

Fewer Overseas Teams At Henley

REGATTA PLANS

"Star" Reporter

FEWER overseas countries are entering for the Henley Royal Regatta next month.

Crews and scullers from nine nations competed in last year's events, but only seven overseas countries will be represented on July 1.

Canada and New Zealand are not sending crews. Also absent is Australia, despite the fine racing shown by the Sydney Rowing Club in the 1952 events.

The Egyptian and Spanish rowers who competed 12 months ago have also decided against returning.

"Travelling costs seem to be the main difficulty," said Mr David Williams, the regatta secretary.

Henley stewards, however, will be able to welcome at least three new nations. These include a strong team from Germany and contingents from Holland and Switzerland.

The actual total of overseas entries—20 crews and scullers in seven events—tops last year's figure by three.

Three of the four challenge cups have only attracted one overseas entry, but the Double Sculls and the Diamond Challenge Sculls are to be strongly contested by overseas competitors. These include rowers from France, Belgium, Eire and the successful U.S. university crews.

23/6/53.

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

BELGIAN HOLDERS SCRATCH FROM DOUBLE SCULLS

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

R. George and J. Van Stichel of Belgium who, last year, won the Double Sculls at Henley have decided not to defend their title at the regatta which will be begun to-morrow.

It is a pity that they did not make this decision before the draw was made last Saturday. No alteration can now be made and it means that C. E. Poynter and W. T. J. Baker of Bedford Rowing Club, who should have met the Belgians, will now go straight to the final without having to race. The other British pairs will have to row two races to reach the final. First A. C. F. Thomson and A. T. F. McNeill of Icena Club will meet the brothers Dainton of Stratford-on-Avon, and the winners will have, as their next opponents, P. Steble and E. Schriever, the Swiss Olympic pair.

George and Van Stichel will still compete for the Diamond Sculls.

Times

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Regatta prospects—by Hylton Cleaver and George Whiting

HOME CREWS CAN BE HENLEY STARS

HE WILL STROKE 'PROBLEM' CREW

DAVID JENNENS shows the effort and strain of rowing. At Henley he will stroke St. Thomas's in the Thames Cup. They are a "problem" crew.

Evening Standard Rowing Reporter HYLTON CLEAVER

We shall not expect the Henley Royal Regatta, which starts to-morrow, to surpass the majestic heights of 1952. For then the crowd broke the record on the first day, and the oarsmen promptly started breaking it for

the course.

The Lady Margaret crew rowed the distance faster than any eight in 113 years, and a British pair set a best time for the Goblets on two successive days.

An American crew were beaten by two feet. Our hopes for the Helsinki Olympics rose, only to be exploded when the time came, because our men had passed their peak.

Now, if the whispers of those who hold stop-watches, or career along the tow-path on bicycles, are to be believed, British crews have again been breaking records at practice—paced and unpaced.

French crew in luck

I do not accept all these stories, but our crews in the Grand are certainly faster than may be thought, particularly 1st and 3rd Trinity, and London. The French crew have a bye and will enjoy an extra day of practice on the course, while on Thursday Lady Margaret and Leander will be having a desperate neck-and-neck battle from start start to finish.

Leander are seldom at their best until they have raced, and all the other English crews in this event had a try-out at Marlow. Leander would have wished therefore for lighter opposition in the first round, and for this reason alone I have slight preference for Lady Margaret.

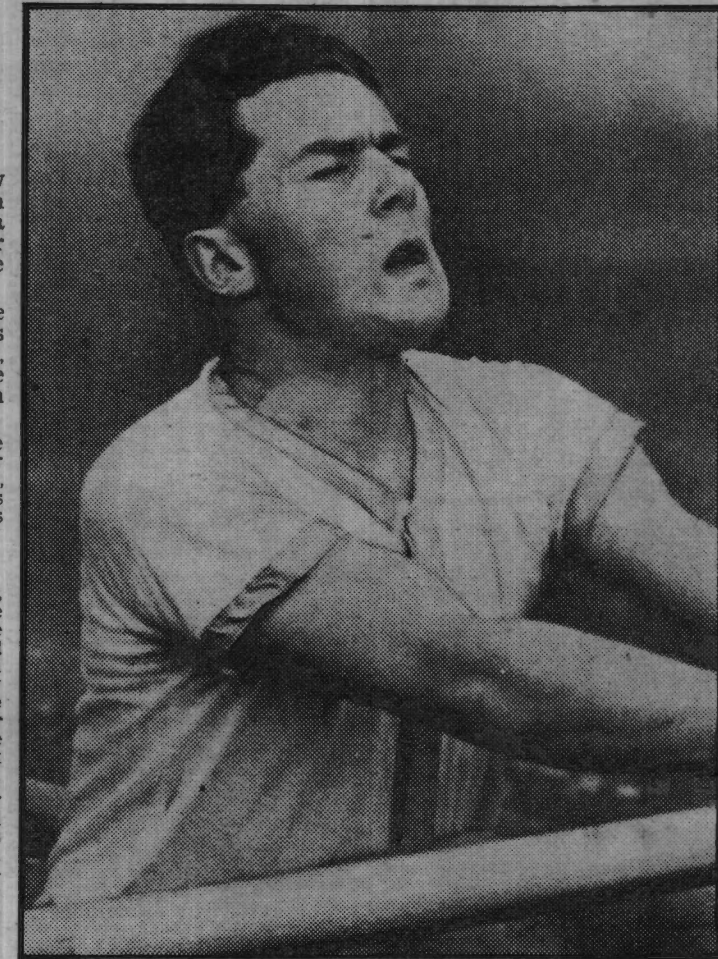
Certainly I expect the Grand to be kept in this country.

