



Honda BF 250 'Silver Bullet'

Although the new Honda BF 250 has been in the news for a couple of months, it was only last month we were able to get onboard a suitable craft with the new engine fitted, and experience first hand what we've published about the engine in *The Boat Mag*, recently.

Testing new engines is always an interesting job, but more so in this case because it was on a very unusual test platform.

As you can see in the pics, it was mounted on an extraordinary 7.80m RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) all the way from the Ukraine, and certainly one of the better examples of this genre the writer has seen. Beautifully built and finished, with a recommended horsepower rating of 250hp and a maximum transom weight of 315kg, it was a near perfect rig for the task, especially as there are very few craft that can legally carry 250hp in Australia under this length.

The Brig is actually rated for 300hp, so devotees of Mercury Verados, Yamaha 4.2's and the big Suzuki 300 would find a willing suitor in this RIB.

Apart from being unusually stable for an open craft of this calibre, the Brig 780 Eagle was a seriously clever choice in another way, too. This is basically a long, skinny, 1080kg hull with 250hp of Honda's finest on the transom pushing it, so not surprisingly, it took off like a scalded cat, cruised with aplomb and extremely good fuel economy, and delivered a ride that was so soft I kept looking for the Sealy mattress underneath it!

Truly, it is remarkably soft, absolutely attributable to what is clearly an extremely (but not declared) deep vee monohedron hull that is way sharper or deeper in the vee than you could possibly build in a conventional craft.

Why? Because when this rig comes down to lower speeds and finally to a halt, it has these massive buoyancy tubes fore and aft to ensure the stability is enough to carry a football team standing on one side. Clever, hey? You marry up an amazingly deep vee hull with the buoyancy tubes to deliver extraordinary stability at rest, and equally exceptional riding