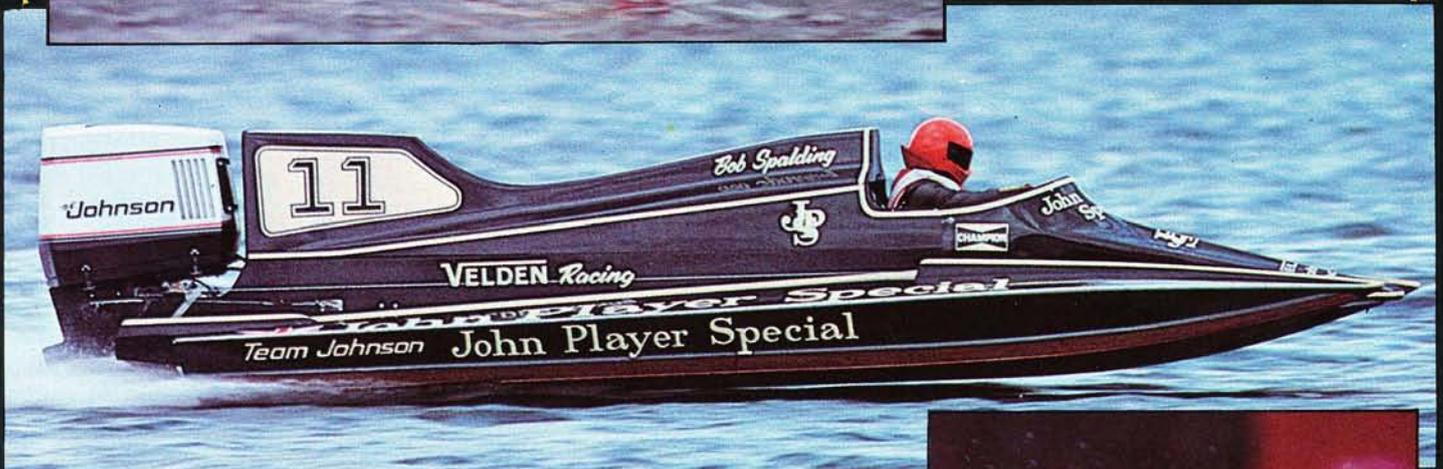
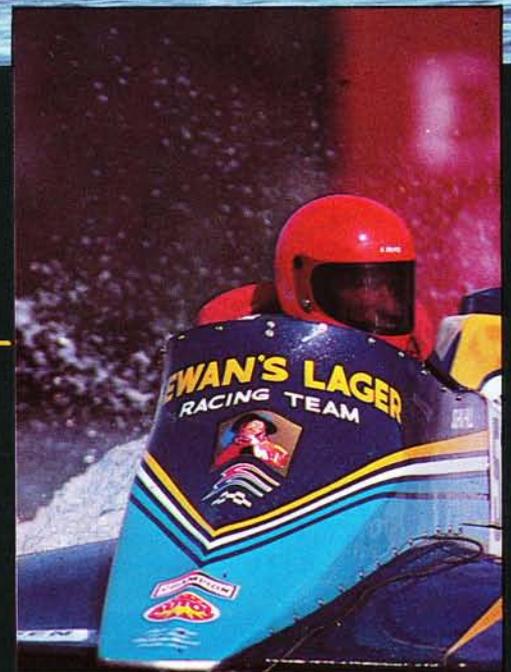


John Player Grand Prix



August 30th & 31st 1981
National Watersports Centre
Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham



Organised by London Motor Boat Racing Club

Programme compiled by Powerboat & Waterskiing Magazine

John Player Grand Prix

Three World Championships in one meeting and a full supporting programme makes the Holme Pierrepont international event on August 30 and 31, sponsored by John Players, the most comprehensive and exciting to be found in the world of circuit powerboating this year.

Almost everyone who is anyone in the sport is here, the cream of the world's top drivers. The ON title will be decided outright, while the OZ and OE racers are battling for points which will ultimately decide the destination of their overall crown. JPS sponsor the OZs and Aspen the OEs.

There are of course, favourites for all the events, but favourites are one thing and winners another. Engines can blow at any time and it doesn't matter how good the driver is: if his motor has packed up he won't get far with a paddle.

The man to fear

However, when the ON field comes under starter's orders there is one man the others fear much more than most, the great **Billy Seebold** from St. Louis, Missouri. Among other things Seebold (Tissot/Jack Barclays) has won the Duke of York Trophy at Bristol three times in the past four years. This year, when racing round the docks was limited to the ONs (up to 1999cc) Seebold was way out on his own and the result never looked in doubt.

And to make sure the Americans make their presence felt is Seebold's son, **Mike**, another fierce competitor who drives to the limit. Mike is hungry for honours and would like nothing better than to cross the line with Bill drenched behind in his rooster tail!

This is not to say that the World ON Championships are to be an American benefit. The British are not exactly slouches and flying the flag are **John Nicholson**, **Malcolm Burnapp**, **Tony Williams**, **Mark Wilson**, **Alan Nimmo**, **Peter Inward**, and the only girl in the line-up **Fiona Brothers**.

Nicholson (Barrus Team Mariner) drove as if the devil himself were on his tail at Chasewater in July and threw his rig round the buoys apparently with complete disregard to the possible destruction of either his body or the boat. A very exciting driver.

It is ironic that **Nicholson's** closest challenger at Chasewater, **Malcolm Burnapp**, was the man who probably saved his life at Bristol last year. **Nicholson** was face down in the water after a terrible crash and **Burnapp** (Walsall Litho) instantly dived to his rescue, keeping his head clear until assistance arrived. Now these two friends are rivals are in head to head competition again.



