

WITH HIS UNQUESTIONABLE SKILLS IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, JAMES HAS LAUNCHED HIS OWN COMPANY, WHITMARSH HIGH PERFORMANCE RIBS LTD, AND THE FIRST MODEL, WHITMARSH 11M, HAS BEEN LAUNCHED AND TESTED.

1988) he revealed that the Bonito company was going to start building Baby Bonito, a 27 foot version of the 36. The first one out of the mould sported Vodafone livery and Jamie raced the boat himself. It was powered by twin Mercury 200 outboards and although it never won any titles, its stunning appearance alone was enough to persuade me to buy one. Supported by Weru, the German double glazing company, my Bonito was fitted with a big single Ford diesel engine with transmission through the rather agricultural looking surface drive from Lancing Marine. I never fitted trim tabs so it struggled to get on the plane, but once it was up and running 'Weru' went like a rocket. Before I retired from powerboat racing after my one season, 'Weru' had a record of four wins and six breakdowns in ten races thanks to catalogue of mechanical ailments.

Production of Bonitos stopped in 1990, and Jamie joined Sunseeker International building Super Hawks, and later the Buzzi designed Sunseeker XS 2000. The entrepreneurial urge took Jamie Whitmarsh in the direction of the ever expanding RIB market and, based on the Baby Bonito design, a 9 metre RIB was born. Its styling was typically 'Whitmarsh' - low sleek and modernistic. Unfortunately, the RIB industry at the time was becoming very competitive, and Jamie was forced to put the project on hold while he returned to the financial security of regular employment at Sunseekers. This time he was based in the South of France refitting luxury super yachts. Ironically brother Stefan, meanwhile, had been appointed general manager of the production of Sunseeker Superyachts in Poole.



Vodafone Bonito, 1987

More recently, with his unquestionable skills in design and construction, James has launched his own company, Whitmarsh High Performance RIBs Ltd, and the first model, Whitmarsh 11m, has been launched and tested. The styling and performance are, as one would expect, superb. The running surface is based on the tried and tested Bonito 36, but the interior is very 21st century. Powered by twin Mercury outboards, the Whitmarsh 11m is aimed at the Superyacht tender market, but will appeal to those looking for the ultimate speed machine with superb handling, safety and performance, together with luxurious interior fittings and a sleek, eye-catching appearance.

