

The Cowes-Torquay-Cowes International Powerboat Race 2009

Hot Lemon came within seconds of winning the internationally renowned Cowes-Torquay-Cowes powerboat race held over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Mike and Dave drove Hot Lemon to set a blistering pace in some of the roughest conditions ever encountered in this event.

Running in a fleet of more than twenty high speed craft, Hot Lemon used her rough water ability to overcome much larger and more powerful boats. She powered through 3m breaking seas off The Needles at close to 50 knots and later learned that one of her competitors, a much larger boat, had foundered in the heavy seas by Peverill Ledge. Hot Lemon took the lead at St Alban's Head and accelerated to her top speed of 60 knots (almost 70 miles per hour) as the fleet fought its way into head seas across the infamous Lyme Bay.

Smoother seas some fifteen miles from Torquay forced Hot Lemon to give up the lead to a faster boat before fighting back to regain first place on the return leg across Lyme Bay as she ran at 55 knots in two metre following seas. She entered The Solent in first position but was anxiously aware of two more powerful craft some three miles behind her and which were closing fast in the smooth Solent conditions. The oncoming boats each had more than 1000 horsepower as against Hot Lemon's 630 horsepower and although one of these boats ran out of fuel and stopped two miles from the finish, Hot Lemon just couldn't hold off the mighty Cinzano from Germany which swept through the finish at Gurnard Ledge running at 75 knots, only 11 seconds ahead of Hot Lemon after 170 nautical miles of tough racing. This was the closest result in the 49 year history of the event and in conditions which saw almost half of the fleet fail to finish.

After the race Mike said "we attribute our success in this most challenging of races to the teams at Dave Crawford Marine and Scorpion RIBS in Lymington, not a single thing broke which enabled us to press hard in very tough conditions. Hot Lemon is superb in rough seas, few boats can stay with her, as we saw!".