

SAILING

Jory goes for glory in world series test



Shelley Jory is at the wheel of her Lucas Oil Mercury Powered Skater

by Phil Riley
The News

Fareham racer ready to step up into the big time

SHELLEY JORY is already Britain's best known woman powerboat racer.

But she's about to take a high-powered step into a different league.

The 38-year-old from Sarisbury Green, near Fareham, made a name for herself in the competitive world of offshore racing when she won the 2005 British Honda Powerboat Championship racing with Libby Keir.

They were the first women's team to do so, and Jory has stayed at the top of her game.

The duo took third place the following year and over the past four years have been the most successful team in Honda racing as Team Raymarine – backed by the Portsmouth-based company.

No surprise then that Jory is the brunette in the racing overalls seen during the Honda ads around F1 GP coverage and elsewhere.

Now the determined racer has teamed up with US-based Nigel Hook to race in the Powerboat P1 World Championship Series. She admits it is a big step-up.

'It's to powerboat racing what F1 is to car racing – there is one class above but that's unaffordable to almost everyone,' she said.

'It is totally no-holds barred racing and a massive step-up for me.

'I have quadrupled the horsepower to 1400 and doubled the length of the boat – and the speed has gone up from 70 to 120mph.'

Amazingly, though, she and Hook have met several times but they have never

been in a boat together, let alone raced at up to 120mph.

But his confidence in her is clear – she will be the driver, he the throttleman in this new partnership.

And Jory was impressed with him on their first meeting.

'He was having big boat problems, but he wasn't throwing his toys out of the pram,' she said.

'The team manager is his wife, and they were both calm.

'It was really impressive.'

At the time, Jory (right) was not planning on racing this year.

She and Keir had decided to call it a day after four years – 'it

was time to quit at the top' she said – and she was planning on continuing her commentary duties on the P1 circuit.

So when Hook approached her at an event in Key West, Florida, and suggested teaming up she was initially hesitant.

'I said I wasn't good enough for him – but he said he'd seen me racing and wanted me in the boat,' Jory said.

'It is a leap of faith, but we know each other's histories, and he's got 12 years of racing his own boat.

'And we are on the same

wavelength – we found out today were are the same blood group, so we feel like we have been separated at birth.'

The risks aren't ignored, but they are calculated.

Jory had what she describes as a 'serious accident' back in 2004 when her Honda V24 powerboat sank after crashing at 70mph.

Jory said: 'Anyone who doesn't realise these machines can potentially kill them is a fool.'

When time allows away from running the family bridal dress business in Southampton, Jory is busy raising the necessary sponsorship money to allow her to go racing.

Raymarine are still on board, but two other associate sponsors are still being sought.



Wheeler proves four-midable in Spartans win

BLOS SPARTANS were crowned the Easter Monday Tournament champions.

Wayne Wheeler was the hero, scoring all four of his team's goals as they defeated Gooners 4-0 in the final.

This was no more than the team deserved after they remained undefeated with just one draw in 10 games.

Eighteen teams crammed into the venue on Monday morning to take part in the tournament.

Split into two groups of nine, each team played eight games in a round-robin format.

In group one, Ajax Treesdown set the early pace, winning their first two games comprehensively.

However, defeat in the third game against All New started a sequence which saw them fail to win any of their remaining games.

It was All New who surprised everyone by qualifying for the semi-finals with wins over Ajax Treesdown, Dave, Real Darlo, European on My Shoe and defeating eventual group

SOCCER CITY

winner Old Socks 1-0.

Old Socks lost just two games on their route to the semis, losing 1-0 to Dave as well as the earlier defeat to All New.

But victories against the remaining teams in the group enabled them to finish three points clear at the top.

In group two, 0 Seven 7 were the only team able to take points off Blos Spartans, drawing 0-0.

But wins over all of the other teams, including two 5-0 thrashings of Regal FC and Racing Fareham, helped the Spartans to 24 points, five points clear of their nearest rival.

Obiwankenobinil came bottom of the group, with just one victory and seven defeats.

But they were not on the wrong end of the worst result of the group. That accolade went to Regal FC who lost 7-0 to Gooners.

The Gooners finished runners up in the group. Along with the Regal victory, they

also defeated Racing Fareham, Cryme Tyme, 0 Seven 7, Team Top Gun and Obiwankenobinil, only losing to Deceptions and the league winners.

The semi-finals saw Blos Spartans demolish All New 8-0, Matt Barnes (3), Wayne Wheeler (2), Brett Wheeler, Liam Barnes and Greg Rose all got on the scoresheet to secure a place in the final.

In the other semi-final, a Chris Sage hat-trick helped Gooners overcome Old Socks, Luke James scored a consolation goal.

In the final it was Blos Spartans who started the brighter of the two teams and deservedly took an early lead.

Gooners did respond, peppering the Spartans goal, but Pete Davies between the sticks was more than up to the task to repeal anything that came his way.

The 4-0 scoreline flattered Spartans but Wheelers' four goals were of such quality and, being unbeaten throughout, no-one could begrudge them the title.

In the Friday Ibrox League, division one's defending champions Well Behaved lost their fourth game of the season this week to strugglers Primo.

Th 7-5 victory effectively ended any hopes they had of retaining the title.

However, they will be encouraged that league leaders Well Behaved could not fully capitalise as they were held to a 6-6 draw with Jubilee Colts.

Jubilee Under 77 overwhelmed bottom team Isotonic 9-3, with Dave Smith and Harry Lines both grabbing hat-tricks.

Lawrence Arms are pushing for a top-four finish after defeating Real Biscuit 8-4, Dave Harris helping himself to a double hat-trick.

Beryton Boys continue to lead division two with just three games to go, Jamie Hicks hit four goals as they beat Real Darlo 5-3 to cement top spot.

Four points behind Beryton are Harriers who overcame Cryme Tyme 6-1. Callum Ovenden scored three.



Retirement: Jim Drury

Havant eye final flourish

HOCKEY

HAVANT men's first XI play their final league game of the season at Havant College this Sunday, 2pm push-back.

Their opponents are league champions, Reading, who won the league a couple of weeks ago when they defeated second-placed East Grinstead.

Reading have played 17, won 15, drawn one and lost one.

Therefore, they will start the game on Sunday as firm favourites.

Havant have been difficult to defeat in front of a home crowd recently and will be keen to score three points to finish in no worse than fifth position.

When the teams last met, Reading ran out 4-3 winners at Sonning Lane.

Reading scored a late winner in the 67th minute and, by all reports, Havant deserved at least a draw.

On target that day were Ezz and Thornton McDade (2) who will be available on Sunday before his return to South Africa.

Havant will be at full strength. Sunday will see the retirement of manager Jim Drury who has managed the first XI for the past five seasons.



Action from Lunchbox Monkeys versus Purbrook ETS at Soccer City

PICTURE: MICK YOUNG