I think Fox will regain the Diamond Sculls, and that he may meet another Englishman, S. C. Rand, in the final.

We shall find it hard to hold the Thames Cup, and the RAF eight who seem our best hope and came to Henley tremendously fit were taking it easy at the end of last week anxious not to overdo it.

Four of the RAF eight are also in the Wyfold Fours, and the foreign crews never double up like this.

St. Thomas's Hospital are an enigma. Their showing at Marlow made them look fast for six furlongs, but as David Jennens has



himself pointed out to me, big names do not make a boat go fast, and the RAF with no big names may be faster.

Princeton's opponents are Balliol, who stayed Head of the river at Oxford in the summer eights before being bumped at last by Magdalen.

Germany have an easier heat against King's College, London, while Kent School, U.S.A., in the other half of the draw, meet Trinity College, Dublin.

The Belgian holders of the Double Sculls have withdrawn. Both men are in the Diamonds.

At the moment the English double—McNeill and Thomson—look likely winners although McNeill is in the Diamonds himself.

I feel that although there are 20 entries from overseas, the only event we are in danger of losing will be the Thames Cup.

This promises victories over the foreigners in the Grand Eights, both fours, the Doubles, Pairs and Diamonds. The other events are not open to "outsiders."

And I give us as good a chance in the Thames Cup as we had last year when Christ's College, Cambridge, were beaten only half a length by Pennsylvania University in the final, after catching a crao when leading.

30/6/53

Seven Blues in Leander Crew for Henley Grand

By CHARLES ROWE

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA begins to-morrow with a programme of 45 races from 10.30 to 6.15. With scratchings and crews beaten in the eliminating races, the original entry of 148 is reduced to 133—not a colossal number to dispose of in four days.

These figures strengthen the argument of those who maintain that eliminating races are unfair on oarsmen who have given up their holiday to row at Henley.

Only one foreign crew are in the Grand Challenge Cup this year—the Union Sportive Metropolitaine des Transports, France. They have never previously appeared at Henley, but have been fortunate enough to draw a bye through the preliminary round. As they will not race until Friday they will have two extra days to accustom themselves to the course.

However, unless the Frenchmen have an exceptional crew I expect the trophy to go to the winners of the first heat, between Leander Club, the holders, and Lady Margaret.

Cadbury Strokes

Leander have a strong crew, containing seven Blues and stroked by G. A. H. Cadbury, with Christopher Davidge and Paul Bircher at No. 6 and No. 5. The only doubt is whether they have practised together long enough, but Leander crews have the reputation of making immense strides in the last few days.

Lady Margaret, who won the "Grand" at Marlow, have improved since they appeared there, and last week they rowed the course in 6min. 46sec. They have four Blues and have been coached by Ronnie Symonds, who did such good work with the Cambridge crew.

The winner of the Leander v. Lady Margaret race meets Thames in the semi-final.

In the final of the Marlow "Grand" London beat First and Third Trinity for second place, but since then the Cambridge crew seem to have made the best progress, and I expect to see them reverse the Marlow result when they meet on Thursday. If they beat London Trinity tackle the French crew in the semi-final.

There should be two good races in the preliminary round of the Ladies' Plate, in which Magdalen College, Head of the River at Oxford, meet Eton College and King's College, Cambridge, with the ex-Cambridge president, George Marshall, in their boat, meet Radley College.

Thames Cup Rivalry

The 32 crews remaining in the Thames Cup should provide some fine racing and there is strong home opposition to prevent the trophy going overseas again. The Royal Air Force, who have been training steadily for months, won

the Thames Cup eights at Reading easily, while Imperial College took the Marlow Eights, with First and Third Trinity second and Corpus Christi third.

Corpus are stroked by P. D. Hall, who led Cambridge to victory in March, while David Jennens, who was in the record-breaking Cambridge crew of two years ago, leads St. Thomas's Hospital.

