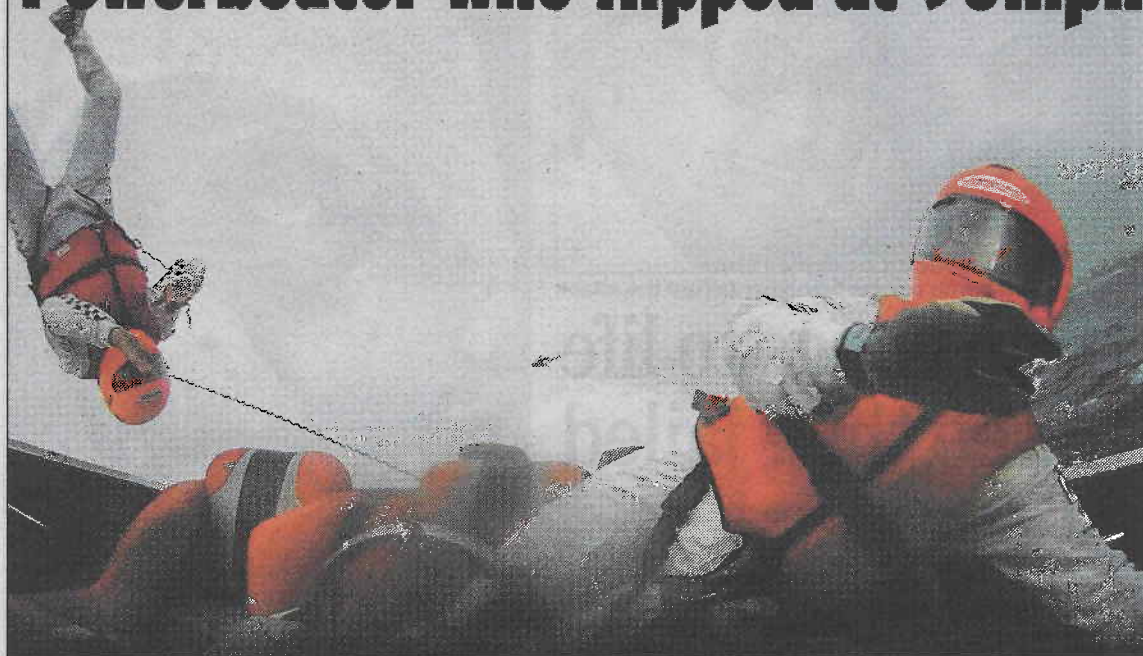




Powerboater who flipped at 90mph



Shelley's co-driver is flung overboard into the sea. Below, Shelley and Patrick before the accident

BRITISH powerboat champion Shelley Jory-Leigh's co-driver flies into the air at 90 miles an hour.

The dramatic crash came when 40-year-old Shelley's boat hit a freak wave and nearly upended, catapulting her colleague Patrick Huybreghts nearly 100ft into the sea.

Shelley was thrown around the boat "like a rag doll" while her Belgian partner went overboard during the race at the weekend near Valletta in Malta.

Southampton-based

Shelley radioed for help, fearing 53-year-old Patrick, who was unconscious, would be mowed down by other racers.

But remarkably both escaped serious injury.

Shelley, the only woman pilot in the World Championship, said: "We are so very lucky we are still both in one piece."

"We were absolutely gunning it at the time."

"When I saw the video of what had happened I was surprised I was walking and talking."



Picture: TOMMY VUXXI/STEKE/SOLENT