

The title I had waited for so long



Shelley Jory

British Powerboat Champion
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LAST month saw Shelley Jory, British Powerboat Racing Champion and the world's top female racer, become Mrs Jory-Leigh when she married marine engineer, Trevor. The marriage took place at Wimborne Minster. Shelley Jory Leigh reports on her big non-race day.

As a powerboat racer heading to the start line before the race so many thoughts and emotions go through your head.

There are butterflies in your stomach and your blood is pumping with adrenaline. But that's nothing compared to how I felt as I prepared for the biggest day of my life on Thursday 19 November – and this time there was not a powerboat in sight!

As I pulled up to Wimborne Minster I had one very trustworthy navigator at my side. My father, John Jory, was waiting to guide me up the aisle. On board with me were my bridesmaids Darrell Elmes, Louisa Edmonds,

Sarah Curtis and of course champion navigator Libby Keir. It felt only right having Libby at my side after years of racing together through the tough and good times whilst in Honda,

Libby was there when I met Trevor and now she is still by my side on one of the biggest days of my life keeping me calm and focused on the main goal just like when we are in the boat.

Dressed in a Justin Alexander dress made of 45 yards of Dupion Silk and 3,000 Swarovski Crystals I was a far cry from the P1 World Championship in my race overalls.

But I already felt like I had won a world title as I made my way down the aisle and I was greeted by the familiar faces of people I'm more at home with on the water and on a race day.

Sitting in the pews were powerboat world champions Steve Curtis, Neil Holmes and Peter Phillipson, as well as adversaries on the race course Mark Pascoe from Honey Party and Gareth Williams from Voom Voom. com accompanied by his new wife Thundercat racer Naomi. I smiled as I passed Jax Missen, Karen Waterfall and Pete Currington friends from my days in a Honda boat.

Further down I saw my personal trainer James Seilo from Catalyst PT and Tracey Clarke from Word Clarke Ltd who have been a fantastic

support to me and of course the girls I work with everyday in Brides of Southampton and all my family and friends.

But there at my finish line was the one person I can't wait to see when I come off the water, who always supports me whether the result is a good one or whether it was rough and hard going. He is the one person who will tell me honestly if I make a mistake – Trevor Leigh my husband-to-be!

There were so many special moments during the service but BBC's H2O programme presenter Tracey Clarke moved me to tears with a poignant "nautical" reading that she had written.

We exchanged vows headed off to celebrate at the Chewton Glen in the New Forest. Guests sat on tables named after boat manufacturers - Steve Curtis and Pete Currington on the Cougar table and I, of course, was on Princess.

My husband and I sped off into the sunset to board the QM2 for our honeymoon cruising the Caribbean before the race season starts again.

Just like that big race you have anxiously waited for so long, it was all over far too soon but I emerged the winner as I had secured the title.

I am now Mrs Shelley Jory Leigh!



Shelley Jory Leigh & Trevor Leigh

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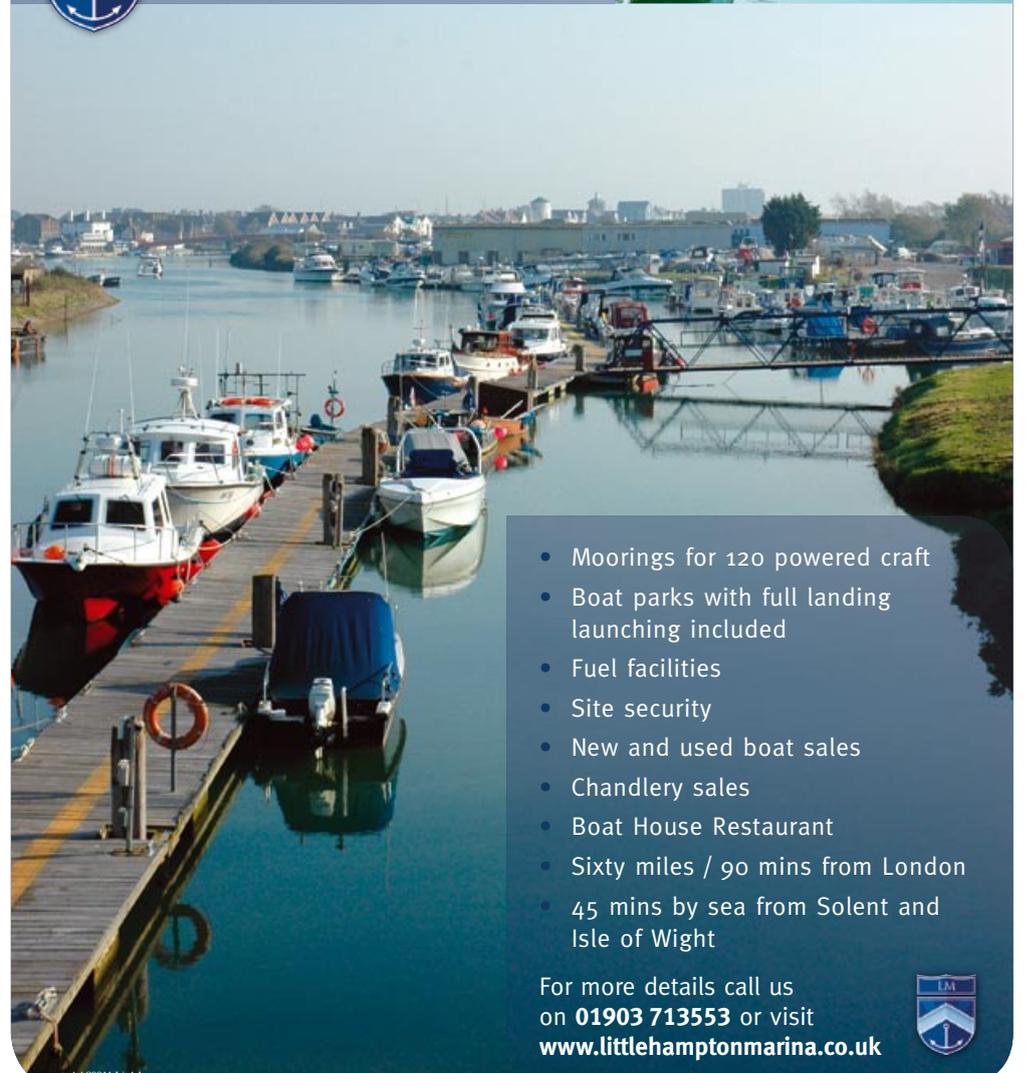
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