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Man returns from round-the-world pedal boat trip after 13 years

Returning after a long trip can often seem a little strange. Especially after 4,833 days and 46,505 miles rounding the globe under your own muscle power.

So explorer Jason Lewis was entitled to wonder at the Dome as he guided his pedal boat past the London landmark to finish the last stage of his remarkable record-breaking journey.

When he set off on July 12, 1994, there was no Dome, just one tower at Canary Wharf and many other riverside developments were not even a gleam in the eye of a developer.

Jason, 40, was in tears as he crossed the Meridian Line at Greenwich, at 12.43pm precisely - cheered by his family and hundreds of well-wishers.

He becomes the only person to circumnavigate the globe without motors or sails, a journey he started from the same spot as a 26-year-old.

Amid the celebrations at Greenwich, he said: 'It feels fantastic. I came over the line and I was choked. I blubbed like a baby. 'Everything I have been doing for the past 13 years has been in some way connected with this trip. And tomorrow there will be no more.' The Army officer's son from Askers-well, Dorset, crossed five continents and two oceans using his pedal boat, kayaks, inline skates and bicycles.

He was confronted by robbers, arrested by Egyptian authorities who thought he was a spy, he was forced to flee pirates and he braved crocodiles - not to mention having both legs broken when he was hit by a car driven by an 82-year-old while inline skating across America.

Jason landed his 26ft pedal boat Moksha at a jetty at the Royal Naval College at 10.51am.

Then he and his team loaded it on to a trailer and pushed the hand-built wooden craft through Greenwich Park to cross the Meridian. His final leg at sea was a three-day trip across the English Channel, where French authorities threatened to arrest him for breaching their maritime regulations which ban pleasure craft venturing more than 350 metres out into territorial waters.

Eventually locals in Calais helped push him out beyond the surf from an isolated beach to avoid detection. Jason said of the incredible adventure: 'There have been many high moments. It's always good to reach the other side of an ocean. 'To be honest, if it was just about the physical challenge I would have got bored. The "why" question changed over the years. I started circumnavigating the world but it became more about using the expedition as an educational tool.' The adventurer now plans to organise mini-expeditions for young people and give talks about climate change. He went on: 'I met tremendous people in every culture. Under the veneer of official abuse there are good people everywhere living their lives.' Jason fulfilled the rules of a true circumnavigation by starting and finishing at the same point, reaching two places diametrically opposite each other on the globe, crossing the equator and crossing all longitudes. His GPS equipment logged the total distance of 46,505 miles - more than the direct routes of each leg.

He began the trip with university friend Steve Smith, who later pulled out. The pair set the world record for the first east-west crossing of the Atlantic by a pedal-powered boat.

