



Atlantis Cuddy 26

Simon Everett revisits this awesome boat that has now had a cuddy fitted to give extra shelter.



We clocked up an amazing 41.3 knots – what a machine!



There's loads of space inside the cabin. You could have a field day laying this one out..

When I looked at the Atlantis 26 about 18 months ago I found the hull to be a remarkable performer in the overfalls and confused waters off her home of Guernsey. The way the water builds up here between the reefs and gullies with the strength of the tide was what drove Patrick to design a hull capable of maintaining a decent cruising speed in conditions most people simply wouldn't go out in.

That first 26 was an open launch with a centre console layout, even at that stage Patrick had plans for a cuddy cabin of some type to enclose the foredeck and give both protection and even greater sea beating abilities. The cuddy version is now available and this, the first one, has already found a new home in Jersey and three others are in build, such is the reputation for handling rough weather passages that these boats have gained.

Borrowed Boat

The boat we had out on test was kindly loaned to us by the owner, Mr M Hill of Jersey. The boat had already made the crossing earlier in the week ready for our arrival, the weather between times deteriorated though, giving us the chance to try her in some real life conditions following a couple of days of a steady Force 5 Nor'easter. Anyone who knows the Little Russell and the waters around St. Peter Port to Sark will recognise that this is

possibly the worst direction, blowing straight into the harbour mouth and kicking up the channel between Guernsey and Herm. Ideal to try the boat though, in the very conditions she was built to beat.

A swell of about 1.5m met us in the Big Russell with the flood tide against the stiff breeze as we made the run across to Brecqhuo and under the Barclay brothers new castle. The boat ran with a bow up attitude that helped her deal with the big holes that appeared every now and again, preventing her from dropping her nose into the troughs as we eased over some larger, steeper waves with a big drop the other side. The ride was softened by the very steep deadrise and angle of attack from the heavily raked stem, even in those conditions and unused to both the wave patterns and the boat I was able to maintain a steady 22 – 24 knots without banging or slamming. This is the beauty of

the Atlantis boats, they will enable you to make passages when other boats won't dare poke their noses out. Typically, we were the only boat on the water with everyone else tucked up tight and taking refuge in the pub!

Amazing Speed

Before the run across the more open channel we had performed the speed trials in a sheltered section of water in the lee of Herm. Here, out of the weather we got her up to a maximum speed of 41.3 knots, which for a boat that weighs 2.2 tonnes, plus fuel and water, is par for the course, we may have squeezed a little more had we had a longer stretch to play on, but it was sufficient to gain a good insight into her pace making, with full tanks and a full tank of water, together totalling 430 litres. The 400 litres of fuel will give, at a more relaxed speed, a possible range of nearly 400 miles with the new, lean burn Suzuki 300

PERFORMANCE FIGURES

ENGINE RPM	SPEED IN KNOTS (Garmin GPSMap 76CSX)
600 idle	3.0
1000	4.9
2000	8.6
3000	13.5
4000	23.3
4500	28.1
5000	35.2
6000	41.3

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA	7.90m
BEAM	2.55m
DRAFT	1.00m
PAYLOAD	898kg
MAX POWER	300hp
POWER RANGE	150hp – 300hp
RCD Class	B for 6 persons
RCD Class	C for 8 persons

running at around 4000 rpm – 4500 rpm, getting the boat onto her planing trim and still within the economic band of the 4 litre engine.

Inside The Wheelhouse

The fully enclosed cuddy wheelhouse provides total protection from the weather with full standing headroom and space aplenty. The visibility is very good with large windows and screens kept clear by pantograph wipers, which are a standard fitment. The laminated glass is 6mm throughout and is set in clamp style frames for ultimate strength and rigidity. The layout was designated by the owner