



HMG racing
grand prix hydroplane

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HMG Racing

Keith Harrison's power boating racing career has spanned over 40 years, from the early days in the mid 60's racing a slightly modified wooden ski boat with a Holden six cylinder engine to today, debuting a brand new state of the art, carbon fibre hulled Grand Prix Hydroplane.

In those 40 years, Keith has raced and owned 10 different boats in various classes winning many titles along the way.

In 2007 the Australian Power Boat Association inducted Keith into the Victorian Council 'Hall Of Fame' in recognition of outstanding achievements within the sport. He has also been awarded life membership to his home racing club the Melbourne Runabout and Speedboat Club.

What is a Grand Prix Hydroplane?

Grand Prix Hydroplane as its name suggests, hints at the elite.

Grand Prix Hydroplanes are the world's fastest automotive circuit race boats reaching speeds of up to 180mph. The hulls are constructed of the most up to date fibre composite carbon and Kevlar material, similar to those used in F1 car racing. These hydros are propelled by 510ci supercharged or turbocharged engines producing approximately 1600hp and they rev to approximately 8 - 8,500 rpm.

For safety, drivers or pilots as they are known are strapped into an F16 style fully enclosed cockpit, fitted with roll cage and bottom hatch, which allows the driver to be extracted in an upturned boat. The driver utilises an on board air supply system which enables the driver to breathe in an upside down boat, giving the optimum in safety.

Grand Prix Hydroplanes race on inland waterways over a 2,000 meter oval circuit consisting of four laps with up to six boats at the one time.



The HMG Race Team

This team is a family, literally. Today, this team is back together again in a brand new Grand Prix Hydroplane after a short absence from the sport.

The HMG race team consists of team owner Keith Harrison, his son and pilot of the craft, Grant, brother Geoff and nephew Glenn. Also making up the team is long time friend, engine builder and engineer Geoff Sheldrake, Grant Rollason who designed and built the hull and Paul Morrow.

The team began competing in the Grand Prix Class in 1990 and have many titles in their career. Pilot, Grant Harrison first campaigned in his own limited class of boats, debuting in 1987. In 1994 Keith retired from driving and since then, the combination of father/owner and son/pilot has been a formidable force in the sport.

Highlights

The career highlight was in 2004 when the team travelled to New Zealand and won the Union Internationale Motonautique (U.I.M) **World Grand Prix Hydroplane Championship**. The win was Australia's first World Title won by any Australian Power Boat team.

The team also won back to back Victorian, Australian and Australasian Championships in 2003 and 2004. In the four seasons the 'famous' GP101 competed they were only defeated once, due to mechanical failure.

Disappointments

Back in Australia, in 2005, after winning the World Championship, the craft hit debris in the water whilst on early morning testing before competition. This caused a serious accident which left Grant with life threatening injuries. Fortunately, the safety cell helped save him; however the magnificent GP101 hydro was destroyed almost beyond repair.

Career Achievements

Keith Harrison – Debut 1966

In Keith's 40 years of racing, his achievements, championships wins and speed records number almost one hundred.

Undoubtedly, Keith's career highlight as an owner / driver would have been his win in 1986, in the E.C Griffith Cup Australasian Unlimited Unrestricted Championship. The win was a first for an automotive engine in over 10 years, ending the previous domination of the aircraft engine powered hydroplanes.

As an owner, in 2003/04/05 Keith won every major championship, including Victorian, Australian and Australasian championships as well as creating history by being the first to win the U.I.M. World Grand Prix Hydroplane championship in the southern hemisphere.

Grant Harrison – Debut 1987

1989 Victorian 5.2 litre Displacement State Championship

1992 New South Wales 6.0 litre Hydroplane Championship

1993 Victorian 7.5litre Hydroplane Championship

2001 Victorian Grand Prix Hydroplane Championship "*Len Owen Trophy*"

2002 Victorian Grand Prix Hydroplane Championship "*Len Owen Trophy*"

2003 Victorian Grand Prix Hydroplane Championship "*Len Owen Trophy*"

2003 NSW Open Unlimited Open Championship "*Eastway Shield*"

2003 Australasian Unlimited Unrestricted Championship "*EC Griffith Cup*"

2004 Australian Grand Prix Hydroplane Championship "*Mary & Ernie Nunn Trophy*"

2004 Australasian Unlimited Unrestricted Championship "*EC Griffith Cup*"

2004 U.I.M World Grand Prix Hydroplane Championship

2008 Victorian Oz Lite (1.6 ltr) Hydroplane Championship

The Future

With a completed, brand new Grand Prix Hydroplane, known as GP1, the HMG Race team is now keen to begin trials and testing of their latest hull.

It is expected that the racing debut will be next season in the later part of 2008. With many years of experience and vast improvements in technology, this new Grand Prix Hydro has to be one of the most anticipated and awaited boats in recent history.

The construction of GP1 has been away from the public, with no photographs or comments from the team about the hydroplane until now. The team are seeking expressions of interest of support partners to help assist them with their new venture back into competition and to debut this magnificent new machine.

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HMG Racing Partners

