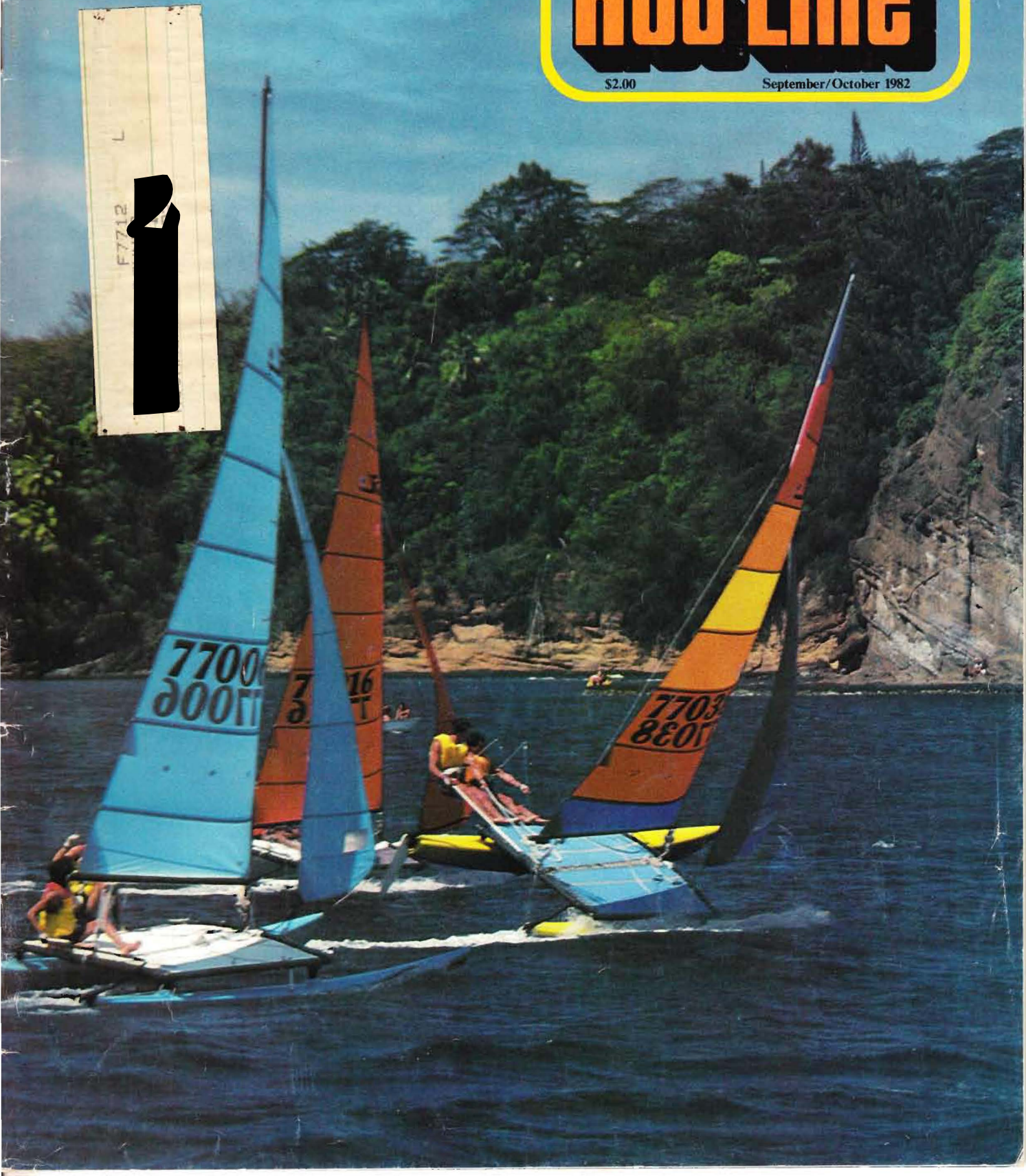


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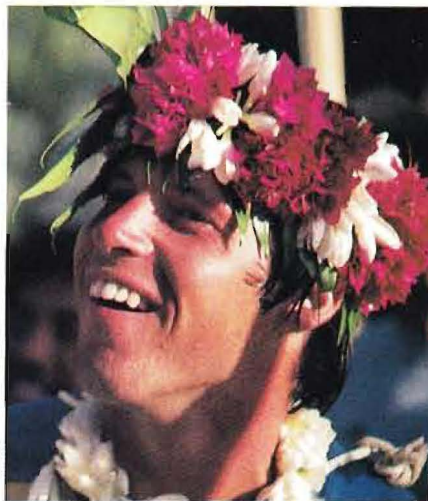