Kent School, from America, past winners of the cup, meet Trinity College, Dublin, in their first heat, while the other American challengers, Princeton University, meet Balliol College. The German crew from Florsheim - Russelsheim should win their heat but will have a hard task in the second round, when they will probably be opposed by Princeton.

The Willem III Club from Holland, who are challenging for the Stewards' Cup, have experienced opponents in London (winners at Marlow) against them, and should they win they will then be up against the powerful Leander four.

In the Diamond Sculls, two of our leading scullers S. C. Rand of the R.A.F. and A. T. F. McNeill of Icenia Club, meet in the first round. Britain's Olympic representative, Tony Fox, opposes the Tyne champion, A. Beveridge. Two foreign competitors, H. Steenacker (Belgium) and G. Schutt (Saarbrücken) are drawn together, but J. Van Stichel (Belgium) and P. Meyer (Switzerland) should beat the Reading scullers, B. G. Davies and L. H. Neville. R. Van Mestag (Holland) may find a tougher opponent in R. D. Waterer, of Sidney Sussex College.

Mr.
Stagg

E. News.
30/6/55.

Times

FOREIGN ENTRIES FOR HENLEY

SEVEN CHALLENGERS FOR THE DIAMONDS

FROM OUR ROWING CORRESPONDENT

There will be foreign crews and scullers in every event which is open to foreign competition at Henley this year. The total is 20, which seems to be about the average for recent years.

Only one crew comes for the Grand, the Union Sportive Metropolitaine, who are new to Henley. To us they are an unknown quantity, but if they are based on the French coxswainless four which finished second at Helsinki they will have to be reckoned with.

The Thames Cup attracts the usual strong overseas entry, with two crews from the United States, one from Germany, and one from Eire, and with it, presents the same thorny problem which has been challenging the Committee of Management for some years. For it is now generally recognized that most of the foreign crews which come over for this event are really above the standard, a fact which is painfully evident when one recalls that the Thames Cup has become practically an American monopoly. Yet these crews are admittedly not up to Grand class, and are not eligible to compete in the Ladies' Plate. Each year more people suggest that there should be some alteration in the qualifications for entry in the three eight-oar events, and it does indeed seem that the time has come to search diligently for some solution, even though it be only experimental.

There is likely to be an unusually strong foreign challenge in the small boat races this year. In the Goblets there are two Olympic pairs, as well as one from Yale, an unusual occurrence, as pair-oar rowing is not much practised in the United States. There are also two Olympic doubles, one from Switzerland, and the other, the present holders of the event, from Belgium, while in the Diamond Sculls there is an invasion of no less than seven scullers, including four who competed at Helsinki. On past records it would seem that the most formidable is likely to be Dr. Meyer, who came second to M. Wood by some 2½ sec. in an Olympic semi-final. The entries are:—

GRAND CHALLENGE CUP.—Union Sportive Metropolitaine (France).

THAMES CUP.—Kent School (U.S.), Princeton University (U.S.) (150lb. crew), Rudergemeinschaft Florsheim Russelsheim (Germany), University College, Dublin.

STEWARDS CHALLENGE CUP.—Willem III Club (Holland).

WYFOLD CHALLENGE CUP.—Neptune R.C., Dublin.

SILVER GOBLET.—M. Knuyssen and R. Baetens (Antwerp Sculling Club, Belgium), H. Kessel and K. Hahn (Ruderclub Saar, Saarbrücken, Germany), B. Tittman and W. Carrick (Yale University, United States).

DOUBLE SCULLS.—R. George and J. Van Stichel (Union Nautique de Liège and Antwerp Sculling Club, Belgium), P. Stebler and E. Schriever (Secclub, Zurich, Switzerland), also Royal Rowing Club, Het Spaarne (Holland) (no names).

DIAMOND SCULLS.—R. George (Union Nautique de Liège, Belgium), J. Van Stichel (Antwerp Sculling Club, Belgium), Dr. P. Meyer (Aviron Romand, Zurich, Switzerland), G. Schuit (Saarbrücken Rudergesellschaft Udina, Saarbrücken), C. T. Neumeier (Willem III Club, Holland), R. Van Mesdag (Hilversumse Roeivereniging Cornelis Tromp, Holland), H. Steenacker (Royal Sport Nautique, Ostend, Belgium).

OVERSEAS ENTRIES FOR HENLEY

Foreign entries for Henley Royal Regatta on July 1-4 total 20, three more than last year.

