

Weather rules Cowes classic



Shelley Jory-Leigh

British Powerboat Champion
www.shelleyjory.com

A TOP fleet of Powerboat racers competed throughout the weekend of the 2010 British Powerboat Festival at Cowes in a variety of races.

The 2010 winner of the trophy had to compete in the UIM BPRC Marathon World Cup - the Cowes 100 mile race and the Cowes-Torquay-Cowes 170 mile course with the fastest average speeds.

The Trophy was commissioned by Sir Alfred Harmsworth and first presented in 1903.

The Cowes-Torquay-Cowes classic is known as one of the oldest and most demanding endurance challenges in the world and saw the Solent awash with powerboats as more than 30 teams lined up for the historic race.

The line up included past winners in Red FPT(2008), Uno Embassy (1975), Dry Martini (1979) and three times winner Cinzano (1984, 1985 and 2009) battling to secure the coveted title once again.

The Red FPT of Fabio Buzzi secured victory completing a dominant double triumph at the British Powerboat Festival and with it the coveted Harmsworth Trophy.

Powered by the 2,400 horsepower



Photo: Luc Vermeiren / powerboatracing.be

of four Fiat Powered engines, Buzzi – alongside fellow Italian Emili o Riganti and Englishman Simon Powell – fought off the early challenges from Team Asia, Hot Lemon and Kerakoll, to take a fourth Cowes-Torquay-Cowes title in the worst weather in history.

Italian, Mario Invernizzi, and Englishman, Peter Dredge, in Kerakoll crossed the line second.

Third place went to local competitors, Vee Ganjavian and Gareth Williams of Southampton, in Fury, a 39-foot Phantom, displaying an example of seamanship and bravery over weight and power as they took the most direct route home in dangerously mixed conditions.

Last year's race winner, Cinzano with Markus Hendricks, Eric Smillie

and Simon Wood Power on board narrowly missed out on a podium position finishing fourth.

As last year Mother Nature was also a winner on the day with fewer than half of the 30 boats completing the race.

The Cowes-Poole-Cowes race winners were Brian Peedell and Dave Simpkins in C13 in the Class 3C Race. Class 3B was won by B92 Adrian Fousler and Stewart Dick and The Club Race was taken by Going Lean A42, piloted by Dean Gibbs with Jan Falkowski in the navigator's seat.

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Riding the crest of a wave

LAST month also saw British Powerboat Racers taking on the World to come out on top.

Mark Williams from Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club was crowned World Formula 4 Champion once again following the final round of the competition in Portugal at the end of July.

Mark who previously won the World Title in 2007 was joined on the Podium by Great Britain's Brian Block who secured the Bronze Medal in the competition.

Britain's Scott Curtis and Brian Shulver finished fifth and sixth overall respectively proving the nation's dominance in the sport.

Whilst the F4 drivers were showing their experience a group of British youngsters were also taking on the World in the Formula Future World Championship at Carr Mill in Lancashire.

Nine juniors from The Honda youth RIB Challenge and Circuit competed with more than 60 others from eight nations.

The competition is designed to introduce youngsters to the world of powerboat racing by challenging them in boat handling skills in a manoeuvring discipline and parallel slalom whilst competing against each

other and the clock.

This was the first time the UK had played host to this type of competition and fielded a relatively novice team compared to the experience of the other nations.

The British team were led by Honda Youth RIB Northern Ireland regional winner Rory Flannigan who will this month compete in the finals of the competition at the Southampton Boat Show.

While all of team GBR did their families and country proud one youngster was determined to secure the first medal position for the team.

Jordan Muckles of Wear Boating Association exceeded everyone's expectations not only securing a medal for team GBR but racking up a total of three World Championship titles and a Bronze medal in the continental championship.

The youngsters in our sport are the future and with the correct support and training they could top the tables.

Dress to impress

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