Hobie 16 Worlds Tahiti '82



Hooyah, Hobie!

The New Hobie 16 World Champion



by Paula Alter

As the lead boats rounded C mark in the last race of the Fourth Hobie 16 Worlds in Matavi Bay, Tahiti, the crowd on the cliffs held its collective breath. First around was Blaine Dodds, (South Africa). With a little luck, he could become the new world champion.

After a week of close competition, Hobie Alter, Jr. was close on Dodds' tail. Needing a fifth place or better if Dodds won the last race, Alter and crew Patti McGuire were in seventh then, thinking hard, sailing fast and probably praying to the Tahitian wind gods for a little extra push.

Going a little further on their tack than the lead boats, Alter and McGuire tacked above Mike Shearer. The watchers on the cliffs let out their breath as Alter squeaked out a fourth place finish, claiming the Fourth Hobie 16 World Championship held August 15-21.

Hobie Alter, Jr. is well known as the six-time national champion in the United States, but he had never finished better than 24th in any previous 16 Worlds. It was a title that had evaded him for years.

Alter's was not an easy victory. Through the early part of the week, in light to medium winds, Ian Bashford and Brett Dryland, both from Australia, led the fleet. The Aussies proved right off that although they're considered the best heavy air sailors in the world, they're hot in the light stuff, too. Race after race, however, Californians were also in the top ten—particularly Hobie, Jr. In the final scoring, it's consistency that wins the race.

The teams had their first taste of Tahiti when they arrived at the airport. Tahitian dancers and drummers welcomed even the wee-hour arrivals with an enticing island rhythm and colorful leis. Hobie sailors came from the far corners of the earth to compete in the championship round robin series—Denmark, Australia, South Africa, the USA, France, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Germany, Canada, New Guinea, Indonesia, New Zealand, Dubai, Mexico, Switzerland, New Caledonia, American Samoa, Curacao,

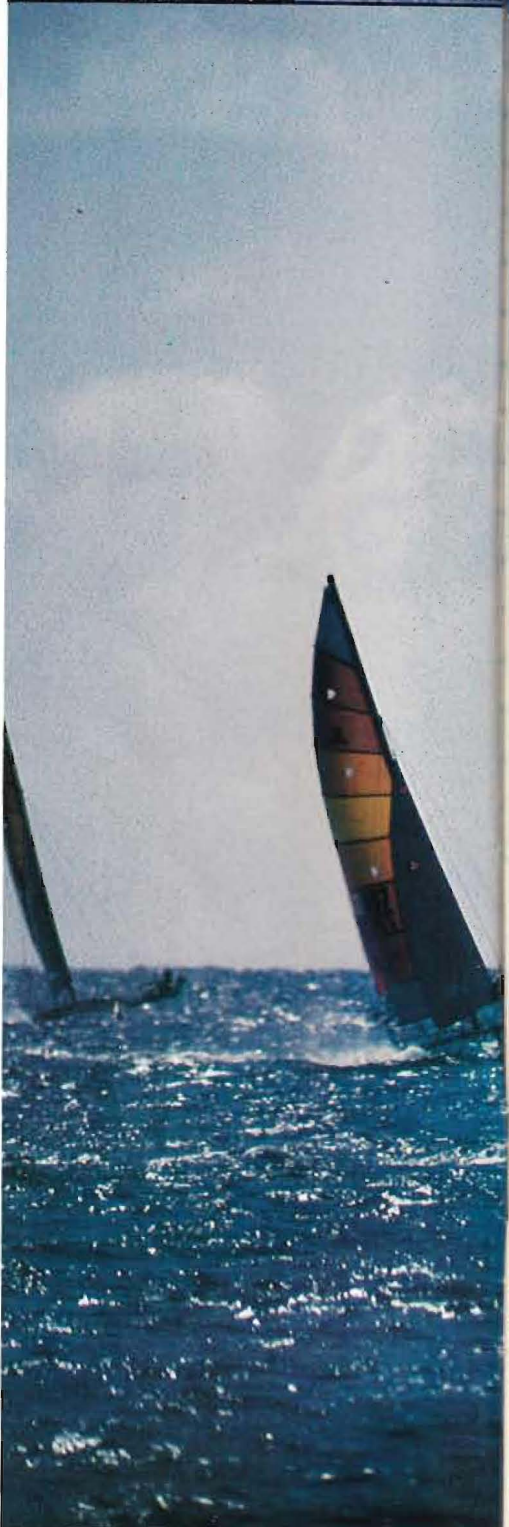
the Bahamas, Japan, Guam, Spain, Hong Kong, Fiji and Tahiti herself were represented at this year's competition.

