

Round Britain Race is Go – and I am going!



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SHELLEY Jory is one of the UK's leading powerboat racers and the top female in her sport. Last year she became the face of Honda Powerboat Racing. Each month Shelley gives All At Sea readers an insight into her amazing life.

WHEN I announced that I was hanging up my Honda race boots in October last year, my plan for just one year was to have a rest after 11 tough years of racing.

But, oh no, at the Earls Court Boat Show I announced that I was about to embark on the Everest of all powerboat races - The Round Britain Race 2008, the longest, toughest event for powerboat drivers anywhere in the world.

The Round Britain Race is a huge endurance race of 1,600 miles round the treacherous coastline of Britain with some legs well over 200 nautical miles a day.

With the race planned to take eight days it will test boats and crews to the limit.

I am joining forces with a new face on the block, team owner Dean Gibbs, and I will be competing in his new 38 foot Sunseeker XS.

Vigorous training on and off the water has already begun with my

well-known powerboat trainer Neil Holmes. I have also begun intensive work in the gym at the Esporta Hampshire Club with my personal trainer James Seilo in preparation for this gruelling endeavour.

I was absolutely thrilled and slightly amazed when Neil put me forward to join Dean's team, the fact that they thought I was up for the job has made me even more determined to start training hard and be ready for this world class endurance race.

This race is going to be a completely different ball game from my Honda racing. I am going to have to learn all three jobs in the boat - throttles, driving and I shall have to go back to my navigation roots.

My main role is navigation as my sponsor Raymarine and I are very keen to progress with the speed and endurance program we have been putting the Raymarine GPS, repeaters and VHF's through.

The navigator's job is going to



Joining forces: Dean Gibbs with Shelley

be the toughest role on board in my opinion because his or her decisions will make the difference between winning and losing, but due to the intensity of the race all three crew members need to be able to take any seat in the cockpit.

This is truly going to be a race of a lifetime. I shall be following in the footsteps of some legendary racers who competed in the last Round Britain race in 1984 such as Gina Campbell, Fiona Countess of Arran, Ted Toleman and the Toleman Twins, Renato Della Valle and Fabio Buzzi who I understand is racing again in 2008 to defend his 1984 title.



Last years winners: Hannes Bohinc and Miles Jennings. Inset: The winning boat, Wettpunkt Photos: Chris Davies

Blue Riband back for 2008

AT the London Boat show it was announced that the most famous endurance race in powerboating, the Cowes-Torquay-Cowes will be reintroduced to the sporting calendar in 2008 by Powerboat P1 Management Ltd.

The CTC, which first ran in 1961, will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend and is expected to attract worldwide interest.

It is an open event, organised in association with the British Powerboat Racing Club and up to 80 craft are expected to participate.

The boats will start and finish in Cowes and the front runners are expected to complete the course in less than four hours - weather permitting.

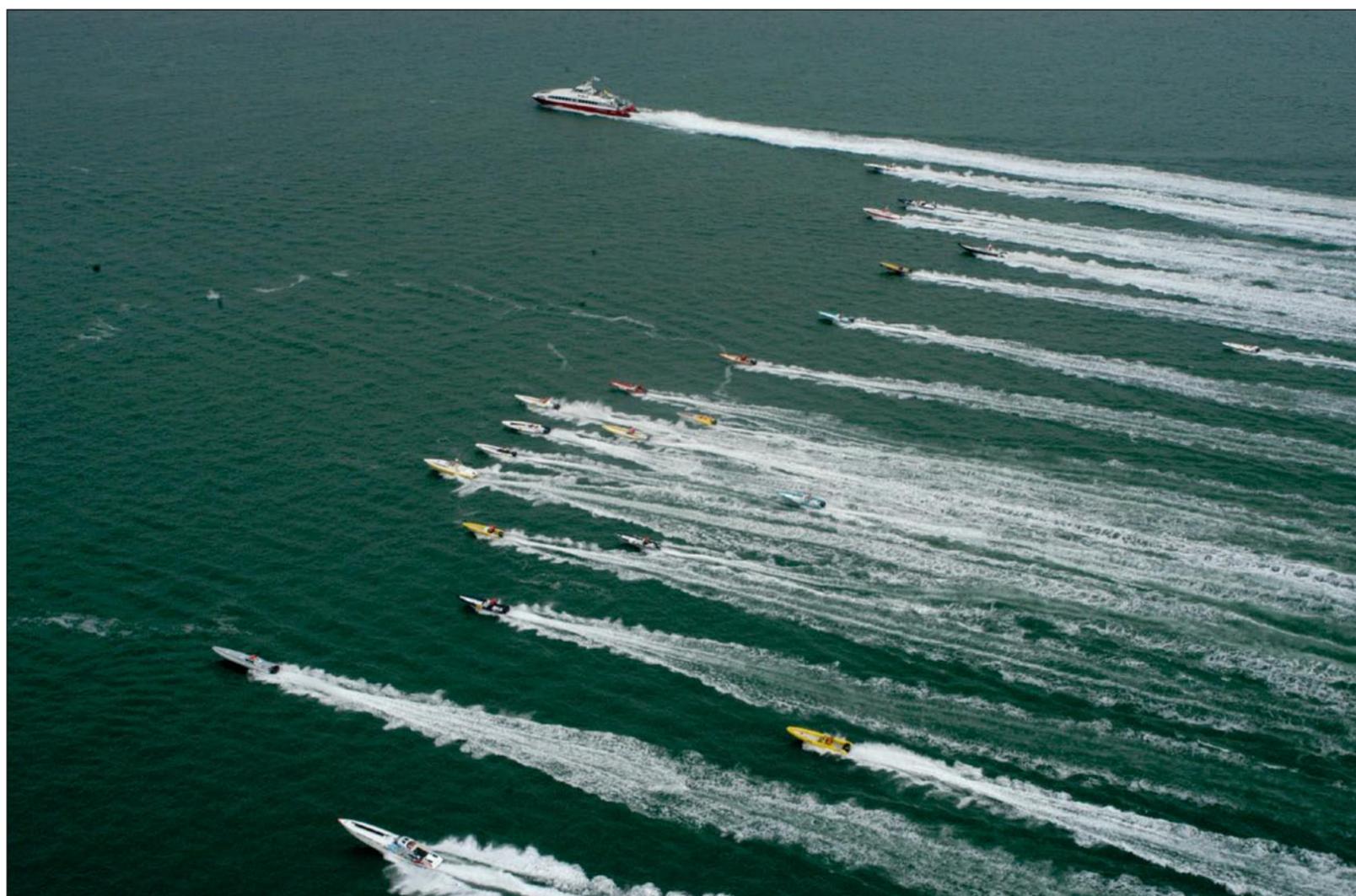
The Cowes-Torquay-Cowes was the first offshore race in Europe and is recognised as one of the toughest challenges in world powerboating, comparable with the Indy 500 and 24 Hours of Le Mans in motor racing.

This is fantastic news for all powerboat enthusiasts especially for everyone who was already preparing a boat and team for the Round Britain Race. Now they will have a second to show off their livery - as long as it survives the 1,600 miles round Britain.

Lord Beaverbrook, chairman of the British Powerboat Racing Club said: "We are delighted that the Cowes-Torquay-Cowes will return in 2008. It is an event steeped in history and tradition and represents one of the great powerboating adventures.

"In the past it has been instrumental in the development of offshore motorised craft. If any race has provenance this one has.

"The timing of its return, in the same year as the Round Britain Race, adds fresh impetus to both events as teams and manufacturers have an added incentive to make the necessary investment."



Last years Cowes Torquay Cowes start

Photos: Chris Davies

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