

Boatyard wins leading maritime industry award



The Duchy 35, which was launched at last September's Southampton Boat Show, and Cockwells Modern & Classic Boatbuilding founder and managing director Dave Cockwell

A Cornish boatyard that specialises in producing classic motor launches has won a maritime industry award.

Cockwells Modern & Classic Boatbuilding, based at Mylor, near Falmouth, scooped the 2018 Motor Boat Award for its Duchy 35, which was launched at last September's Southampton Boat Show.

The Duchy 35 was one of eight designs to have been nominated in the Wheelhouse and Cockpit Cruisers category of *Motor Boat & Yachting* magazine's 2018 Motor Boat

Awards, beating off competition to be crowned the winner at a ceremony in London's West End.

The Duchy 35 was singled out by the judges as a boat that "tugs at your heartstrings from the moment you set eyes on it".

Judge Hugo Andreae highlighted the craft's "elegant styling, married to a sturdy displacement hull and a beautifully hand-crafted interior", adding: "Its sumptuous concoction of handmade cabinets, thoughtful, practical detailing

and solid wood ensure this boat stands the test of time."

The judges also described the Duchy 35 as "a shining example of traditional and contemporary working together in perfect harmony to create a boat that has the retro appeal of a wooden launch, yet all the equipment and comfort of a modern 40ft cruiser".

Cockwells' motor launches are classically-designed, handcrafted-vessels made at Mylor. Built from low maintenance composites, they are customised with everything

from teak decks and leather seating to bespoke crockery and glassware in tailor-made stowage.

Speaking at after accepting the award, founder and managing director Dave Cockwell said: "We could not be more delighted that the Duchy 35 has won this prestigious accolade from industry professionals.

"Following *Motor Boat & Yachting's* outstanding review of the vessel's sea trial and the record-breaking sales we achieved at last year's

Southampton Boat Show, this is the perfect beginning to a new year.

"It is also testament to the exemplary way in which our design team respond to the precise requirements of our clientele, and our highly skilled craftsmen who bring those designs to life in meticulous detail.

"We look forward to releasing designs for Scandinavian and Mediterranean options of the Duchy 35 later this month, as well as another year of record sales and growth."

County among worst areas for flu infections

Flu is on the brink of epidemic levels in parts of England – with Cornwall among the worst for infections.

Numbers battling the virus have rocketed 78% in a week, says the Royal College of GPs.

Separate stats reveal GP flu consultations in Cornwall are at 85.8 per 100,000 people, the fifth-highest in the entire country.

A level of 108.9 per 100,000 signals an epidemic.

The worst hit area is York (104.2), followed by Herefordshire (99.7), Gateshead (88.2), Hampshire (86.8) and Cornwall.

The average across England is 34.9.

Experts have warned the crisis may get worse before it improves.

Prof Simon de Lusignan, of the Royal College of GPs, said: "We can certainly say that last week was when flu in England took off.

"However, given how unpredictable flu can be, it is impossible to say how this will progress. Rates may increase, level out or even decline."

Aussie flu (H3N2) and swine flu (H1N1) are the main strains circulating at present.

As Aussie flu continues to hit the country, separate warnings have been issued around French flu and Japanese flu.

Western Morning News

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Fresh bid to restart Scilly helicopter link

BY KEITH ROSSITER

Backers of an Isles of Scilly helicopter service have submitted new plans for a Penzance heliport, following a legal challenge.

Last year the Isles of Scilly Steamship Group challenged planning permission granted for the heliport, which would reinstate services from Penzance to St Mary's and Trecco.

An amended application says the project will unlock £31 million of investment in the islands, provide a £9 million boost to West Cornwall, and increase visitor numbers through additional transport capacity and reliability.

Robert Dorrien-Smith, who is leading the project, said yesterday: "The legal challenge to the original planning consent, whilst frustrating, has actually allowed us to strengthen our case.

"The additional information we are providing today proves the importance of this project to the future growth of the islands, and shows beyond doubt that Penzance is the optimum base for the service."

The amended application says that new evidence from some of Scilly's biggest businesses has identified £31 mil-

lion of investment in the islands that is currently on hold, pending improvements to the transport infrastructure.

Island business owner Clifford Freeman said: "The re-introduction of a helicopter service will help grow the visitor market and encourage further investment in the islands. I recently found myself reluctantly holding back investment plans pending a better transport system."

Penzance Heliport Ltd said

'I recently found myself holding back investment plans'

Clifford Freeman

the islands' tourism agency has set an ambitious growth target of an additional 20,000 visitors a year by 2019.

"Analysis shows this target can only be met through significant increases in transport capacity and weather resilience that a helicopter service from Penzance can deliver.

"Information from aviation experts shows the proposed site, at Jelbert Way in Penzance, will enable helicopters to fly in at least 40% lower

cloud than from Land's End Airport, helping improve the reliability of the islands' transport network.

Mr Dorrien-Smith said: "Whilst the rest of Cornwall's tourism economy is seeing significant growth, the islands are seeing virtual stagnation.

"Last year air passenger numbers fell by more than 6,000, taking us back to the level we were at in 2014.

"On a yearly basis, flying from Land's End Airport is disrupted on at least one day in every four, and in the winter that airport is our chief link with the mainland.

"With no ferry backup, it's a pretty dire situation; the results were seen again this Christmas when a Dunkirk spirit and Scilly's own fleet of little boats was the only way on or off the islands.

"We hope we are now able to move on and work alongside the Steamship Group and others to provide a better, stronger and more resilient transport service for Scilly."

A spokesman for the Isles of Scilly Steamship Group said: "We share the objective of having a resilient transport network to the Isles of Scilly. When we have reviewed the new planning application we will be able to comment further."