

49/69BOY SWIMMER BEATS CHANNEL

A busy week in the Channel. First to attempt the 21-mile crossing from Cap Gris Nez, France to Dover, is 32-year-old Jose Cortinas, all the way from Cuba for a dip. Forced to give up on an earlier bid this year, Jose aims to break the season's chain of bad luck for swimmers. But it's no go, and Jose was beaten 5 miles from the White Cliffs.

Next day was Britain's turn, with Dover anxiously scanning the horizon for a sight of 18-year-old Philip Mickman, Yorkshire schoolboy. His easy tireless stroke keeps him going to the last second of his 23 hours 18 minutes crossing. Missing the tides that would have halved his time, and carried miles off his course, his courage and endurance amaze us all. At his second try this year, Philip comes across.

The 29th successful crossing without ticket makes Philip the 2nd youngest swimmer to beat the Channel. For the moment, Denis Compton takes 2nd place with the kids, up early to meet him.

A big Egyptian coach congratulates hungry Philip. There's nothing like a swim before breakfast.