

# 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



## Breaking a promise to return to racing

ELEVEN months to the day after that incident in Sardinia that put me out of racing and I found myself going back on my promise to my mum that I would never race again.

On June 11 and 12 at the Powerboat P1 SuperStock Jersey Peter's & May Grand Prix I was back in a boat with my helmet on and waiting for the green flag to drop.

It was probably the most difficult event of my racing career to date. Not because of the conditions or the hard racing but for me personally and mentally, as an individual.

So here I am, another new boat, new team sponsors – Helvetia Wealth and a new navigator Dan Smith but I still I'm still not sure I've got my full racing drive

back I think that may take a while yet.

Dan is around half my age and has been around boats all his life. He has been racing Zapcat's now for the past four years and I wouldn't have got through the Jersey Race without him. He was really supportive, as were all the team and other racers.

The biggest compliment I think I can pay Dan is that I never quite thought that I'd be able to replace the team work and faith that Libby Keir and I had from the year we won the British Honda Championship, but it was like having a male Libby beside me again.

We finished fifth overall in Jersey and

we're now looking forward to the next event at Plymouth on the July 16 and 17. Whether we will win or I will regain the rest of my racing spirit who knows? For now I'm just taking it one race at a time.

So whilst I was getting back in the saddle British competitors were making history at the World Championships in Stewartby, Bedford. There were three competitions run over June 18 and 19 and despite the tough racing conditions Team GBR managed five podium finishes.

The GT15 Class, which is a new Green Engine class for racers as young as ten,

saw Ben Jelf take the title two days after his 11th birthday and become one of our youngest world champions ever. Charlotte Newton also secured the bronze medal in this class in her first international competition.

The Norwegian's took gold and silver in the GT30 world championship but Britain's Ben Morse of Lancashire secured his first world bronze medal, adding to his numerous national titles and four European bronze medals. Brits Charlotte Gilbert and Malcolm Goodman finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Stewartby also played host to

the third round of the World F4 Championship. Going into the round Britain's Scott Curtis of Norwich held the lead following wins at the previous rounds in Hungary and France. He secured his hat trick of wins in the championship taking gold and now has a 20 point clear lead ahead of Portugal's Pedro Fortuna who took silver in the round and lies second in the championship overall table.

Bronze for went to promising young racer Matthew Palfreyman who as well as racing in the F4 British Championship is competing for F1 team, Team Atlantic in the F4-S series.

Congratulations to Ben, Charlotte, Ben, Scott and Matt and all of the rest of the British competitors.

