

POWER

SHELLEY JORY-LEIGH

Business woman and British Power Boat Champion Shelley Jory, from Hampshire, is one of the UK's leading powerboat racers and the top female in the world. In her spare time she runs a bridal business



New team on the new P1 Panther Superstock boat

Photo: Nikki Drummond

Back at the helm at last

WELL, I wasn't sure whether this day would actually happen and I had resigned myself to not racing this season.

I would probably have been a bit bored and lost not mixing it up at events with my fellow racers. I would certainly have missed the buzz and adrenaline rush racers get from waiting on the start line through to the chequered flag.

If someone had said to me at the end of last year or even a couple of months ago that I would be back in a race boat looking for another British title when the season begins, I wouldn't have believed them!

But as always in powerboat racing things change and here I am facing my first race of a championship with a new team, new boat, but somewhat familiar race series in the new P1 Superstock 250 Championships.

This race series is like the very successful Honda 4 Stroke series – one design, affordable racing and hellishly competitive!

I'm glad to say I've got that buzz again, the pre-season build up feeling, the wanting to be back behind the wheel waiting for the green flag to drop and it feels good.

June 11 and 12 will see me competing in the first round of the 2011 RYA National P1 Stock Championship in Jersey.

Joining me on this new adventure is my husband Trevor as the team's chief engineer and my navigator Dan Smith. He used to help me test in my Honda days when Libby wasn't available.

When I look at him I see a young man who as a boy was knee high to a grass hopper but always eager to please and just happy to be around boats.

As we came back from testing he would ask if he could clean my boat for me. A family friend, he was soon helping during testing. From this I've seen him grow into a powerboat racer and apprentice marine engineer and former Zapcat Team Champion.

We have a new clothing sponsor in the form of SLAM, Sunglasses for Sport.com, my good friends at Andark Diving and Watersports and Gill and Gareth at Drivers Dry Berthing where sometimes I feel I live. I just need to get a bed moved in there!

P1 Team Number 5 will be there on the start line. I just hope I can do everyone proud.