

# 4 ALL-ELECTRIC HIGHFIELD

**RIGHT** Small electric craft like the Highfield are increasingly popular and produced in high numbers in China

American electric propulsion specialist Pure Watercraft has partnered with aluminium RIB builder Highfield to create all-electric versions of two of its popular models – the Highfield 360 Classic and the Highfield 380 Classic. With electric motors equivalent to 50hp petrol outboards and the standard twin-battery packs, these models are good for top speeds of around 25 knots. Flat out the maximum range is just 14 miles but slow things down and the range increases. At a 16-knot cruise the quoted range is 17 miles while bumbling along at three knots will push this to 68 miles.

Initially, at least, Pure Watercraft is selling these all-electric Highfields directly from the US. They are not available from the usual Highfield dealer network.

Package prices in the States for the 360 and 380 start at US\$24,000 and US\$29,000 respectively. Deliveries start in early 2021.

All Highfields are built in China at a dedicated



facility in Weihai, Shandong Province. Since it started production in 2011 it claims to have delivered almost 30,000 RIBs and presently builds around 5,000 a year in a range that stretches from 8-28ft (2.40-8.60m).

Moreover, the company says it is currently doubling its factory space from 100,000ft<sup>2</sup> to 200,000ft<sup>2</sup>.

# 5 COCKWELLS BUYS HARDY

Cornwall-based boat builder Cockwells has acquired the rights to the Hardy brand of motoryachts. The deal includes the moulds and rights to all eight of its current range of boats, including the award winning Hardy 65.

The purchase was concluded with a third party that had previously acquired all the assets of Norfolk-based Windboats Marine from the administrator. Windboats folded in April after acquiring Hardy in 2013, although the brand's heritage goes back to the mid-1970s and includes more than 4,000 delivered boats.

Cockwells plans to build the Hardy range at its main facility in Mylor Creek, near Falmouth and presently employs around 80 people. Its reputation for building high-quality timeless craft with handcrafted wooden interiors should compliment the Hardy range of trawler-style motoryachts. A similar deal to buy the rights and moulds to the original Aquila 27, subsequently relaunched with a new layout and bespoke wood interior as the Duchy 27, has proved a big success for the yard and the range has since been expanded to include smaller and larger Duchy models. It hopes to repeat that success with the Hardy brand.

"The sturdy and immensely seaworthy range of Hardy semi-displacement models, all from designer Andrew Wolstenholme, will prove an excellent fit with our existing Duchy 21, 27 and 35 semi-custom line-up," says company founder and CEO Dave Cockwell, "which will soon include the all-new Duchy 45 and eventually a flagship 60."

Cockwells also designs and manufactures custom-built tenders and limousines for superyachts. To date it has successfully delivered ten of these sized between 23ft and 34ft (7-10.5m) to some of the largest yachts in the world.

**BELOW LEFT** Cockwells will take over building Hardy motoryachts at its Mylor yard in Cornwall

