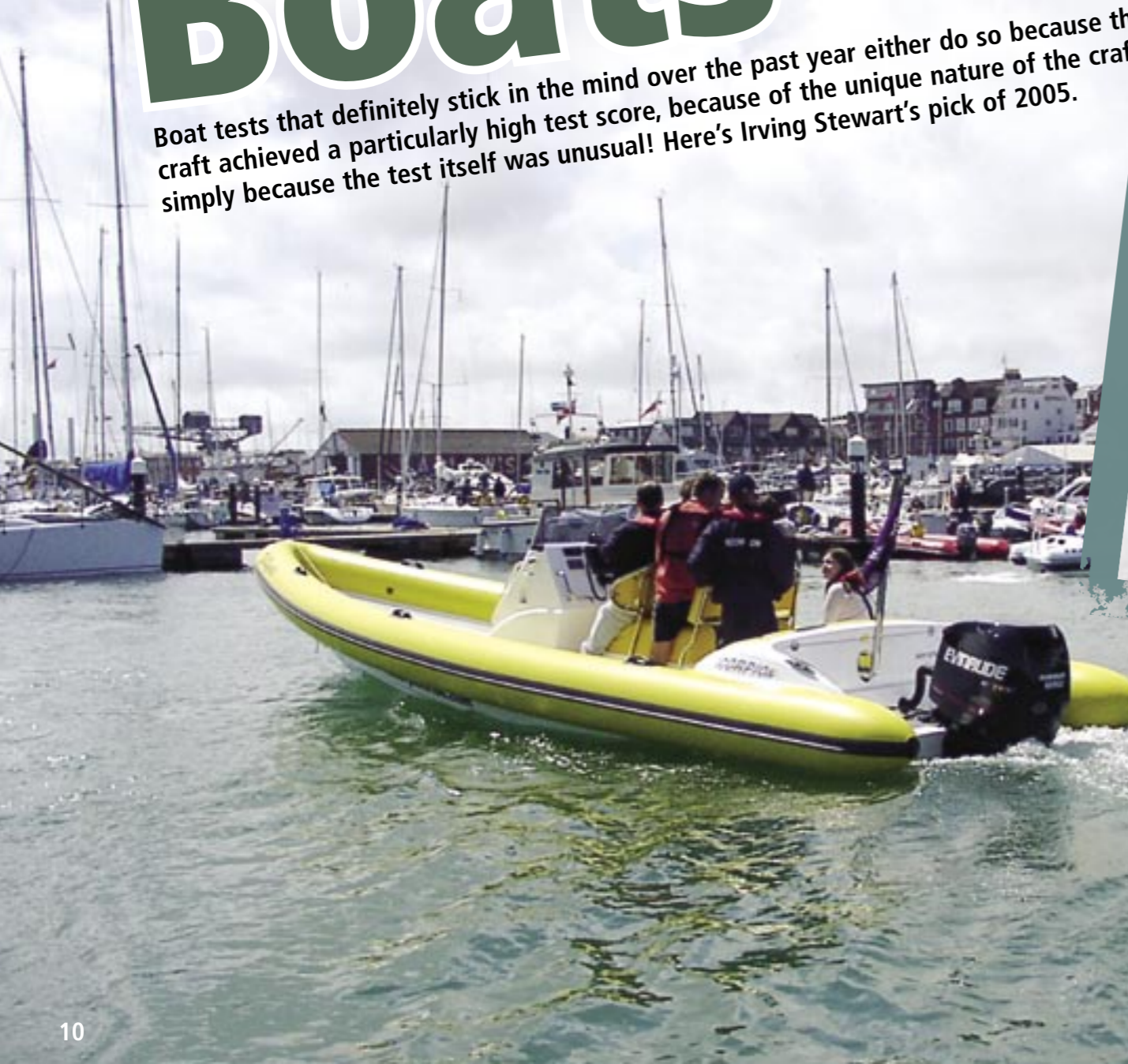


# 2005's Most Memorable Boats

Boat tests that definitely stick in the mind over the past year either do so because the craft achieved a particularly high test score, because of the unique nature of the craft or simply because the test itself was unusual! Here's Irving Stewart's pick of 2005.



Since the very early 1990s most of my boat tests for Boat Mart have been done using a standard set of criteria. These are contained in a document which, when completed, forms the basis for boat test articles and is also archived and available to readers seeking information on a particular craft (see our Boat Test Database).

By following a set testing procedure it's possible to award benchmark scores for each boat and thus compare similar craft, engines or even vastly differing craft from various important aspects.

Handling, quality of build, specifications, levels of standard equipment, package costs and the way in which a boat meets the needs of its particular market are all carefully recorded. Obviously many of the details of new boats can be found in the manufacturer's literature - we try to discover those that aren't!

When boats are a few years old and readers are contemplating one as a pre-owned purchase it may be difficult to get hold of original sales information and our archives are much 'plundered' by readers.

In many respects family boats are like motor cars - all are designed to perform a very simple function, which is to transport people from A to B, but on water. There are very few examples of truly revolutionary design as most craft evolve from existing concepts or are simply 'face lifted' to pander to the illogical consumers' demand for 'new' products. In truth it's usually only the niceties that differ such as:

- The comfort they provide
- Their performance
- Their levels of safety
- The number of gizmos and widgets aboard
- And of course their original cost

Obviously you expect to find differences in boats that come from diverse manufacturers, different countries or those conceived to operate in vastly incompatible conditions. Similarly a boat's details vary from market to market based purely on specific consumer demand, not on design logic.

Boat Mart has always had an editorial policy of honesty in its boat testing features, and this has resulted in a reputation for unbiased reporting of which we're very proud. It also means that any faults, or observations, the magazine reports are treated seriously by

manufacturers and are frequently rectified in future models.

Please understand that some of the tests carried out in the past few months are yet unpublished, so I may be 'letting the cat out of the bag' when mentioning specific craft.

With apologies to unmentioned advertisers, here's my own personal pick of 2005's tests.



The Atlantis 100m outside the harbour - calm it's not!

**ATLANTIS**

**TESTED:** October  
**CONTACT:** Atlantis Marine, Guernsey (Tel: 01481-258-514 / [www.atlantismarine.biz](http://www.atlantismarine.biz))

From all points of view the Atlantis 20 fast fisher (which is our Boat of The Year 2005) just has to be mentioned in this round up. Built by a small manufacturer in Guernsey this boat was tested in the most horrendous conditions and did 'everything it said on the box', and more.

It also demonstrated, probably better than any other boat this year, that by carefully studying local conditions and by specifically designing to meet those conditions the resulting product would be a success.

To do this fully aware that the boat might not be perceived as 'modern, desirable or trendy' is a huge compliment



Atlantis 20 running in home seas

to its designer and builder. To also hand produce such a craft at a highly competitive price is equally remarkable! ▶▶