As the first teams began to arrive, the wind was a howling 25-30 knots, with white-capped waters as far as you could see. By the first day of the qualifying races, the wind had died to a gentle breeze. The mild tradewinds lasted through the week, varying from no wind at all to 10 knots, picking up to 15 for a while on the final day of racing.

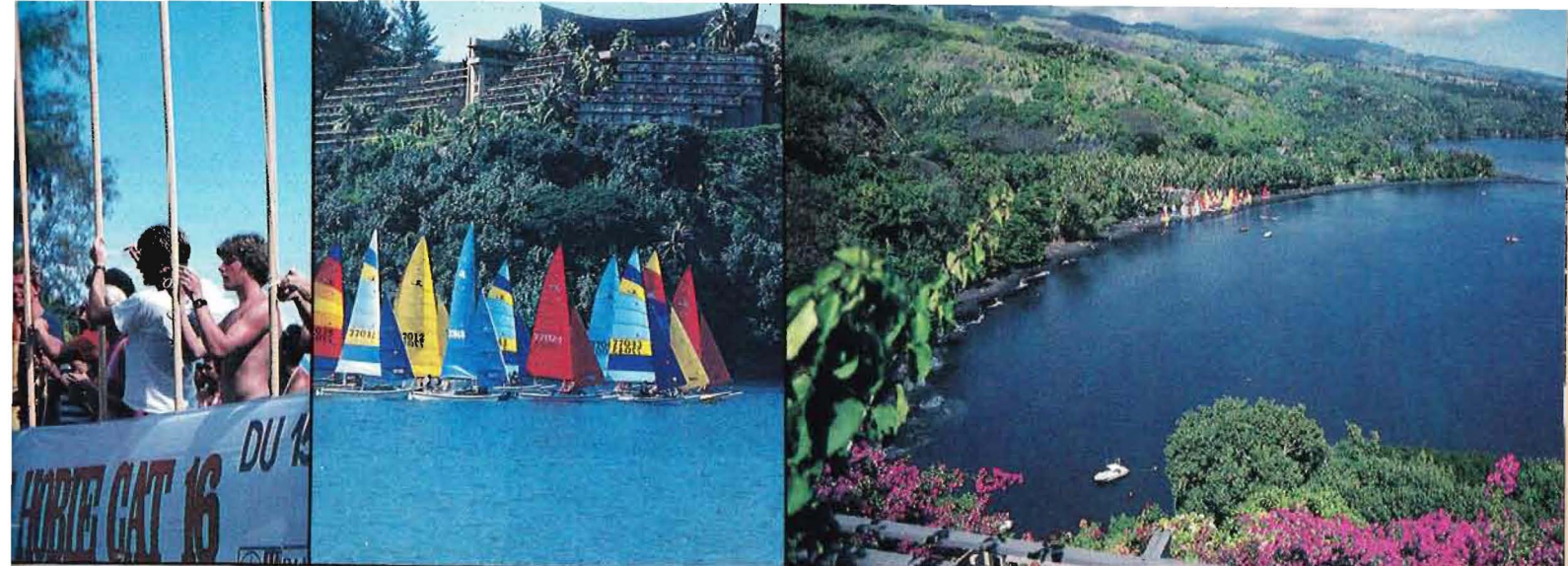
After two days of competition among 79 teams who vied for the 24 last available spots in the series, qualifications were announced at the welcome party, which was held at the high commissioner's palace. A delectable layout of food and more island dancing greeted the racers as a group, further acquainting them with the flavor of Tahiti.