R. George and J. van Stichel (Belgium) will defend their title in the Double Sculls and both have entered for the Diamonds. At Liège last Sunday George defeated Tony Fox, the leading British sculler, in good style. Overseas entries are:

Grand Challenge Cup: Union Sports Metropolitaine (France). **Thames Cup:** Kent School (U.S.), Princeton University (U.S.), Russelsheim Ruder Verein (Germany), University College (Dublin). **Stewards Cup:** Willem 3rd Club (Holland). **Wyfold Cup:** Neptune R.C. (Dublin). **Silver Goblets:** M. Knuyssen & R. Baetens (Belgium), H. Kessel & K. Hahn (Germany), B. Tittman & W. Carrick (U.S.). **Double Sculls:** R. George & J. van Stichel (Belgium), P. Stebler & E. Schriever (Switz), an entry from the Ryl Het Spaarne (Holland). **Diamond Sculls:** George van Stichel, Dr. P. Meyer (Switz.), G. Schuit (Germany), C. T. Neumeier (Holland), R. van Mesdag (Holland), H. Steenacker (Belgium).

D. Tel.
4/6/53.

THAMES CUP RECORD IS A BLOT ON HENLEY Coaches combine to help St. Thomas's

Evening Standard Rowing Reporter HYLTON CLEAVER

The two rowing coaches who were in opposition during the final stages of the University Boat Race practice this year are to combine in an effort to keep Henley's Thames Cup in this country next month. This trophy has gone to the United States 10 times in the last 11 regattas.

The coaches—R. H. Symonds, of Cambridge, and H. R. A. Edwards, of Oxford—are going to work on the St. Thomas's Hospital eight, stroked by David Jennens, which is now in hard training at Molesey.

They race for the first time at Marlow Regatta on June 20, in the Grand Class.

At Henley they will go for the Thames Cup. These are the only two regattas in which they will compete.

Two from U.S.A.

And the point about the Thames Cup is this:

The Diamond Sculls at Henley have been won by Englishmen twice since the second world war, and by British Empire men four times.

The Grand Challenge Cup for eights, and the Stewards Cup for fours have been taken out of this country only once since 1939.

But the Thames Cup is a blot on the record, with 10 defeats in 11 years.

Next month we are expecting battle from two crews from U.S.A. (Kent School and Princeton University), one from Germany

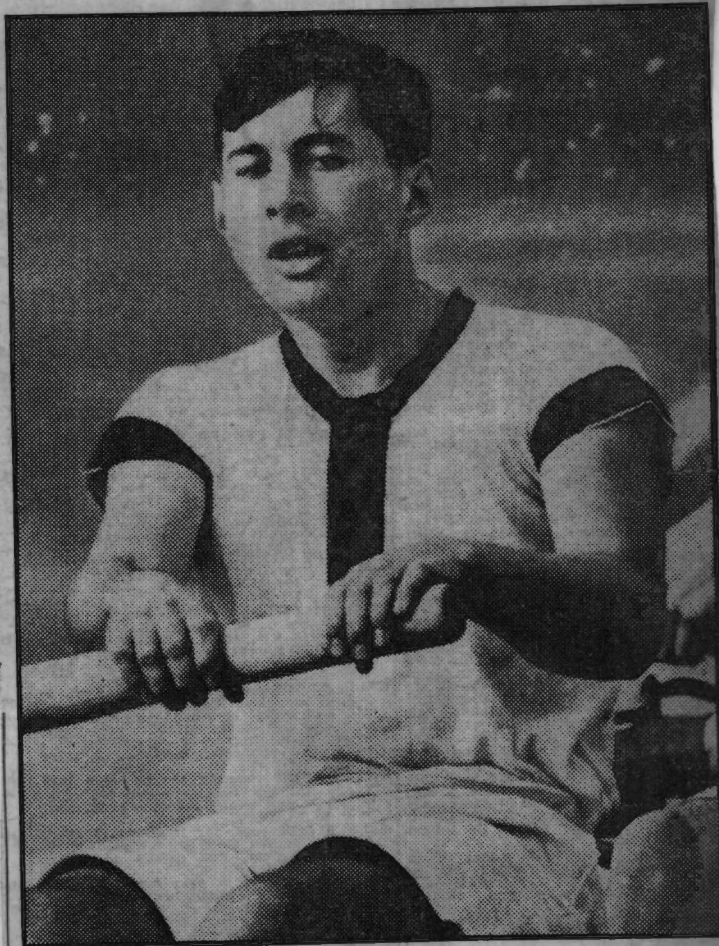
(Russelheim), and one from Eire (University College, Dublin).

Now there are three eight-oared events at Henley. In the Grand Challenge Cup, the only foreign entry of 1953 will come from Paris. In the Ladies' Plate the only entry from abroad comes from Trinity College, Dublin.

Behind David Jennens in the St. Thomas Hospital eight will be an Oxford stroke of 1950, A. J. M. Cavenagh, and two oarsmen who were in Olympic Trials, Hadfield and Vinnicombe.

David Jennens has said to me: "Big names do not make the boat move fast. Please do not over-write us."

I won't. But I shall go on hoping.



A. J. M. Cavenagh, Oxford stroke of 1950, who will be behind Jennens.

15/6/53.