/4	7	3/4 (11)	17 1/2
2.	Wayne Schafer	U.S.A.	2	7	3	4	7 (15)	23
3.	Randy Hatfield	U.S.A.	9	1/4	(12)	6	6	30 3/4
4.	Tom Whitehurst	U.S.A.	DSQB	25	2	3	1/4 (13)	32 3/4
5.	Blain Dodds	South Africa	2	11	12	5	4 (22)	34
6.	Kitty Salmon	Tahiti	1/4	(13)	10	12	12 3/4	35 1/2
7.	Don Balthaser	U.S.A.	11	12	4	1/4	11 (35)	38 3/4
8.	Nelson Piccolo	Brazil	8	4	5	5	(31)	40
9.	Hobie Alter, Sr.	U.S.A.	3	(20)	15	11	2	43
10.	Mike Collier	South Africa	4	(15)	11	8	9	45
11.	Leonard Mann	South Africa	10	5	8	16	(35)	46
12.	Jeff Canepa	U.S.A.	1/4	8	9	8	(24)	46 3/4
13.	Rick Eddington	U.S.A.	15	9	1/4	2	20 (35)	46 3/4
14.	Andre Fabre	France	6	(26)	8	6	25	49
15.	Gerhard Koper	South Africa	(27)	2	6	20	8	50
16.	Hobie Alter, Jr.	U.S.A.	24	(34)	2	4	5	55
17.	Paul Cuanillon	Switzerland	(28)	6	21	17	10	59
18.	Eric Paofai	Tahiti	3	10	28	14	(30)	61
19.	Kerli Corlett	Australia	9	(24)	16	3	24	62
20.	Malcom McKercher	Australia	12	14	6	11	19 (31)	62
21.	Carlton Tucker	U.S.A.	18	16	7	(28)	3	63
22.	Carlos Beriou	France	7	(31)	10	7	18	65
23.	Carlos Biekarc	Brazil	16	15	19	(23)	15	68
24.	Ron Wagniere	U.S.A.	11	5	14	17	22 (28)	69
25.	G. A. Loos	Netherlands	17	4	13	27	(33)	69
26.	Alex Martins	Brazil	5	13	(25)	10	23	75
27.	Frank Meneses	South Africa	13	17	12	16	(27)	80
28.	Hans Mueller	West Germany	28	25	11	3	16 (30)	83
29.	Bob Beauchamp	U.S.A.	19	8	21	21	14 (27)	83
30.	Eric Hasselbach	South Africa	17	17	7	27	(29)	84
32.	Jeff Hamilton	U.S.A.	24	3	2	30	(35)	85
32.	Robert Heilbron	Netherlands	22	19	5	12	28 (29)	86
33.	Carlos Backhausen	West Germany	(34)	16	9	9	32	91
34.	Mick Whitehead	U.S.A.	26	1/4	18	32	17 (34)	91 3/4
35.	Duncan Lethbridge	South Africa	21	(34)	4	9	34	101
36.	David Bray	Australia	23	6	23	26	(32)	104
37.	Rod Waterhouse	Australia	18	18	(22)	15		51
38.	C. Foquet	France	7	20	(24)	24		51
39.	Do Salmon	Tahiti	DSQB	29	7	(27)	15	51
40.	Dave Lung	U.S.A.	12	11	29	(31)		52
41.	Klaus Peters	Brazil	14	19	(23)	19		52
42.	Mike Lung	U.S.A.	25	12	15	(32)		52
43.	Steve Hickford	Australia	(26)	10	20	23		53
44.	Jack Sammons	U.S.A.	14	21	19	(25)		54
45.	Hank Pauloo	France	(33)	9	28	18		56
46.	Nelson Fiedler	Brazil	21	(23)	17	19		57
47.	Carmen Yousie	Canada	(32)	28	20	10		58
48.	D. Roland	France	10	(26)	25	25		60
49.	Brian Price	Canada	30	18	13	(33)		61
50.	Miles Wood	U.S.A.	DNF	35	27	32	2	61
51.	Michael Ludwig	West Germany	16	(37)	16	29		61
52.	Edson Pereira	Brazil	13	(26)	25	24		62
53.	Jeff Alter	U.S.A.	23	28	(32)	13		64
54.	Enrique Figueroa	Puerto Rico	(35)	34	14	18		66
55.	Charlie Kroger	U.S.A.	(31)	18	18	31		67
56.	Sig Maxwell	Switzerland	4	(36)	27	36		67
57.	Peter Backhouse	Australia	27	(29)	22	20		69
58.	Bill Whitehurst	U.S.A.	(25)	24	23	22		69
59.	Steve Leo	U.S.A.	20	25	(26)	24		69
60.	Stephen Edwards	Australia	(33)	14	31	26		71
61.	Thomas Kappelman	West Germany	29	24	24	(32)		74
62.	Tom Wickenhauser	U.S.A.	15	22	(37)	37		74
63.	Kevin Page	Australia	(35)	30	33	14		77
64.	Christoph Schuetze	West Germany	22	(37)	34	21		77
65.	John Mesner	Brazil	20	27	(33)	33		80
66.	Taupi Tamata	France	(34)	34	26	22		82
67.	Robert Bossink	Netherlands	29	(35)	30	28		87
68.	Lance Fisher	Australia	31	23	(35)	33		87
69.	John Kue	U.S.A.	(32)	29	30	29		88
70.	Ismac Soler	Puerto Rico	30	33	27	(35)		90
71.	John Hamilton	U.S.A.	19	(37)	37	37		93
72.	Martin Dives	Hong Kong	(35)	34	31	34		99



The Hobie Class Association thanks Senor Vallve of Hobie Cat Barcelona, Hank Pauloo and the whole gang from Coast Cat France including John Dinsdale in Germany, Ernest Bergeron, and the Club Nautical.

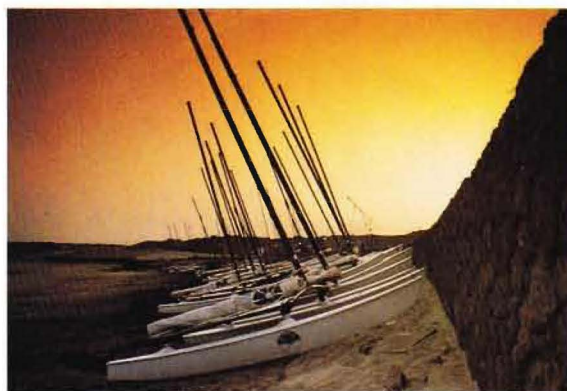


Photo by Jake Grubb