

POWER

SHELLEY JORY-LEIGH

Glad to be back in a boat and racing

THE Liverpool Grand Prix of the Sea last month saw the final of the 2011 RYA British P1 SuperStock Championships.

The championship's 14 teams headed to the new-look Mersey River Festival which returned for the first time since 2005.

As Saturday's race loomed my fellow racers and I faced a slight swell and 18 knots of wind creating challenging racing and the championship leaders Pertemps and I also faced engine problems.

Edox Racing crew of Rupert Pugh and Will Nurse took a flying start and Helvetia Wealth started the race in fifth but the gruelling conditions were soon to create casualties.

The Spirit of Liverpool team retired after four laps. Now sitting in fourth my navigator Dan Smith and I opted to play it safe and hold our position and go for a clean finish as the winds increased and

the swells bounced back off the walls of the Mersey – points make prizes!

Formidable opponents, Team Typhoo, Andy Wilby and Jonny Allbut were forced to withdraw on the ninth Lap as one of their engine mounts gave way and they lost steering narrowly missing a collision with Team 88's Simon Bayles and Phillipa Baker.

Continuing our steady course Dan and I were now third behind race leaders Edox Racing and Cowes Grand Prix winners Peters and May team Darren Hook and Dave Harwood.

But as Team Edox lapped Helvetia Wealth on the back section of the course the race leader Edox overturned and partially sunk right before our eyes.

Driver Rupert Pugh and Will Nurse were thrown clear and were quickly picked up by safety marshals but the

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



All the Powerboat P1 Superstock Panther teams

race was red flagged and brought to a premature end with 11 of the 15 scheduled laps completed.

Peters and May's, Hook and Harwood, took the honours with Helvetia Wealth - Dan and me -securing silver and Team 88's Bayles and Baker taking bronze.

All eyes turned to Sunday's race with just four points separating the top two teams in the championship.

On the Sunday morning the race organisers were forced to make the difficult decision to cancel the scheduled race with worsening weather predicted and safety issues for the competitors.

So following an exciting finale to the season the results were confirmed

Pertemps John Wilson and Neil Scarborough secured the inaugural P1 SuperStock Panther RYA British Championship and Saturday's Silver Medal promoted Helvetia Wealth to fourth place.

"It's been a fantastic season and to finish fourth in my first season is a great result," said Dan.

In The P1 SuperStock 150 Championship Team Purple, husband and wife team Stuart and Sara Cureton finished the season off on a high taking a win in the final race of the season to make it seven in nine races and to secure themselves the 2011 RYA British P1 SuperStock 150 Title.

Team Eclipse, Rose Lores and John Donnelly secured second in the 150 championship with just three points separating them from third placed Martin Colligan and Liam McDermott of Team Fox.

I would never have expected to finish fourth overall this year especially with the caliber of the competition in the fleet, I was just happy to be back racing.

My thanks have to go to all the RYA Officials and P1 Staff for all their hard work this season and to all the racers for their support and encouragement.

But special thanks have to go to my navigator Dan and the rest of the Helvetia Wealth team. Bring on 2012!"