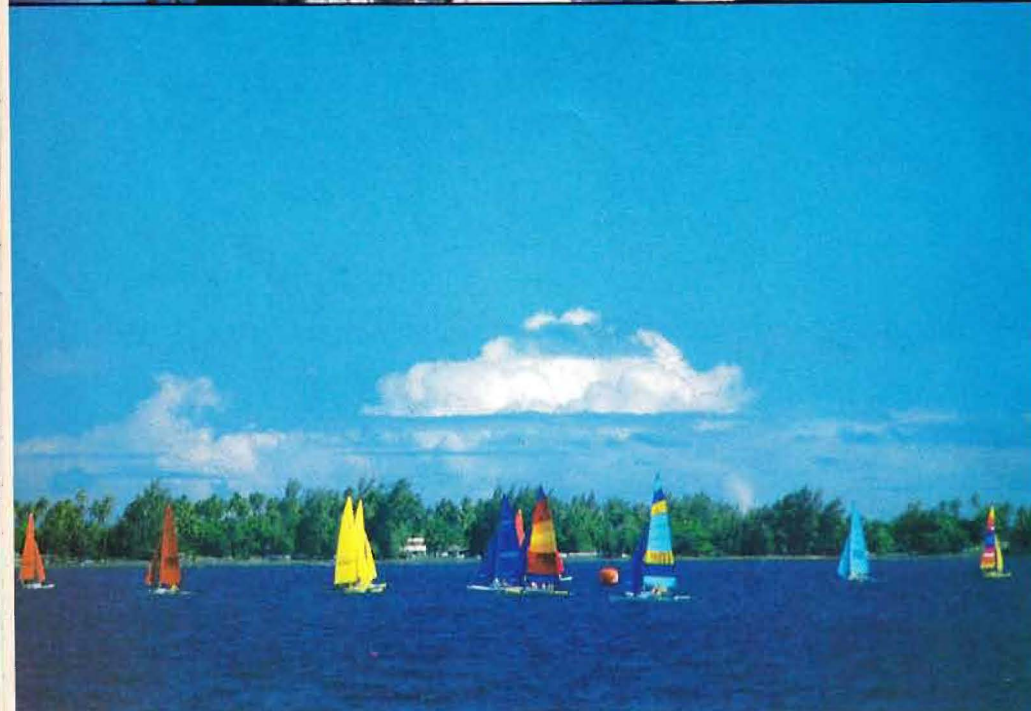
Halfway between California and Australia, Tahiti is the largest island of French Polynesia and is dominated by the towering peaks of Orohena (7,337 feet) and Aorai (6,786 feet). Although the mountain peaks are generally shrouded in mist, the shore and race course remained sunny.

Picture yourself on the race course, with those lush mountains as a backdrop and turquoise waters over coral reefs below. You're tacking for A mark. Coming in close to the cliffs, you can see a large crowd above, snuggled into the vegetation. They hoot and holler as you go by. The leader is so close in front of you—in fact, with a little lift, you could be right in there at A mark. The wind shifts a little, going back and forth awhile. The



(Top l. to r.) The new Hobie 16 World Champion—Hobie Alter, Jr. Photo: Paula Alter. Opening ceremonies. Photo: Paula Alter. Tahara'a Hotel, the perfect spot for race watching. Photo: Amalie Ash-Duven. Panoramic view from the Tahara'a. Photo: Carol Robinson. (Right) The competition was fierce throughout the week. Photo: Paula Alter.





next thing you know, you can't lay A mark and 20 boats have filled in between you and the leader.

