

# Highs and lows as P1 season closes



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**SHELLEY Jory** is one of the UK's leading powerboat racers and the top female in her sport. Last year she became the face of Honda Powerboat Racing. Each month Shelley gives *All At Sea* readers an insight into her amazing life.

**THE P1 season is over - and #77 Lucas Oil** graced the podium three times and finished overall in sixth place in the championship.

I am pretty happy with that, especially given the engine gremlins, mechanical breakdowns and extremely rough weather which all made my first season in Powerboat P1 Evolution Class interesting.

There were highs and lows for many of the teams in the class of 2008, even for the second time championship winners.

The #99 *Fountain Worldwide* team continued with their world-beating Fountain-Ilmor package from 2007 for this year. Dominant results in the season-opener in San Benedetto del Tronto in Italy and in Marseille, France, suggested that pilots Craig Wilson and James Sheppard would cruise to a second title but technical problems in Valetta, Malta, and Hammamet in Tunisia narrowed their early lead at the top of the points table.

In Vigo, Spain, a problem in Sunday's Endurance race meant they couldn't afford any slip-ups

in the season-finale in Portimao, Portugal. In extremely rough conditions a third place in front of the #60 *GFN Gibellato* boat was just enough to guarantee the title before heavy rain and winds washed out the Endurance event on Sunday.

So, 2008 has not been as easy as 2007 for James and Criag but the fact that they have had to work even harder against even tougher competition makes the duo's back-to-back titles even more impressive.

Second place in the standings was an impressive achievement for the Italian-based #60 *GFN Gibellato* team. The diesel Seatek-engined, heavyweight Metamarine hull that formed the basis of Marco Pennesi and Giampaolo Montavoci's assault may not have been the first choice for man. Powerboat P1 has continued to move to tighter, twistier courses but the powerful boat often outran its smaller competition in the rougher-than-usual Mediterranean waters, especially as it gets lighter towards the end of races.

Only problems getting up

to speed off the line and a few technical gremlins prevented them from featuring more often on the winners' podium. You can imagine they will be a team to watch again in 2009.

Second for much of the year but ending third overall was the Italian-based #88 *Kiton Outerlimits* OSG Racing outfit of Giancarlo Cangiano. The Powerboat P1 veteran gave his team a new look this year, with a change from the twin canopy Donzi hull to the Outerlimits hull, allied to Mercury Racing engines.

In the particularly rough seas of Malta and Portimao, the long Outerlimits hull was unbeatable and a pleasure to watch battling through the big seas.

But, although Mercury has stepped up its campaign to try and get back ahead of vaunted newcomer Ilmor, the inevitable problems of matching a new engine and hull provided early-season technical gremlins for Cangiano that ultimately hampered the team's title bid at the final hurdle.

You can be sure they will be focused on solving these for

2009 as they bid to get back to their 2006 title-winning ways.

Finally I need to say a big thank you to my team owner and throttleman, Nigel Hook for putting his faith in me as a rookie female driver. I have certainly learnt a vast amount this season as I made the huge jump from my Honda 225 race boat to the powerful 38-foot mercury-powered Skater with 1400 hp.

I'm now looking forward to the 2009 season and the drive to achieve my ambition of a first world title.

#### Final P1 World Championship standings, class Evolution:

- 1 #99 *Fountain Worldwide* 1st4boats.com (780 points);
- 2 #60 *GFN Gibellato* (630 points);
- 3 #88 *Kiton Outerlimits* (580 points);
- 4 #53 *Pignolo 53* (480 points);
- 5 #10 *Fantastic 1* (440 points);
- 6 #77 *Lucas Oil* (270 points);
- 7 #66 *Cranefields Wine* (270 points);
- 8 #57 *Centaurian Yachts* (260 points);
- 9 #69 *Honeyparty.com* (220 points);
- 10 #76 *Italcraft* (110 points).

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Choppy seas at the Portugal Final. Inset: winning team, 1 #99 *Fountain Worldwide*