

TENDER thoughts

Frances and Michael Howorth look at what is new in the Superyacht Tender Market

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The world of super yacht tenders seldom stays still for very long. As each new launching of the mother ship takes place so it seems 10 or so new designs for tenders to service them are released. Some designs are snapped up quickly and become instant hits with Captains who organise the commissioning others are destined to only to reach the prototype stage.

One man who can and does sort the wheat from the chaff is Tim Fleming a consultant in Custom Rescue Boats and Yacht Tenders for Boating Matters.com

He reports that he is seeing a trend where yachts are wanting rugged and dependable tenders for extreme usage in inhospitable environments where the nearest service centre is the yacht's own engineering crew. "These tenders," he says, "Must be designed to make it easy to work on and maintain for the ships engineers. Interestingly enough, 2 of the yachts are asking for repeat, but updated and refined models of what they already have on board. I see this as testimony to their satisfaction of tenders from builders, the likes of Zodiac Hurricane and SAFE.



Dean Maggio of Yellowfin Custom Yacht Tenders told On Board, "We are Capitalising on a hull form that has been very successful with in the competitive fishing world. Their hull shape offers an exceptionally fast comfortable seaworthy ride. No other tender that I know of offers the comfort speed and volume it does." A 12 metre Yellowfin was first seen at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show. It was well received at that launching in October of last year. Maggio says, "I believe tenders need to be multi functional and well suited for the various missions they undertake. Other manufacturers try to get fancy with designs that focus on bling but at the end of the day the guest, and crew want to stay dry and be comfortable with adequate space. Most tenders our only suited for people moving, water sports, diving or as work boats ours are aimed to providing the best all arounders."

Novurania continues with its full range of yacht tenders and sport boats from 3 to 13 metres including many new models lines introduced this year. Perhaps the most interesting is the addition of the Chase 31 to its chase series that are available from 5.7 to 12 metres. All feature inboard turbo diesel power units and models that can take an out board are available to order. The series offers many hidden features that include the recessed bow dodger, which neatly tucks away in a flush deck compartment. Others include a side opening door that can flip open to reveal a built in step for easy boarding. For yachts requiring a low profile tender that can easily slip into the tender garage, the Chase 19 comes with a push button console that hides away too. More standard but nevertheless important features on all these boats include luxurious guest seating, teak decking and a large swim platform for all kinds of water sports.

Tender Delivery

From France comes news that Tender Shipyard has delivered 3 of their new 6.8 metre TS 68 to new build constructions at both Benetti and Heesen Shipyard. Two were constructed in polyester Fibreglass for two of them while Vinylester Carbon was specified as the construction material for the third. The first two were powered using Volvo 220 hp engines driving with Alamarine jet drives and the third was fitted with a Volvo Z Drive unit. The TS 68 is just one of a slew of new boats from the builder. Their 12 person capable TS80 Classic features a composite construction with teak and mahogany glued deck, varnished to a high gloss finish. The TS80 Speed racer is a retro styled Gentleman's sports boat 9 metres long, while the TS 85 Open is designed for diving and comes with a glass bottom.

American builder Hodgdon is a fifth generation family run company that is still located in the heart of Maine's famed Boothbay Region. The company's tender building division currently employs more than 15 in their Murray Hill facility. Custom built to the designs of Michael Peters they have

Novurania



With the new addition of the CHASE 19, NOVURANIA now offers five sizes from 5.7 to 12 meters. All feature inboard turbo diesel power and an outboard model too. This includes the CHASE 19, 23, 27, 31 and 38 footers. The CHASE series offers many hidden features; like a side opening door which flips open to reveal a built in step and for yachts requiring a low profile tender,

the CHASE 19 has a push button console that hides away too. Luxurious seating, teak decking and a large swim platform, the CHASE is the ultimate tender for any super yacht.