It's unbelievable that you can come so close and drop so far back in just a few minutes. Your start was darned good, but everyone is going good. A few mistakes, a few yards and there you are in 30th place, wondering what happened. That's the way it went for many sailors.

After the first day's races (during which the wind slowly came up to eight knots), Mike Collier (South Africa), Ian Bashford (Australia) and Alan Egusa (USA) had each picked up a first place. Bashford is the current Hobie 18 World Champion. His competitors looked worried as he came from 19th place to win his first race of the series.

In order for each team to sail three races in the round robin portion of the regatta, the race committee ran six races. On Wednesday, three more races were held, again in light to medium winds. Hobie Alter, Jr. won the first race. Bashford came from the back again, this time placing third. The question of the week was, "Where did Bashford come from?" He was awesome from the start.

Jeff Alter won the fifth race, with Mike Montague (California) picking up a win in the sixth race. The racers were finding the Mataavi Bay course a tough one to figure out. Inside to the cliffs looked good, except sometimes. Sometimes, someone would come screaming in from outside, while the air inside oscillated.

Thursday morning, smooth water stretched across the seven miles to Moorea like a huge tarp. Sails were up, the committee boat was in place. Everyone waited for the wind. The day grew warmer, the racers waited. Two or four races were scheduled. The wind picked up offshore. The sailors waited for it to move in. Instead, the course remained in an eddy.

As it got later and the finals party got closer, the nervous skippers could tell there would be no races. This left each skipper with three races and no throwout. Contingencies from different countries were consulted. They voted to have the cut that night, as scheduled.

It was a disappointment to many of the racers, particularly for those who needed another good race, hoping to throw out a bad one.

That evening, high on the bluff overlooking the race course, the patio of

(Top) The racers call it a day as the sun drops into the Pacific. Photo: Paula Alter. (Middle l. to r.) Five of the world's best Hobie sailors: Michael Collier (South Africa), Ian Bashford (Australia), Hobie Alter, Jr. (USA), Blain Dodds (South Africa) and Brett Dryland (Australia). Photo: Paula Alter. (Bottom) The vivid colors of the Tahitian race course. Photo: Sandy Banks.

the Tahara'a Hotel was laid out in French style. There were candles, lots of crystal, carafes of wine and a gorgeous buffet, replete with huge fish and island delicacies. A light rain fell for a while, but in typical island fashion, the clouds opened up to a starlit southern sky.

Hobie sailors were invited to *tamare* with the island dancers. They were a little stiff, but good for a laugh: Hobie Catters shaking and jiggling next to the smooth moves and flowing grass skirts of the Tahitians.

There were trophies for the finalists—carved tikis mounted with carved black pearl shells. With no throwout, many good skippers didn't make the cut. Consistency was the victor's rule. Protests were given graduated penalties, as there was no throwout.

The top ten going into the finals were:

1. Ian Bashford 6¾ points
2. Brett Dryland 16 points
3. Hobie Alter, Jr. 22¾ points
4. Alan Egusa 23¾ points
5. Tom Materna 24 points
6. Jeff Alter 24¾ points
7. Ray Howard 26 points
8. Mike Furukawa 27 points
9. Hiro De Mayer 27 points
10. Mike Montegue 32¾ points.

Beachside, beautiful women with flowers in their long dark hair waited at the launching area as the races started and ended, their pareus and flowing dresses waving colors to the wind.

"Don't stand under the coconut trees," announced race organizer Albert Aline at regular intervals. Several unheeding sailors discovered that coconut trees have great aim.

Those who came to enjoy this paradise while loved ones competed were off on day trips during the races, snorkling in the clear water, cavorting under waterfalls and gazing into enchanting canyons drenched in mist and tradition.

Back at the races, it was an incredible scene: watching the colorful sails on the sparkling water from under the shade trees. In the first race of the finals, Fred Schneider (Australia) was victor, lifting from the center of the course to A mark to take the lead.

