

POWERBOAT P1 SEASON FINALE IN PORTUGAL

By Dina Paoella

As the OSS National Championships heated-up Lake of the Ozarks from September 26-28th, across the pond in Portugal another high-octane fest was underway as the Southern coastal town of Portimao laid out the welcome mat, playing host to the Powerboat P1 season finale for the second consecutive year. The last battle of the seven-part series spanning across precious coastal towns in Malta, Spain and Tunisia, was the one not to miss and consequently determined the 2008 Powerboat P1 Champions.

During this momentous racing season more than a few of the 19 European-based teams dueling it out in the SuperSport and Evolution classes stepped into U.S. manufactured hulls including Fountain, Hustler, Outerlimits and Skater. Cigarette, already a well-branded performance boat throughout Europe also entered the Powerboat P1 circuit as former racecar driver Luca Formilli Fendi controlled the wheel and Lino di Biase worked the throttles in The Fantastic 1. U.S. engine manufacturers Mercury, Chief and Ilmor were chosen to power several of the mono-hull boats. The horsepower to weight ratio formula used in Powerboat P1 is also greatly praised since it allows for fair play amongst teams and provides both boat manufac-



Aaron Ciantar and Angelo Tedeschi seize the SuperSport class checkered flag!

turers and engine firms the opportunity to showcase their full potential.

This 2008 race year also marked the arrival of the first woman pilot in the Evolution class when former Honda 4-Stroke champion Shelley Jory teamed-up with veteran racer Nigel Hook in Lucas Oil. The new partners moved wakes and water out of their way in the V399 Skater Hook raced when he seized the Super Vee victory during the Key West World Championship two-years back. However, currently powering the Skater are 9.1-litre



Gibellato grabs the Evolution class second place triumph.

supercharged petrol V8s designed purposely for the Evolution class.

SUPERSPORT CLASS

Superstars of the SuperSport class ruling the waters throughout the 2008 race calendar from the initial race in San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy were throttleman Angelo Tedeschi and pilot Aaron Ciantar in the 41-foot Mercury equipped Chaudron Conam Yachts. The Italian and Maltese duo completed the 13-lap race in just 47 minutes and 25 seconds outrunning Baia High Performance and VoomVoom.com both clocking in just seconds behind Conam Yachts. Tedeschi said, "It was a very bad start for us, because the flag didn't seem to go up properly. We were in fifth at the end of the first lap, but we really pushed ourselves to the limit and to get back up the field as quickly as possible. Once in the lead, we could control the pace. Though in the fifth lap, the tabs stopped working and with the rough sea conditions, we had some problems keeping the right equilibrium and balance of the boat."

Tedeschi went on to discuss his experience running with Ciantar this season, "He is an excellent driver and always knows how to get from one buoy to another by the shortest way. We enjoy working together and every race we are improving and increasing our trust in one another." Securing the 100 first place points in Portimao also paved the path for Tedeschi and Ciantar's pinnacle position on the podium as they were crowned 2008 Champions after having accumulat-

Tedeschi and Ciantar running hard in Portimao.



ed 1150 overall points.

The Mercury-powered twin-canopy Donzi Baia High Performance under the control of Stefano Acanfora behind the helm, Renato Guidi on the sticks and Roy Capasso navigating the waters clocked in at 47 minutes 37 seconds earning the Italian team second place behind Conam Yachts and an overall third place finish for the season. Shadowing Baia High Performance was the twin 440hp Yanmar-diesel powered Hustler VoomVoom.com with Vahid Ganjavian in the throttle seat and Gareth William in the pilot's seat. The British mates rounded out the stage in third place during the Portimao challenge and clinched the overall second place triumph coming in behind Conam Yachts with 670 points.

EVOLUTION CLASS

After capturing the first two victories of the 2008 season in Italy and France, driver James Sheppard and throttleman Craig Wilson were pushed hard to defend their points to the very end, after technical gremlins plagued them in both Malta and Tunisia. A third place finish at 56 minutes and 35 seconds still earned them enough inclusive points regardless of their mid-season struggle as the light blue and yellow Ilmor V-10-powered Fountain Worldwide 1st4boats.com arrived again at the top-spot on the podium with 780 points overall. Not an unfamiliar scenario for the Brits, this duo repeated their first place return to the podium after capturing the 2007 Championship their rookie season.

Marco Pennesi and Giampaolo Montavoci in the Metamarine diesel Seatek packaged GFN Gibellato put the pressure on as the Italians pushed the throttles forward trying to catch up to the



OSG Racing's Giancarlo Cangiano and Giovanni Carpitella in their Kiton Outerlimits.



British duo Craig Wilson and James Sheppard coming at you in the 1st4boats.com Fountain.



Belgium Team Centaurian Yachts making their "getaway".

Fountain. In the end, GFN captured overall second place bragging rights, rounding out the year with 630 points and placed fourth in Portugal. Giancarlo Cangiano's Kiton Outerlimits outfit was proclaimed the victor with a golden finish in Portimao hammering through 14-laps of choppy seas in 54 minutes and 14 seconds, trailed by the Cigarette Fantastic 1 just two minutes later.

THE NEW "FACE"

September not only rounded out the 2008 racing season but also marked Powerboat P1's arrival on board www.Facebook.com, the cyberspace

craze currently surpassing www.MySpace.com in popularity with internet surfers. With the new Facebook page, Powerboat P1 will be able to increase its social status and visibility allowing fans both old and new to keep in touch. Not to mention this is a great tool for racing teams to communicate with one another as well as an instrumental tool for teams to forge new friendships and increase their fan-base. Become a member by logging on to the official Powerboat P1 World Championship Facebook page at the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Powerboat-P1-World-Championship/31818912544>.



Rookie-team Honey Party taking the 399 Skater on-plane.



Nigel Hook and Shelley Jory in the mono-hull Skater.



Italian's Massimiliano Ferrari and Francesco Redaelli wowing the crowd along the sea-wall!