For more details Tel: +1 772 567 9200 or visit www.novurania.com



Zodiac Hurricane Tenders

From their Vancouver shipyard, are only built for discerning Yacht Owners that appreciate a very high level of engineering and customisation for an ultra reliable tender. Available in GRP or aluminum, they are particularly at home on yachts that often put 1000 hours per year on their tenders where the reliability and ease of maintenance can support this kind of use. Zodiac's legendary

hull designs and configurations are proven blue ocean performers with professional operators worldwide. Constantly updated since 1976, current builds are finished to any level of Yacht Quality Standard.

For more details: Tel: +31(0)629 405 443 or visit www.Zodiacmilprotenders.com

just completed delivery of hull number 414 the fourth in a line of custom tenders for significant super yachts. This new Open version will be the second to join a super yacht under construction in Northern European shipyard. The first was a Limousine version seating for 12. Both are fitted with Volvo D6-370 drive trains, which give them an estimated speed of 32 knots.

Another French company is making tracks into the super yacht tender market and we mean that quite literally! Iguana Yachts are equipping high performance boats with tracks, giving them the ability to emerge from the water onto dry land, independently. Two rubber tracks and two motorised hydraulic arms can be fitted to almost any type of tender. Controlled using a smart command, they can then be deployed in seconds or quickly folded away into the sides of the boat without compromising the tender's sleek lines. They can climb an 11° variable slope, even on unstable ground, and can reach the speed of 7 km/h. With a ground pressure barely greater than a pedestrian, the vessel's weight is distributed evenly on its tracks. Clearly an amphibious craft, designed for those looking for something different, that by nature blends into the environment.

Changing markets

Talking to Josh Richardson from Superyacht Tender & Toys he explains, "The market for tenders is changing, be that the economic downturn, increase in knowledge, or the preferences and requests of clients." He continues "Around 70% of our daily enquiries a few years ago were because owners and captains were struggling to find options which would fit their space and requirements, and our in depth industry knowledge and contacts sped them through this process. Whilst this still remains in some cases, we are more and more often receiving an enquiry from a client stating what boat they want and to just receive a quote on this and similar craft. This we suspect is due to the easier access of data, specifications, and product details online through the various tender manufacturers websites combined with increasing knowledge of what works for them and what doesn't."

Having said that, experience in what type of tender is right for specific vessels or owner requirements is still a sort after talent, and Superyacht Tender & Toys is there to make the Captain or owners life easier. Josh continues, "In recent years owners have been more conscious of budget and getting the best deal! A large amount of our sales has therefore been production or semi-production tenders; the Williams, Novurania, Goldfish, Zodiac, Ribeye's, etc. Key features wanted by owners are for it to be safe, dry, fast, have lots of guest seating, be good for watersports and have easy access. More specifically bow doors and side boarding is very popular along with the use of the improved flexi-teak flooring, offering a teak effect without the maintenance for the crew".



Tendacentre

Bringing an unrivalled level of expertise to the selection and manufacture of superyacht tenders and chase boats, Tendacentre works closely with leading manufacturers, to ensure that all of their customers receive exactly the right vessel for their application. At their storage and service facility in the Gulf of St Tropez they undertake repairs and servicing for all kinds of

superyacht tenders and chase boats, whether supplied by them or not. They offer a wide range of charter options if a temporary replacement or additional tender is needed, whether for a few days or an entire season.

For more details: Tel: +33 (0)4 93 09 60 03 or visit: www.tendacentre.com

Yellow Fin

Designed to appeal to three key markets, Yellowfin has combined their proprietary hull design with a rib platform making it unlike anything else on the market today. First, the perfect chase/support vessel for race teams, second as the consummate mega-yacht tender and finally as the ideal watercraft for military/law enforcement. With superior attention to detail they have developed the perfect combination of style, ergonomics and practicality. Yellowfin use intelligent engineering, resin infusion with sandwich core construction making custom tenders that are light, strong, and efficient. The result is a platform that is truly versatile and suitable for all purposes.

