

# Searching for sponsors after an amazing year



The They Think it's all over team. L-r: Matt Le Tissier, Paul Jones, Andrew Surman, Steve Power (quiz master), Shelley Jory, Dimi Mascaramhas and Luther Blissett Solent Studios



Shelley's profile photo for the National Year of Reading



**Shelley Jory**  
British Powerboat Champion  
[www.shelleyjory.com](http://www.shelleyjory.com)

2008 was a very exciting year for me.

I had planned to take a year off after 12 years of constant racing but thank goodness I did not.

When I was offered the driver's seat in an Evolution boat with the American 'Team Lucas Oil' headed up by throttleman Nigel hook, I jumped at the idea, especially when I realised I was going to be the first lady to race at this level.

We had an eventful year, to say the least and I learned a lot, very fast. We finished in sixth place in the World Championship, which was not too bad, especially given the engine gremlins, mechanical breakdowns and extremely rough weather which all made my first season in Powerboat P1 an

interesting one.

As well as racing all over the world, I held down my proper job of selling wedding dresses which was hard work in the present climate but the great team effort at work has been fun, productive and rewarding.

I have also enjoyed some great charity work. One of my favourites was being on the panel of *They Think it's all over* for the Hampshire Autistic Society, not that I know a great deal about the sporting world.

I surprised myself in the charades when acting out the sport for my team of legendary footballers – Paul Jones, Matt Le Tissier, Andrew Surman and Luther Blissett. Steve Power from Wave 105 Radio was

the quiz master.

I also found a lot of pleasure being involved in the National Year of Reading, a year-long celebration of reading, in all its forms.

It aims to increase awareness of the many values of reading – anything, anytime, any place – for children, families and adult learners alike.

I had to choose a recent book that I had read that inspired me. Lewis Hamilton's *My Story* was the one for me.

I was reading it on the plane as I went to my first race in Powerboat P1 and it encouraged me to stop doubting myself as I took on a massive leap in my racing career.

A visit to a primary school to

help them with their reading was a highlight too as I explained to them how important it was that I could read my GPS quickly and efficiently whilst racing at 120mph.

The children also took great pleasure in dressing up in my race overalls and crash helmet.

It has been an amazing year and I cannot wait for the racing season to start again. Unfortunately there is the small matter of sponsorship which is proving to be a challenge this year.

I have often said it is harder to raise the money to race than actually race. So all my efforts are now focused on raising the money so that I can return to P1 and fight for my world title.

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