

ANYA'S TICKLED PINK!

by Russell Stoddart

A "PINK LADY" isn't only a gin-based cocktail, it's just about the quickest thing on water.

Anya Colley, a 16-year-old from land-locked Long Eaton, near Nottingham, is taking the competitive world of jet-skiing by storm.

Nicknamed the Pink Lady because of her girly choice of colours in a male-dominated sport, Anya's just returned from Arizona, where she picked up a hat-trick of titles in the Jet-Ski World Finals.

She beat off stiff competition to land the World Drag title, the Novice Ladies and Novice Limited titles in Lake Havasu City.

The girl racer showed her prowess on water by not just winning time-trial events, but by also seeing off other challengers in the races.

And just to prove it wasn't a fluke, she then travelled to Thailand and won the Kings Cup, a world pro-am event involving men and women of all ages.

"It's been an amazing year and reward for all the commitment that's been put in, not just by me, but by the whole family," said Anya, who also won the Junior F2 world and British titles earlier this year.

First attempt

"My mum and dad accompany me to all the events around the world and we are a little team. My dad, Malcolm, is the engineer and financier, and my mum Michelle is cook and nurse.

"They're there to pick me up when I lose and keep my feet on the ground when I win. I'd love to make a career out of the sport, but there isn't much prize money, so I'll have to go to college.

"I had my first attempt on a jet-ski when I was just five years old and started to enter races at 10," she explained.

"It's a bit like learning to ride a motorbike and you fall off a few times before you get it right, perhaps more so on water, where you have to ride troublesome waves and avoid other racers.

"We reach speeds of over 60mph, which doesn't scare me when I'm on the water, but does when I'm on dry land watching others travelling at that speed.

Dream

"There have been a few bumps and bruises, but the major damage has been to my clothing and machinery.

"You have to be fit to withstand the rigours of the sport, so I train for a couple of hours most days, and even have a ladder at home, which I climb up and down a lot, and that strengthens many of the muscles I use on a jet-ski."

While admitting her ultimate dream is to compete regularly with men on the professional circuit, Anya's determined to progress from the junior ranks to win more women's titles, too.

"I'm very competitive and especially love taking on the men," she added. "I make a point of standing out, so my machine and clothing are pink.

"The men have nicknamed me the Pink Lady and they admit they don't like the colour — especially when it's ahead of them in a race!"

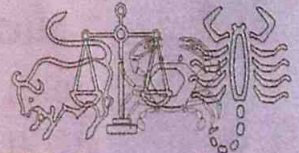
Champion jet-skier is beating the boys at their own game



Anya in action and, left, accepting a jet-ski trophy.



Seven days in the STARS



By Philip Goodwood

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20.

YOUR 10th house of career is very powerful and active, and no opportunities for progress should be dismissed.

Long-distance travel plans will really excite you, especially as they give you an opportunity for greater family unity.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 20.

ALTHOUGH your instinctive reaction to a financial matter is probably correct, your Taurean thoroughness will put a brake on progress until you have all the facts.

You can expect an upturn in your fortunes before too long.

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 20.

DECIDE on priorities or you could end up in the sort of muddle that takes too much time to unravel.

Jupiter, in your house of love and relationships, continues to influence your life, and its



Rod Stewart will be 64 on the 10th.

do, the longer you avoid particular issues.

Finances are improving, but avoid shopping with friends whose bank balances are healthier than your own!

VIRGO AUG. 22-SEPT. 21.

HONOURABLE Jupiter and Idealistic Neptune dominate your January chart and, although a recent setback may have been unsettling, it's not as bad as you feared.

Those with less vision than yourself might try to sway your opinion midweek.

beginning to shift below the horizon of your chart.

Those closest to you will be going out of their way to please you this week.

SAGITTARIUS NOV. 21-DEC. 20.

THE upper half of your chart remains considerably stronger than the lower half, so it's always a good time to concentrate on career and long-term goals.

It will also provide insight into relationships, both at home and in the workplace.

CAPRICORN DEC. 21-JAN. 19.

ALTHOUGH the month began in a happy-go-lucky mood, more serious matters are catching up with you.

New acquaintances will boost your confidence with kind words, and make you realise you've been too critical of yourself.

AQUARIUS JAN. 20-FEB. 18.

THE lack of planets in

DENNIS AND GNASHER