In the second race, Michael Collier again took an early lead, which he held until the finish. One of the most noticable factors during the week was how rarely one team could steadily hold a lead. Between the wind shifts, covering



(Top) Spectators move in for a better view of the racing. (Middle) A segment of the Australian contingency takes a moment to confer over the boat assignments. (Bottom) Klaus Peters (Brazil) conducts a traditional T-shirt exchange with some Tahitian ladies. Photos by Paula Alter.



the fleet from the lead was not an easy task.

On the last day of competition, with "Please don't stand under the coconut trees," Tahitian drum music, French love songs and a dash of rock and roll blasting through the speakers at the race site, the tension among the sailors was set to an ever-changing tempo. A light rain in the morning and more wind than had been seen all week raised white caps, and the sailors were ready.

Bashford had had his first bad race of the meet the day before. He still lead with a throwout, but Dryland, Hobie Alter, Jr. and Dodds were close behind.

Dodds took an early lead in Saturday's first race. On the cliffs, a dozen languages could be heard at any given time as the final outcome of the Worlds was speculated on from every angle. After the next race, Bashford kept the lead, but the gap was closing.

The course was rugged, not because of wind speed but the wind's shiftiness. Alter went on to win the seventh race, a much needed first. Dryland picked up a third, Dodds a fifth. Bashford had another tough race, changing the look of things. The final outcome would really be decided by the last race. Points were very close: Dryland lead by 1½ points over Hobie Alter, Jr., with Dodds four points behind Alter.

Alter later stated that he felt the start and where one sailed the first time to weather were the most important things

(Left) The traditional mixing of the waters of the world which opens all Hobie Worlds competitions. Sailors from each country bring water from home to contribute to this ceremony. (Middle) Claus Hansen (Denmark), Torsten Bardram's sunkissed crew. (Right) Tahitian dancers sparkle in the dark. Photos by Paula Alter.

Opposite page:

(Left) Lush Tahitian greenery, wrapped in morning mist. Photo: Paula Alter. (Middle) Rounding A mark on the way to B. Photo: Amalie Ash-Duven. (Right) Serious sailors take a break from competition to join in a team tug on the hot black sand. Photo: Carol Robinson.

in these races. Getting some of the best starts of his career, hanging in there with top ten scores and getting a few firsts was the winning combination.

Some thought the Americans couldn't do it, that the Aussies were close to unbeatable. Though Bashford and Dryland led the 26-nation fleet through the week, Alter sailed as he has in the nationals the last several years: consistently.

When they hit the beach, Alter and McGuire were adorned with flower head wreaths, flower leis and leis of Heinekens and surrounded by hordes of cheering spectators, racers, photographers and Tahitian children, all into the celebration of it. Alter was obviously ecstatic at having captured the one title he'd fallen short of for years.

The awards banquet, held under the

traditional thatched roof pavillion at the Maeva Beach Hotel, was a real jubilee. From 24th place, skippers were given beautiful carved wood paddles with carved black pearl shells in the centers of the paddles.

Second place Blaine Dodds and his crew Shawn Ferry were each presented a Sony Walkman along with their trophies.

As Alter and McGuire received their awards, each was given a lovely black pearl (a Tahitian specialty) with their paddles. Alter danced the *tamare* with the fluid Tahitian women to top off the event.

As the racers poured into the little open-air island buses (*les trucks*), they were already making plans to reunite at the upcoming Hobie 18 Worlds in France.

This was the second time Hobie Catters have enjoyed the tropical beauty of Tahiti as the setting for international competition. Many of us are already anticipating a time when we can renew our acquaintance with her scenic beaches and hospitable people.

It took a lot of time and planning on the part of three individuals to organize an event of this caliber. Surely everyone will agree that Guy Lenoble, Maeva Aline and especially Albert Aline deserve more thanks than we can possible convey.

Along with the above, we'd like to express our gratitude to Sony, Heineken, Nassau and the people of Tahiti, who made our stay so pleasant.

