

## POWERBOATING



**CHAMPION:** Shelly Jory, left, and Libby Keir.

WORLD champion Steve Curtis was today due to cast his vote for Southampton powerboat star Shelly Jory to be crowned Yachtsperson of the Year.

Jory clinched the Honda Formula 4-Stroke 225 championship title last weekend and, as a result, has won Curtis's vote.

Warsash-based Curtis collected the prestigious Yachtsperson of the Year award in 2004 after winning the fifth of his six world Class 1 powerboat titles.

The roll-call of recent winners is highly impressive. Apart from Curtis – who has more Class 1 titles to his name than anyone else in powerboating history – Ellen MacArthur won it in 1998 and 2001 and Ben Ainslie in 1999 and 2002.

In addition, Ainslie was a joint-winner in 2000 – along with his fellow Sydney Olympic gold medallists – and again in 2005, when he and eight other Athens medallists were co-honoured.

Joe Gianfield, who along with Lymington's Nick Rogers, was a silver medallist in Athens in the 470 class, was appearing at the Southampton Boat Show's Raymarine stand today to cast his vote for Yachtsperson of the Year.

Jory, who owns a bridal shop in Southampton, and her colleague, Libby Keir, were the only all-girl pairing in the 4-Stroke series this summer.

They started the final

# What a year for speed star Shelly!

race just three points ahead of the team that has dominated this year's 225hp contest, Rob Lister and Will Nocker.

But two phenomenal wins by Jory and Lister ensured they won overall, giving them their first ever championship title.

"I can't believe it," said Jory. "We'd given up on the title and were really trying to consolidate second or third overall."

"But, after the success in the first race, we knew the championship was in

our sights and that it was all down to the last race.

"There was so much pressure on us and I was feeling sick with nerves.

"When we saw the chequered flag we were elated. It's been an incredible season."

Jory was third in the 2004 championships and in October of last year raced away with five endurance records from Power Boat Record Week on Lake Windermere.



**STEVE CURTIS**



**MAKING WAVES:** Shelly Jory in action.