

# Glittering affair to celebrate the season's success



**Shelley Jory**

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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.**

BOURNEMOUTH was bustling with activity as the UK's powerboat racers descended on its beaches.

Due to host the kick off event to the 2009 offshore season, the wintry conditions caused the organisers to cancel the annual Brass Monkey race on safety grounds. Icy roads and freezing temperatures provided hazardous conditions both on and off the water.

Whilst disappointment lingered with those eager to get their season off to a start, elsewhere in Bournemouth spirits were high as the 2008 UK powerboat racing champions gathered for a gala

dinner and awards ceremony to celebrate their National and International achievements at the Royal Bath Hotel.

The evening was set to be full of glitz and glamour as the racers swapped their race overalls for tuxedos and ball gowns for the gala evening.

The event was hosted by John Puddifoot, RYA Powerboat Racing Manager and me, as we demonstrated our double act once more.

On stage to help present the champions was our VIP guest, UIM President Dr Raffaele Chiulli who had joined us from Monaco to celebrate. This was a

first as we had never had a UIM president present at the awards ceremony before.

Among the familiar faces receiving awards was my good friend and fierce racing rival James Sheppard collecting two world titles from the 2008 season, Circuit racing legend Colin Jelf claimed the World F2 Title for the third consecutive year making UIM history as the only person to ever achieve this.

The Tony Needell Award, special award for services to the sport, went to Offshore official Annie Beakhust, who received a well deserved standing ovation for her years of dedication and



Dr Raffaele Chiulli presents the Tony Needell Award-Offshore to Annie Beakhust.

Paul Lines

hard work within the sport.

Annie has been a true icon for me in the sport and is always there with words of advice and wisdom when the going gets tough.

She was chuffed to receive the award and had this to say: "You are only as good as the team you work with and I have been privileged to work with the very best!"

Annie's husband Rob was also commended for his services

to the sport and awarded the Brand Crombie Family Perpetual Trophy.

Annie and Rob have dedicated 30 years to the powerboat racing fraternity and hopefully will do another 30 more.

The evening was a glittering success and dancing and festivities continued into the small hours before the racers turned attention to the season ahead.

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