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PACIFIC PEDALLER



HERO: Jason arrives at Port Douglas yesterday

BRITISH adventurer Jason Lewis completed the first Pacific crossing by pedal power yesterday — and celebrated with a beer.

The 32-year-old bachelor survived gales, 20ft waves and shark-infested waters to reach the Queensland coast in his 26ft wooden boat Moksha at the end of a 6,600-mile voyage.

Jason said: "We'd a great reception on the run-in, with people on every boat that passed shouting, waving, honking horns and lobbing beers.

"It's great to be off the boat, but the achievement is just sinking in — using human power only to cross the biggest ocean in the world."

Jason, from Bridport, Dorset, set off from London six years ago on his 35,000-mile round-the-world journey.

It took 111 days to make the 4,500-mile Atlantic crossing. Then he

By **CHRIS COURT**

became first to cross the United States on roller-blades before embarking on his Pacific adventure.

The first leg took him from San Francisco to Hawaii. From there he sailed to the Solomon Islands before setting out on the final lap to Port Douglas in Queensland.

Jason now plans to cycle and roller-blade across Australia before heading home through Asia.

He has had three different partners at various stages of his voyage. The last, American teacher April Abril, 42, pedalled with him to Queensland on her first sea voyage.

She said: "It was a test of perseverance. I lost quite a bit of weight, but never lost the desire to pedal."