

Fresh start for a new year



Shelley Jory-Leigh

British Powerboat Champion
www.shelleyjory.com

I SPENT the first two weeks of 2011 at the London Boat Show where the majority of my time was spent in the new Knowledge Zone, where along with several others considered "experts" in their fields took to the stage to discuss our area of expertise.

The rejuvenated show seemed to prove popular with visitors and exhibitors alike. The new-look show attracted 109,778 visitors from all over the country and abroad and final attendance figures were up seven per cent.

I saw two promising young stars of the future of Powerboat Racing rewarded for their achievements in

2010. Jordan Muckles, 3x Formula Future World Champion and Anya Colley 7X World Jet Ski Champion and 2010 RYA British IJSBA Ski Stock Champion were there to receive their RYA Regional Young Sailors of the Year Awards.

Jordan and Anya were two of 13 young sailors from 12 of the RYA regions nominated by sailing clubs and selected as winners of the RYA Regional Young Sailors of the Year by the regions' committees.

Winners' achievements range from gold medal wins to outstanding dedication to their club. But one thing for sure, all of the winners have made a large impact on youth sailing.

Anya was one of three finalists in the 2010 YJA Pantaenius Young Sailor of the Year, beaten by Isobel Hamilton, an RYA Volvo RS:X

National Youth Squad Windsurfer.

I made a flying visit to the Autosport International Show in Birmingham where Powerboat P1 had decided to launch the new P1-28SS.

Robert Wicks, Powerboat P1's Chief Operating Officer told me the company had made a conscious decision to launch the boat at the Autosport Show instead of the boat show to target more racers.

The show really proved to the other motor sport fanatics just how affordable and fun our sport can be.

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RYA East Midlands
Young Sailor of the
Year, Anya Colley

Tragic loss

WHILE at the Autosport show the World of Powerboating received some tragic news.

Annie Beakhurst one of the long serving RYA Officials and supporters of the sport had died at her home in Poole after a long battle with cancer.

Annie was a much respected member of the Offshore racing

community. She worked tirelessly for the sport and was a true ambassador of Offshore powerboat racing.

She was an Offshore Officer of the Day, Safety Officer, Race Secretary and Commissioner, and I, like many other people in the sport, often went to Annie to ask her advice that she would always willingly give whether

you got the answer you wanted or not.

Annie will be sorely missed personally and professionally by all involved in the sport. My deepest sympathy goes out to Rob, her husband and all her family and friends.



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