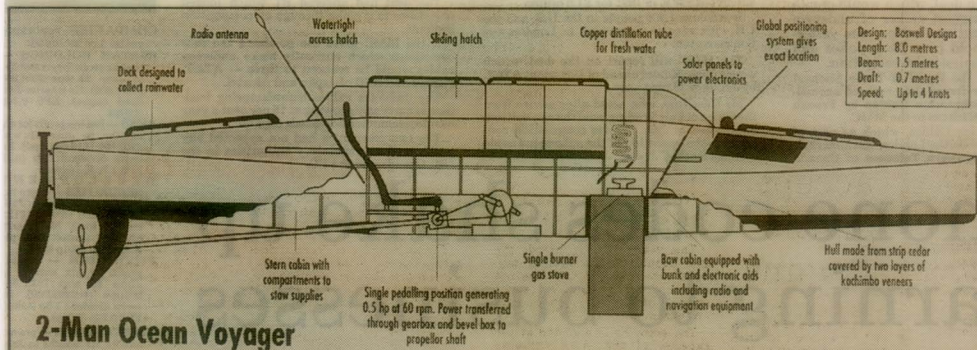


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Pedal power rules



Plans for the Ocean Voyager which is being built for Jason and Steve's epic journey

2-Man Ocean Voyager

By Edward Oldfield

ADVENTURER Jason Lewis, who is planning to pedal 25,000 miles around the world, spoke yesterday of the awe-inspiring challenge of his incredible journey.

Jason, aged 26, from Bridport, Dorset, will set out from London with Steve Smith, 27, of Wolverhampton, in April next year, to become the first people to travel around the globe under their own power.

They will use specially adapted mountain bikes and cross the oceans in a pedal-powered boat,

designed by Sidmouth boatbuilder Alan Boswell and built at Exeter Maritime Museum.

Jason, from Askerswell, near Bridport, went to Perrott Hill school at North Perrott, near Crewkerne, and Sherborne school, before studying geography at London University where he met Steve.

Jason, now a business-

man in London servicing hotels, said: "We did not decide simply that we wanted to be the first people ever to do this trip, although that does come into it."

"In some ways we are reacting against the idea that after school and university you have to put on a suit, get a job and settle down."

"We both love the lifestyle of travelling

and that is the way we want to live for the next two-and-a-half years."

"Everyone has dreams of what they would like to do, but very few people actually realise them."

"But if you set out with an aim of doing something, it is possible."

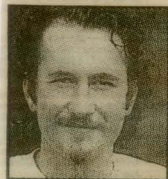
The pair are now seeking sponsors for the £70,000, 27-month Pedal for the Planet challenge, which will raise money

for the London-based Council for Education in World Citizenship.

The Duke of Gloucester is the expedition's patron, and polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes has given his support.

The 26ft wooden boat, which is self-righting, is having the pedal power unit to drive the propeller fitted this week, to be followed by speed trials off the Suffolk coast.

During the journey the pair and their back-up team of Hugo Burnham aged 25, who lives at Powerstock, near Bridport, and Megar Lander, 24, from London will visit 40 schools in 11 countries.



Jason Lewis