

UK to host a week to remember



Chris Bryan races C12



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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.

GETTING 'well oiled' after a rough race has a different meaning with these guys

Walking round the hospitality tents of the wonderfully sponsored P1 or Honda or watching the dozens of beautifully 'uniformed' pit crews working tirelessly still gives us all a buzz.

But let's not forget the guys and girls who compete in what is still considered the backbone of powerboat racing, good old Class III 2 litre which still has the largest international fleet.

This is an exciting year for powerboat racing. The Round Great Britain race in June and the resurrection of Cowes-Torquay has encouraged some old faces back and some new faces into the sport but for class III the icing on the cake this year is that the UK will host the World 2 litre Championships in the first week of September in Guernsey.

Guernsey Powerboat Association and the mainland based Offshore Racing Drivers' Association are

working together to make this one to remember.

The course will run between the isles of Guernsey, Sark and Herm making it a navigator's race as well as the driver's.

There should be at least thirty entries travelling from all over Europe and Scandinavia.

Some of the British National teams have been racing for years and several of the crews are in their fifties. They can still show the new lads a thing or two even though their bodies take longer to get over it. Getting 'well oiled' after a rough race has a different meaning with these guys. It usually involves liniment!

Roy Smith, C54, many times World Champion, travels from Jersey for each race competing against the other Swedish designed 'bat boats' driven by Brian Peedell, C13, Ian Stirling, C11, Scottyboy Collings, C56 and new guy Frank Rose in C15.

Another veteran, Chris Bryan, C12, races a beautiful canopied 'Hot Boat' catamaran. Kevin Walsh and John

Guille, members of the Guernsey Powerboat Association will travel over to compete in as many races as possible and there will be a welcome return of several RIBs to the class this year.

Another newcomer, Alistair Pearn, will be out there with his phantom, as will Stuart Williams who has taken a step sideways from OCR to try offshore in an open cat.

There will be a whole range of craft out there, each favouring different conditions to suit their rigs. Who knows, with the good old British weather, what conditions these guys will face on the day?

Offshore racing is a true team effort. I personally learnt more in my offshore years than any other class I have raced in. Each crew member has their own jobs, although they vary from boat to boat.

The driver reads the water, trims/lifts the engine, while the navigator, who sits behind the driver in most cases, concentrates on telling the driver where to go, checking pressure gauges etc. and, in the open boats,



Scottyboy Colling's C56

holding on for dear life!

The courses run over a minimum of 60 nautical miles on a mixture of different size laps which have to be taken in a certain order. It does not matter how fast your boat can go if you get lost!

Safety boats line the course in case anyone has a problem. Each boat carries a VHF radio but if a nasty should happen, the first race boat to arrive has to stop to assist until a safety boat reaches them.

There are not many sports where everyone helps each other to get boats on the water and should a

team have the unfortunate bad luck to have 'dunked' their boat in a race, several teams will work together in the pits afterwards to save the engine. Competitiveness begins when the green flag is raised!

Many teams racing today, either in 6 litre in the Middle East, Class I, Honda, or P1 started out in Class III and it is sad to see some of them go on to other things. But each one of them, and I speak from experience, would have learnt a great deal in their early years from the true roots of British racing.

Good luck to everyone for 2008!

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Giant waves smash Atlantic gateway

THIRTY-FOOT waves have smashed down the only lock gates in the UK which open directly on to the Atlantic.

The lock drains Cornwall's historic Bude ship canal and the damage, estimated at £500,000, will close the town's port for months.

At the height of last month's storms, massive waves lifted an 11-ton oak lock gate off its hinges, smashing masonry and leaving moored yachts and pleasure craft high and dry as the canal emptied for the first time for 40 years.

The 35-foot-wide lock gates, rebuilt in 1991 at a cost of £600,000 last gave way in 1904 reducing two ketches to matchwood.

At its peak, the port of Bude handled more than 300 vessels a year but finally closed to commercial shipping in 1930. Now a popular west country yachting destination, it should be approached with caution in northerly winds.

Charlie David of North Devon District Council said that while the gates are being repaired the canal will be dredged and the banks stabilised and repaired.

"It is work we were intending to do - but not quite so soon," he said.

The canal is not expected to reopen until May at the earliest. Anyone planning a spring cruise to Bude should check with the harbourmaster on 07789 033573



Get afloat at Poole

POOLE'S free boating and water sports festival will take place on Poole Quay on Saturday 21 June.

The award-winning event encourages all ages and abilities to get out on the water by offering free try-a-boat sessions. The organisers say there will be a selection of yachts, RIBs and powerboats on offer for free scheduled trips around the harbour from Poole Quay Boat Haven during the day's event.

The latest marine and watersports equipment and services will also be on show in the exhibition village. Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase a diverse range of marine products, whilst also obtaining information on sea safety and training courses.

The event will be family friendly with a Harry Paye fun day, celebrating Poole's own famous pirate, a fisherman's regatta, Jolly Sailor tug of war, street bands and a pirate procession.

The show will be open 10am to 6pm.

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