The John Player trio who will be challenging for OZ honours, **Bob Spalding** (11), **Tom Percival** (10) and **Francois Salabert** (12).

Tony Williams (Rolatruc) is the reigning European ON champion and always a threat if his equipment is running smoothly. **Alan Nimmo** is improving all the time, **Peter Inward** (Tissot/Jack Barclays) is sure to be in the thick of things and **Fiona Brothers** (Barrus Team Mariner) may be a lady but she drives like a man. She is also one of the most improved drivers of the season.

Austrians are in the field and spearheading their attack will be **Wilfried Wieland**, who made a rather inauspicious debut on British water at Bristol, but this boat builder and hydroplane driver will be hoping to make more of a show here.

Michael Werner of West Germany is a hard driver and is well known in this class for never giving an inch. He is the sort of driver who could pop up any time and steal away with the trophy.

The JPS World OZ field is full of colourful characters and giant names in the sport. **Renato Molinari** (Italy), **Cees van der Velden** (Holland), Britain's **Bob Spalding**, the World Champion, **Roger Jenkins** and **Tom Percival** are all drivers of vast experience and world renown.

Massive engines

These men and **Carlo Colombo**, another Italian, are driving the new Outboard Marine Corporation V8, a massive engine capable of generating immense power. The OZ class is for engines of unlimited capacity and OMC's new motor is the largest of its kind ever produced. The block alone weighs 275lbs and drivers find both its weight and its power more than a handful.

The V8 has only been raced in public twice before: at Brodenbach in Germany and at Chasewater, **Molinari** won in

Germany, **van der Velden** at Chasewater.

The three-pronged JPS team comprises **Bob Spalding**, **Tom Percival** and **Francois Salabert** and nothing is more impressive than these three rigs flat out across the water, glinting the black and gold of the JPS livery at more than 120mph.

Finishing order

Spalding and **Percival** are used to be big occasion, for between them they have won just about every title to be had. **Salabert**, from France, is an up-and-coming driver who over the past couple of seasons has fully earned the right to join this exalted company.

Roger Jenkins, the Gordon's Gin driver from Wales, had an unhappy time of it with the V8 outfit in Germany because of steering trouble, but that was all sorted out for Chasewater, when he won one heat and finished second overall. Give **Jenkins** half a chance and he will be in there like a Welsh terrier.

Jenkin's protege, **Jonathon Jones**, also sponsored by Gordons Gin, has shown great flair in recent races, although he had perhaps a fraction too much zeal at Chasewater when he barrel-rolled. It was a 360 performance and he finished the right way up, shaken but not deterred. He was, of course, back racing in the next heat.

The JPS series is wide open and if one boat tears off in front, spectators should be patient. The race is not over until the flag drops. At Chasewater **Salabert** ran a superb race and broke down 200 yards from the line.

Meanwhile the next round of the Aspen OE World Championship continues and the feature here will be the clash between **John Hill** (McEwans Lager/Evinrude), the reigning world

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Timetable for Sunday and Monday

- 12.00 Classes NSD, SD, NSE, SE
- 12.30 ... World Class ON Championship
- 13.00 Classes NE, NF (Monohulls)
- 13.30 . Aspen World Cup Series Class OE
- 14.00 Classes OE, ON
- 14.30 John Player Class OZ World Series
- 15.00 Classes NSD, SD, NSE, SE
- 15.30 ... World Class ON Championship
- 16.00 Classes NE, NF (Monohulls)
- 16.30 . Aspen World Cup Series Class OE
- 17.00 Classes OE, ON
- 17.30 John Player Class OZ World Series

The organisers reserve the right to alter the format of this timetable subject to final entries



John Nicholson (Barrus Team Mariner) should make an impression in the World ON Championships.

champion, Dave Jerwood and Lasse Strom.

Jerwood got the better of Hill at Bristol, much to Mr Jerwood's satisfaction, but he had a tough

weekend at Chasewater in July. During the second heat a boat in front blew over and landed right on top of him. Dave had just had some special equipment flown in from the States and an inspection

afterwards in the pits showed his beautiful engine smothered in splinters, and not even his! That was the end of his race meeting and he spent the rest of the weekend conducting a merry wine tasting party.

The honours that weekend went to Hill, who found the mastery of the dogged Strom and soon stamped his authority.

Hot news is that the OZ club has a new member in Rick Frost, the former European SE champion. Frost (Trimite) smashed his boat up in Norway earlier this season and Holme Pierrepont marks his OZ debut.

Tremendous racing

A field of up to 20 OE's are expected to gather here and they should provide some tremendous racing. Equally exciting are the monohulls, who always provide spills and thrills as they charge around the circuit, making the water a boiling turmoil.

Ron Whitney (Forresters) has a super season and completely dominated the NF class at Chasewater, but keep your eyes peeled for Gary McLaughlin who has made such an impression to date. Colin Rundle (Fishfinger) dominated the Bristol event but a barrel-roll put paid to his chances in Chasewater.

In NE, the smaller cc category, Mich Chick is leading the championship table, but young Andrew Elliott (Yamaha) took the honours at Chasewater and he will undoubtedly be loathesome to relinquish this feeling of victory. Colin Chapman, racing his first season for Essex, will be sure to give a good show and these three should provide as much excitement as the NF's.



John Hill (McEwans Lager) will be hoping to notch up more points in the Aspen OE Series.