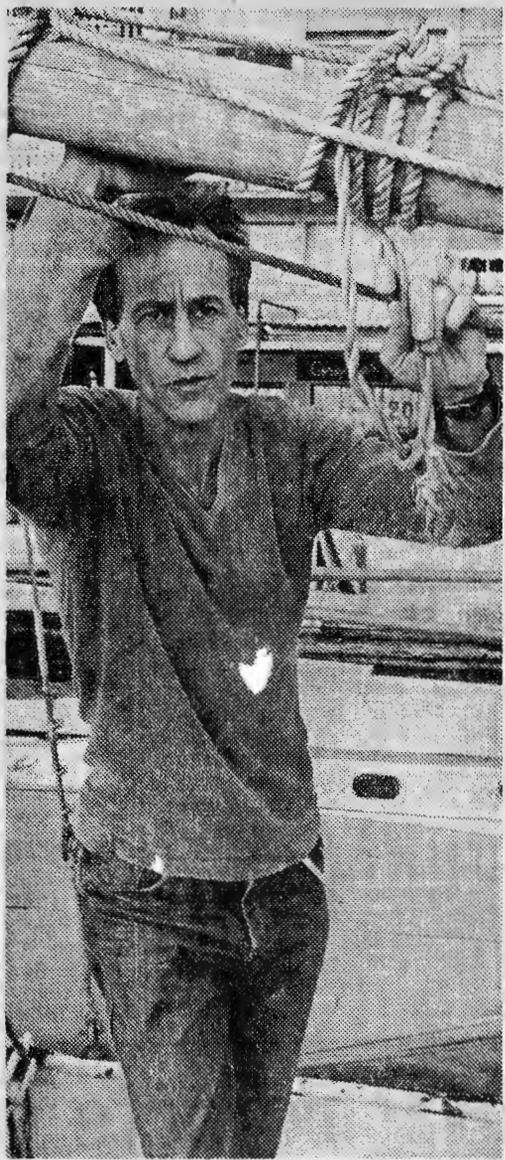


... and the latest names in the go-it-alone list



Stanley Devon

Robin Knox-Johnston: cheerfully confident



Two great sailors join race round the world

*London
Sunday Times
7-4-68*

TWO STRONG contenders today enter the Sunday Times single-handed Round the World yacht race. They are Robin Knox-Johnston, in his Bermudan ketch *Suhali*, and Bernard Moitessier, of France, in the all-steel ketch, *Joshua*.

Commander Bill Leslie King, with his revolutionary yacht *Galway Blazer II*, is a definite starter and others have said they would compete if sponsors could be found. The adventurers will be competing for two prizes:

THE SUNDAY TIMES GOLDEN GLOBE

Awarded to the first non-stop single-handed circumnavigator of the world. The yacht must start and finish at the same port in a northern latitude (north of 40 degrees N) and must round the three capes (Good Hope, Leeuwin and Horn).

THE SUNDAY TIMES ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE



Duncan, is cheerfully confident. "She isn't going to be the fastest entry," he said, "but she is going to get me round safely."

Bernard Moitessier, on the other hand, is by a wide margin the most experienced single-handed sailor to declare his intention of being the first man round the world, alone, without stopping. He is a wiry 43, and has spent virtually all his life at sea, most of it alone.

He was born in Saigon, of a French colonial family. At 22 he set off to sail single-handed to France, a venture which ended

Bernard Moitessier

of vitamins. The rest of his provisions will consist of tinned food.

On present plans, Moitessier will leave from Toulon about the beginning of August. His experience of the Horn has suggested that he should not attempt the passage too early—in his last passage round the Horn he was almost overturned by an early summer storm while still 1,000 miles from Cape Horn Island.

Moitessier is practically teetotal; he carried three cases of *vin rouge* untasted from Tahiti to Toulon. But he smokes continually at sea, and plans to take aboard enough *Gauloises* to last him for a year at sea. "I tried to give up smoking on my passage from Tahiti to France. I was sick all the time," he explains.

His equipment is simple, even spartan with no depth-gauge and no facilities for radio-navigation; he is doing most of the work on his yacht himself.



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THE SUNDAY TIMES ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE (Prize £5,000)

The prize will be awarded to the single-handed yachtsman who completes the fastest non-stop circumnavigation departing after June 1 and before October 31, 1968, from a port on the British mainland.

Lieutenant Robin Knox-Johnston, who is 29 and a Merchant Navy officer, may well be the least experienced single-hander in the race. When he leaves the Thames this summer to begin his circumnavigation, he also begins his first single-handed voyage. His boat, the 32-ft *Suhali*, was started in 1964 when he was based on Bombay.

It was well behind schedule and as a result he lost one crew member prepared to help him sail her home. But a month after she came off the stocks he gave a day-trip to his brother and a fellow merchantman, neither of whom knew the first thing about sailing, and they left for England the following morning. She turned out to be the kind that "just sailed herself" and they came through the non-stop run to London unscathed.

Suhali is now in Cowes being refitted. Lieut. Knox-Johnston, who is just completing four months RNR service in HMS



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He was born in Saigon, of a French colonial family. At 22 he set off to sail single-handed to France, a venture which ended when he was wrecked on a reef off the island of Mauritius. Undaunted, he built another yacht in Mauritius and sailed her to the West Indies, where he was wrecked on another reef.

Moitessier returned to France, married, bought a new yacht and with his wife sailed her to Tahiti. In the same yacht, called "Joshua" after the American captain Joshua Slocum, the first man to sail around the world alone, he and his wife sailed from Tahiti back to France by way of Cape Horn.

At the moment Moitessier is readying "Joshua" for the attempt in Toulon, with friendly help from the dockyard facilities of the French Navy. She is an all-steel ketch of classical design, built in France four years ago, displacing 12 tons fully fitted out for the circumnavigation. She is relatively slow in the water, but against this has tremendous strength. Moitessier may not win, but he is an odds-on chance to finish the course with his yacht and gear intact.

He plans to carry a ton of drinking-water—with such a heavy boat he has no problem about the weight of his stores—and he will grow soya-beans below decks to ensure a supply

Bernard Moitessier

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Especially