

## Folkestone Grand Prix 13-14 August 2011



**Powerboat racing competitors returned to Folkestone for the first time in twenty years for the finals of the British Offshore 3B Championship, only to be greeted with a 30 knot South Westerly and 2-3 metre seas, forcing last minute course relocation, based on local knowledge.**

The white cliffs offered just enough protection for racing, but the first day's sea was steep and awkward and although the leading boats chose to follow the troughs, high flying and high speed stuffs were inevitable. The two OCR Phantom 19 boats of Dan Priestly and Jeremy Gibson flew into the lead from the start, distancing themselves and even lapping some of the Offshore 2 litre's, while Bob McCarthy, trialling an Evinrude 115 HO was not far off the pace. It was once again a spectacular win for young Dan Priestly and Sam Brewster and indicates the potential of these future World Champions

Sharon Atlee, in the 'Pirates Cave' Tintorera revelled in the conditions and led Offshore B class from the start, holding off a concerted effort from Neil Ives in his Barracuda 18. Adrian Foulser debuted the beautiful Adam Younger VS 22, expertly guided by Eric Smillie, stepping out of his usual role in the Cowes -Torquay winner 'Cinzano'.

Graham Reeder drove his ex-World Championship winning 3C Mannerfelt 'Ananab' into a careful first place, after NWJ racing was time-penalised for missing a mark.

Day 2 offered a calmer, but not benign sea, catching out the unwary and increasing the attrition rate. However, the spectators were thrilled by the V8 roar of Mark Brewster's leading V24, echoing off the Harbour wall at 70mph.

Brian Peedell led the Offshore Class 3C, hotly pursued by Jeremy Gibson's OCR Phantom and some epic battles followed in the swells. The all girl team of Sharon and Sian in 'Pirates Cave' once again delivered a rough water driving lesson to the rest of the 3B fleet, with the Norwegian designed monohull making light of the testing conditions.

The weekend's racing in Kent acted as a precursor to the upcoming World 3B Championship being held in Torquay during the 1-4 September. The Norwegian entries for this event include the 80 mph Twister cat driven by current World Champion, Jan Trygve Braaten as well as some very quick batboats, fitted with a mixture of 115HO's and Yamaha 90's. 'Pirates Cave' has known potential and fared well in the rough against the Norwegians in the recent European Championship, but the two VS22/115HO look to have serious future potential, as well. The 2010 3C British Champion, Brian Peedell has acquired the B19 that took third in the Europeans and 2010 OCR Champion Bob McCarthy has re-engined his 100 mph Bernico 19 with another 115HO to contest this eagerly awaited Championship.

