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"TOUR DE BRITAIN"

It's the last check in Hyde Park as racing cyclists prepare for the first Tour of Britain race ever held. French cracks are among the 55 riders who will race for 14 days, covering 1,400 miles in all. The starter's ready ... and here they go, on the first stage to Brighton, with half of London's young cyclists on their heels. Because of traffic, no passing is allowed this side of Farnborough - that's where the fun'll start. Organized by the "Daily Express," this English version of the famous Tour de France is run strictly in accordance with traffic rules. Over Vauxhall Bridge and it's Goodbye, London. Through Boreley and they'll soon be out into the country.

At Farnborough it's Georges Blum of France who jumps into the lead and sets a cracking pace as the 55 start racing in earnest. Now tactics come into play as teams work to help their best man win. There's a prize for the winner of each day's stage, and a bkg prize for the man with the best time at the end of the race.

Refreshments on the run! It's hot work that fairly takes it out of you. Steel shares his haul with a rival who dropped his bag.

As they reach Brighton it's Gabriel Audemard in the lead to win a fine race.

Next day, wearing the coveted yellow jersey which marks the man with the best aggregate time to date, Audemard leads the field on the 93 miles stage through Arundel to Bournemouth.

Ted Hawkins runs into trouble but he can draw a spare.

Now it's Portsdown Hill, with Portsmouth in the distance. All along the route the police are making things easy both for the cyclists and the ordinary traffic. It looks as though all Britain is taking this novel race to heart. Through Swaythling leading for the New Forest.

Through the New Forest it's a terrific battle between Pierre of France and Bedwell of England and as they reach Bournemouth it's Dave Bedwell who wins the day's stage from Pierre. Dave looks our best bet in the first Tour of Britain.