

# TALKING SHOP

WITH TONY JONES

## Less drag, less weight

How would you like your next boat to weigh 25% less and have 50% less hydrodynamic drag? Then get it designed by a Swede and built by a Kiwi!

Let's take the design aspect first. Swedish boat design consultants Marine Dynamics say that their new Dynalift stepped hull has a wetted surface area 40% smaller than conventional, ventilated stepped hull design and a whopping 50% less than a conventional vee bottom. This equates to a 33% saving in power to achieve the same speed, so you get to use a lighter, smaller and therefore less expensive engine. This, coupled with the fact that Dynalift hulls supposedly plane at a lower speed than vee-bottom designs anyway, should afford considerable reduction in running costs too.

Now for the build. High Modulus of Auckland claim they have reduced the weight of the Formula 4000 motor yacht – a 40ft (12m) sportscruiser – from its original nine tonnes to 6.8 tonnes by using “a revised epoxy laminate” rather than conventional polyester-based GRP. So it appears that the 2.2-tonne weight saving of has been achieved purely in the hull and superstructure mouldings. I figure those



Below, left and right: Dynalift stepped hull. Above: the Formula 4000.



mouldings can't have accounted for much more than 3 or 3.5 tonnes of the original all-up weight, so High Modulus seem to have achieved no less than a 63% weight saving.

I have requested more details of these two significant breakthroughs. Watch for an update in next month's column.

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## Engine insurance

Axa Insurance have launched the EngineSure insurance scheme that will allow brokers to take out an insurance policy on a boat's engines prior to sale. This is intended to add to the resale value and offer prospective customers peace of mind. The scheme covers Caterpillar, GM, MAN, MTU and Volvo diesels. The engines must have under 1,000 hours running time and be less than ten years old. Look out for EngineSure stickers on your next used boat.

**Enquiries:** Dickson Insurance Brokers, Avenue House, 31 The Avenue, Watford, Herts WD1 3NU. Tel: +44 (0)1923 222211. Fax: +44 (0)1923 222306. Website: <http://www.dickson.co.uk>