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Fourth Hobie 16 World Championships
Papeete, Tahiti
August 15-21, 1982

Skipper/Crew	Country	Semi Final Races			Final Races					Total	Skipper/Crew	Country	Total
		1/2	3/4	5/6	1	2	3	4	5				
1. Hobie Alter, Jr./Patty McGuire	USA	15	3/4	7	6	4	9	3/4	4	31 1/2	49. Dave Lung/Paul King	Hawaii	75
2. Blaine Dodds/Shawn Ferry	South Africa	9	32	4	5	8	3/4	5	3/4	32 1/2	50. Bruce Tardrew/Steve Beales	New Guinea	76
3. Brett Dryland/Darren Jones	Australia	6	7	3	3	26	4	3	18	44	51. John Hackney/Carol Hackney	USA	78
4. Alan Egusa/Geoff Walsh	USA	14	3/4	9	21	9	7	8	2	49 1/2	52. Hobie Alter, Sr./Paula Alter	USA	78
5. Ian Bashford/Michael Ritchie	Australia	3/4	3	3	31	3	10	48	13	63 1/2	53. Brian Schatz/Bob Tanner	Hawaii	78
6. Jeff Alter/Sue Brenny	USA	18	6	3/4	9	18	5	24	8	64 1/2	54. Nelson Fiedler/Ricardo Henning	Brazil	79
7. Tom Materna/Ross Tyler	USA	18	2	4	18	2	22	19	6	69	55. Gerard Sachet/Arnold Didier	Tahiti	79
8. Mike Montague/Dee Davidson	USA	20	12	3/4	7	10	12	27	9	70 1/2	56. Malcolm McKercher/Scott McKercher	Australia	80
9. Jack McCartney/Lee Murray	Australia	3	19	11	33	6	2	6	35	80	57. Mark Pryke/Scott Condie	Australia	80
10. Enrique Figueroa/Dickie Vallanueva	Puerto Rico	19	5	10	17	19	3	9	24	82	58. Clive Boulton/Graeme Cummings	Dubai	81
11. Mike Furukawa/Peter VanDeverg	Hawaii	8	4	15	22	7	23	12	43	91	59. Graham Lithgo/Judith Lithgo	Australia	83
12. Carlton Tucker/Rick Bennett	USA	48	14	7	12	14	16	30	3	96	60. Warren Collier/A.U. Elstone	South Africa	84
13. Bill Sykes/Ian Burns	Australia	12	18	6	10	28	17	14	21	98	61. Fabio Bocciarelli/Fernando Sessler	Brazil	85
14. Tony Laurent/Lelsa Curnow	Australia	21	10	26	19	5	37	13	12	106	62. Larry Peterson/Debra Porter	USA	86
15. Ricky Eddington/Tony Lewis	USA	49	34	12	11	11	11	7	20	106	63. Roeland Taams/Maarten Taams	Curacao	87
16. Michael Collier/Mark Modderinan	South Africa	3/4	11	31	35	3/4	15	37	16	109 1/2	64. Andy Shearer/Marilyn Shearer	USA	87
17. Klaus Peters/Fernando Botton	Brazil	12	17	8	8	25	14	40	33	117	65. Colin Whitehead/Robbyn Whitehead	South Africa	88
18. Mike Shearer/Carol Whitmer	USA	7	30	38	28	17	13	18	5	118	66. Corrie Marcus/Richard Machin	Australia	89
19. Ray Howard/Carolyn Howard	USA	20	4	2	42	21	26	25	25	123	67. Ken Allen/Joan Allen	Australia	90
20. Torsten Bardram/Claus Hansen	Denmark	49	3	36	41	13	18	2	10	123	68. David Ashby/Craig Hughan	Fiji	92
21. Bob Seaman/Jana Seaman	USA	24	2	24	30	15	20	20	26	131	69. Andre Mazoyer/Burkhard Toebeimann	New Caledonia	92
22. John Driscoll/J.J.	Hawaii	4	43	8	16	36	25	35	7	131	70. Harry Handley/Andrew Springfield	New Zealand	94
23. David Krut/Michael Krut	South Africa	13	16	17	36	16	32	10	32	136	71. Pat McCormick/Dawn Rothenberg	USA	95