For more details: Tel: +1 954 655 8585 or visit www.yellowfinyachts.com



Yachtique is the yacht services division of Azimut Benetti. It is they that organise everything and owner might want on board his yacht from a mattress to a tender. They have for many years sold an exclusive range of the British built jet driven Williams tenders that come in colours to match either the Benetti or the Azimut in question but now they are adding to their tender capabilities.

At the recent Yacht Master exhibition held as part of the 13th Azimut Benetti Yachtmasters event in Livorno, the company unveiled two new additions to their fleet of tenders. The first is the 3.5 metre MBELEVEN is a small tender with a big fun factor. This toy sized machine evokes an elegant retrò style yet is built using the most modern of components. Loaded with up to 4 people the tiny craft fairly nips along powered by a 40 hp out board plant. The second offering from Yachtique is yet another Italian built tender. This time it is a 6.3 metre sports boat whose hull production uses moulds derived from a CAD/CAM process that allows maximum precision while following the technical design. The mould is then used to cast the fibreglass and Kevlar structure with a vacuum procedures that result in a particularly light tender with a high resistance to impact and external agents. The HTM is the product of more than 10 years of research and experience by the company founders whose starting point in the design was to achieve a quality craft that was never more than 1 metre off the water

Tender charters

Not everyone wants or needs their own tender so it is a good job that Tendacentre have charter portfolio of craft that provides a seamless service for yacht owners and charter brokers looking for temporary tender solutions. A leading supplier of production and custom yacht tenders, they have many years experience in both sales and charter. In addition to temporary replacement of a yacht's own tenders, larger vessels can also be chartered to greatly enhance the enjoyment of guests, allowing for day-trips in comfort, or collecting guests and provisions from further afield. Charter duration can be from one day to a whole season and worldwide shipping can also be arranged.

Ultra light large racing yachts also have requirements for customised tenders in the small sizes. Tim Fleming is currently overseeing the building of a 4.2 metre totally customised outboard tender for a 33 metre all carbon fibre sailing yacht. The tender will have two tone inflatable tubes, special hull size, extraordinary deck colour and custom features in it to make it fit the limited storage space aboard.

He said, "There are not that many RIB builders who want to tackle that but I found one in Holland who, like me, knows that anything can be built for the Owner who has the patience and the funds to get exactly what he wants."

Tender Shipyard

Driven by Philippe Cabon, a designer and naval architect. Building specialist tenders using vinylester resin vacuum process infusion, glass fiber/PVC foam sandwich with reinforcement. The TS68 Open is powered by a Volvo D3-220 Hp, electronic injection with stern Drive Duo Prop giving a max speed of 30 knots. The deck is finished in beautiful 6mm thick teak from sustainable sources complimenting the carbon finished dashboard and steering wheel. An overall length of 6.80 m capable of carrying 12 people will carry your guest in comfort, style and at pace. The step through exit ladder at the bow is elegant and makes for the easy movement of guests on and off the tender.

For further details:
Tel: +33(O) 251 201 702 or visit:
www.tendershipyard.com



Superyacht Tenders and Toys



As an experienced company providing custom tender solutions to yacht owners, they understand the possible constraints of the mother vessel tender garage. Custom tenders offer owners the opportunity to possess something completely unique and individual. With several manufacturers offering tailor made tenders, they specialise in creating unique and individual designs which fit the clients brief. Superyacht Tenders

and Toys is uniquely positioned to assist in the selection and purchase of the best tender to fit the vessel's and the owner's requirements and is able to offer unbiased advice, not being affiliated to any one particular brand.

For more details:
Tel: +33 (O)489 733 347 or visit:
www.superyachtendersandtoys.com

Contacts

Boating Matters	www.Boatingmatters.com
Yellowfin	www.yellowfincustom.com
Tender Shipyard	www.tendershipyard.com
Hodgdon Tendres	www.hodgdonyachts.com
Iguana Yachts	www.iguanyachts.com
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