

2010
U.I.M. WORLD GRAND PRIX CHAMPIONSHIPS

-MEDIA RELEASE-

“Shamrock GP 454”

Many thought that the Cunningham family had retired from power boat racing after the sale of their 2005 GP World Championship and 2006 E.C Griffith Cup winning hull “GP 55”. However it seems as if the lure of another World Championship is too much for the owner - mad Irishman Con Cunningham. To the delight of friends and fans he announced recently that “Shamrock GP 454” would enter the 2010 World GP Championships to be staged at Yarrowonga over the weekend of November 26-28.

“Shamrock” is a Ron Jones designed hydroplane built in Sydney by Graham Troy. It is a timber Grand Prix Hydroplane with composite Ron Jones capsule. The boat has been in storage since the 2004 E.C Griffith Cup. After a clean and some touch up work Shamrock commenced its campaign towards the worlds in literally a “dust her down” run at the St George Motor Boat Club Spectacular last weekend.

Con Cunningham and the team worked hard to even be at St George with parts arriving only Friday night from the US which saw the team work late Friday night and into Saturday morning. A run late Saturday afternoon did not go to plan with engine gremlins forcing the team take the safe option and swap engines over night. Con advised “no point in taking risks here, we have a spare so we will use it and do the check on the other engine later in the week”

Sunday saw the team complete another hit out but on return to the bank it was noticed that an oil leak had developed in the gear box. It was just a split in the gear box oil fitting however this saw the team sit out the rest of the day. Driver Paul Cunningham (PC) advised “for an old GP she went well but we just did not have another fitting for the gear box with us, however it’s great to be back and to iron out some bugs or should I say rats given the time in storage” PC went on to say “the run was planned as a hit out to see where we were at. Given the time in storage with this hull, a weekend with a few gremlins is actually seen as a success for the team, we are now in a position to improve a few things in readiness for our worlds challenge”.

The team has strong ties with Ireland through Con “the Irishman” and is looking to add another World Championship to their trophy cabinet. Con has commented “we may not be the newest boat out there or the fastest but we will be there to be sure and we are looking forward to the challenges ahead” well at least that is what we think Con said!

Some of Shamrocks achievements are:

WINNER A.E BAKER AUSTRALIASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP
WINNER MARY & ERNIE NUNN AUST GP SERIES
2ND MARY & ERNIE NUNN AUST GP SERIES (TWICE)
WINNER PAYNESVILLE GOLD CUP
WINNER EPIGLASS SPRINT SERIES (TWICE)
2ND EPIGLASS SERIES New Zealand
2ND E.C GRIFFITH CUP (TWICE)