24. Kitty Salmon/Hars Thierry	Tahiti	9	33	16	2	20	31	34	27	138	72. Terri Paquier/Tico Latile	Tahiti	97
25. Fred Schneider/Dianne Mollard	Australia	11	32	9	3/4	34	24	43	29	139 1/2	73. Juan Gimeno/Antonio Gadeo	Spain	97
26. Enio Gama/	Brazil	4	28	13	47	35	38	11	11	140	74. Tony Philip/Colin Philip	Fiji	98
27. Sergio Leal/Antonio Araujo	Brazil	15	8	23	25	29	30	38	19	149	75. John Trafton/John Rere	Tahiti	100
28. Hiro DeMaeyer/Francis Petras	Tahiti	10	11	6	37	44	43	26	17	150	76. J.C. Agniera/Berhard Paquier	Tahiti	102
29. Bill Myrter/Scott Myrter	USA	13	25	11	4	41	29	31	39	152	77. Mike Manning/Dave Biency	New Zealand	103
30. Pat Porter/Laurie Robertson	USA	39	9	2	27	32	28	17	47	154	78. Ron Waginers/Karen McLead	USA	105
31. Brian Sweeney/Dave Sweeney	Canada	25	12	25	39	12	41	4	48	158	79. Yuzawa Yutaka/Satoshi Hiroshi	Japan	105
32. Miles Wood/Dan Mangus	USA	2	14	19	49	27	8	46	46	160	80. Jeff Casher/Fail Potter	USA	106
33. Reinhard Schroeder/Edda Hager	Germany	8	29	28	23	48	19	22	40	169	81. Henry Lucas/Jean Suen-ko	Tahiti	106
34. Colin Hancock/Ollie Hughes	South Africa	28	8	32	13	31	33	44	28	171	82. Sig Maxwell/Thomas Maxwell	Switzerland	111
35. Eric Paofai/Jean Marie Pagu	Tahiti	19	16	29	24	24	21	39	42	172	83. Bernard Burgaud/Patrick Mollier	Tahiti	112
36. Tuke Paquier/Stanley Chane	Tahiti	5	19	28	38	39	27	28	30	175	84. Steve Eichner/Lorie Eichner	Guam	112
37. Geoff Meek/C. Bangers	South Africa	48	5	20	29	22	45	33	23	177	85. Jesus Perez/	Puerto Rico	112
38. Steve Strugnell/Peter Gamel	Australia	14	40	5	43	42	42	23	15	181	86. Andy Leontieff/Michael Leontieff	France	118
39. Andy Thompson/Bob Gram	New Guinea	3	17	13	44	43	47	47	14	181	87. Mark Fallwell/R. Callinan	New Zealand	118
40. Rob Binedell/Neville Hiscow	Australia	2	18	34	49	38	8	41	36	185	88. Kim Barnard/Colin Lyons	New Guinea	121
41. Richard Karan/Spencer Manrodt	USA	6	20	22	45	48	39	16	37	185	89. Rex Heasman/Mike Denooljer	Hong Kong	123
42. John Myhre/Dave Paul	Hawaii	22	10	10	32	37	34	48	41	186	90. Denis Belland/Todd Hitch	Canada	128
43. Christian Stoll/Birgit Osterhoff	Germany	30	22	20	40	40	40	15	22	189	91. William Jenko/Sid Kimbrough	Indonesia	133
44. Dean Froome/Doug Poseley	Hawaii	31	34	5	14	33	44	42	31	190	92. Brian Bell/Todd Hitch	USA	134
45. Wayne Schafer/Christian Banks	USA	46	15	12	26	30	48	29	34	192	93. Ray Espinosa/Damia Valve	Spain	134
46. Alan Burgaud/Phil Amiel	Tahiti	5	43	19	34	23	35	36	45	195	94. Joe Thompson/Greg Farrington	Bahamas	140
47. John Dinsdale/Camilla Schramm	France	25	26	18	20	47	36	32	38	195	95. Sepul Sitafane/Andy Hiebeler	American Samoa	140
48. Anthony Duchatel/Denise Burch	Australia	22	7	25	15	46	46	45	44	204	96. Jorge Murrieta/Alicia Murrieta	Mexico	142