

*dual*Extreme

Words and pictures by Scarlett Steer



I think it's fair to say that, when searching for the perfect craft to purchase, many of today's boaters look for something that can cater to a range of various needs. Jannie likes to fish, Arlene wants to wakeboard, and all your long-suffering wife Sue asks for is somewhere to stretch out in the sun and catch up on her cross stitch. Boating manufacturers worldwide have cottoned onto this and are catering accordingly. Honda Marine South Africa is no exception and has added a 16-foot multipurpose runabout, aptly named the "Dual Extreme", to their ever-expanding family. The first time I went for a test spin in this capable cutie her rigging wasn't quite right and I came away faintly unimpressed. On a recent trip to Knysna I gave her a second chance and could scarcely believe the difference. Rigged to perfection, she certainly hit the spot in terms of performance, ride, looks and handling.

A preppy package

The non-slip wet deck is uncluttered and spacious for a 16-foot craft, with access between bow and stern made easy by good-sized walkways and stainless steel grab rails around the centre console. Seating is simple and comes in the form of a big triangular bow seat/sunbed (complete with a swivel-post fold-away bass stool), separate "chair" in front of the console and aft cushioned benching for both passengers and captain. The front deck is large and raised and space at the bow has been provided for the possible installation of an electric trolling motor. The centre console is neatly laid out and houses analogue instrumentation including gauges monitoring mph, rpm, volts and trim. Standard steering is hydraulic, which makes the world of difference in terms of user-friendliness. Obviously this makes the overall package a little more expensive but I reckon it's worth



High gunnels with storage racks for rods.

it, although cable steering can be fitted on request. Gunnels are relatively high and hold storage racks for fishing rods. The tip section of light rods can be run into the protection of the bow. Two under-deck hatches can be used as live fish wells by bass fishermen, live bait holds by the offshore angler, or cooler boxes by the cruising family. A nice-sized fishing area sits behind the centre console, with a roll bar over the transom onto which rod holders can be fitted for the angler who uses the craft for trolling. A centre bollard has been fitted to the sturdy roll bar for the towing of waterskiiers and tube riders. As briefly mentioned in last month's Honda feature, fly fishermen have not been left out and will appreciate the fact that the deck and inner gunnel areas have been finished off so there are minimal snag lines where two fishermen would be casting and stripping fly-lines. Other features include stainless steel recessed cleats, a stainless steel ski bar and an Aquatex sun canopy, essential



A swivel-post fold-away bass stool.

for those summer days spent out on the water. The Dual Extreme's blue and white exterior is as smart and preppy as her onboard layout and the combined package is undeniably neat and sweet.

Blast off!

Last month's issue featured an article on Honda's new high-tech 90HP outboard, and any of you still not acquainted with this package of punch best listen up. The BF90 has had a complete overhaul and now boasts a new 1 496 cc power head, and a four-cylinder, single overhead-cam (SOHC) design with around 100 cc less displacement than its predecessor. Dry weight has been reduced by 14 pounds (approximately 6.35 kg) for the 20-inch model. The BF90 is a hotbed of technology and boasts electronic fuel injectors (EFI), variable intake valve timing (VTEC), and a lean-burn system that greatly improves fuel consumption. A vital component of this lean-burn system is an oxygen filter fitted into the exhaust. This filter's role is to constantly



The bench at the consol has an adjustable backrest.

tweak fuel delivery rates, enabling the engine to run as lean as 18:1 (air: fuel) at times – mostly at constant speeds between 2 000 and 4 500 rpm. Honda reports that this saves up to 30% of fuel at mid-range speeds.

The BF90 also features something called BLAST – Boosted Low Speed Torque. BLAST is designed to take advantage of a rich fuel mixture condition that occurs whenever you hit the throttle to throw the craft onto the plane. When the throttle is pushed down hard the fuel injection system immediately thrusts out a big jet of fuel. It takes up to a couple of split

seconds longer for the air to catch up to the fuel – hence the fleeting opulent mixture. BLAST redresses by pushing ignition timing to the limit of fulmination. What does all this result in? Enhanced acceleration right at the beginning of the hole-shot.

"The BF90 is a hotbed of technology"

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Although this is certainly not the first time I have experienced the new BF90 outboard, I still marvel at how silent and smooth she is. Twice I had to ask if the engine was actually running. Not only does the new BF90 perform well but she's got a sleeker look too. A new gear case design boasts a more hydrodynamic leading edge and a bullet that's gained half an inch in length, and a newly designed splash plate prevents water sloshing up the engine front when mounted on a pontoon boat. To put all the claims and technical stats to the test, we put the Dual Extreme through her paces - our review craft burst out

of the water and onto the plane in an instant and was extremely responsive to the touch. I think the rigging department got it dead right this time. Rigging really can make or break a boat so it's vital to know that your craft has been outfitted correctly. ☛



Hydraulic steering comes as a standard, making the world of difference in terms of ease of use.



Our 16 foot craft braved the open ocean and afforded us several awesome whale sightings.

If you buy a boat from Honda Marine in Knysna this is one less thing to worry about – every single one of their boats is rigged and fully tested at a range of different settings to ensure maximum performance and comfort. Rigging correctly is about trial and error – trying out all the possible settings and then deciding on the one that works best. Your servicing requirements are also not a worry. Honda Marine Knysna

runs their Service Department as an integral part of their main showroom facility in Waterfront Drive, Knysna. Their certified Honda Technicians have years of experience and are highly qualified to rig new boats, service Honda outboard engines and fit genuine Honda accessories.

For information about this boat, engine or others in their range contact Honda Marine Knysna on (044) 382 4090



At a glance

LOA	16 ft
Boat make	Mallards
Max. HP	135
Min. HP	75
Max. persons	9

Standard features

Boat Cover
 Buoyancy Certificate
 Breakneck Trailer
 Cleats
 Fishing Rod Racks
 Gauge Kit
 Grab Handles
 Hydraulic Steering
 Navigation Lights
 Ski Bar
 Spare Wheel
 Standard Mount
 Sun Canopy (Aquatex)
 Trolling Bar
 Wet Deck / Scuppers

(All boats may be certified for deep-sea use according to your requirements regarding the distance out to sea you want to travel.)

Engine specifications

Type 4-stroke	SOHC – 4 Cylinders
Displacement (cm ³)	1 590
Valve train	12 valve
Full Throttle rpm Range	5 000 – 6 000
Rated power – HP/kW	90/66.2
Cooling system	Water cooled
Carburetion	4 carburetors with accelerator pump
Ignition system	Capacity discharge CDI
Exhaust	Propeller Boss

Equipment

Alternator	16 amp (202 watt)
Propeller Size (Inch)	Optional
Propeller Blades	Option: 3 or 4 blades
Oil Pressure Alert	Yes
Overheat Alert	Yes
Revolution Limiter	Yes
Emergency Stop Switch	Yes
Direction	Remote control
Starting system	Electric starter
Power trim and tilt	Standard

or www.hondamarineknysna.co.za.
 If you don't live in the Knysna area don't despair – visit www.honda.co.za to locate your nearest dealer. ●