

*Trimmed to perfection the Smuggler 570 Bowrider powers along at an exciting 52 mph.*



boat with a good looking trailer. At the ramp the boat was easy to launch off the multi-roller trailer. My wife Carla, and two 'helpers' under ten, easily held the boat while I parked the car and trailer.

Climbing aboard I was pleasantly surprised with the roominess offered from a boat of a little over 5.5m (keeping in mind I had been originally gearing up for the 6m model). We had two adults, four children and a small dog onboard; three of the children sat up in the bow for the entire day, leaving one of the four cockpit area seats free. The bow seating area, although a little smaller than some, is comfortable, and nicely upholstered, as was the entire boat's seating. The coamings seem a little higher than most, which is reassuring when you have smaller crew members onboard. A small but handy locker is under the forward squab of the three. There is also a reasonably sized anchor locker behind the bollard and fairlead.

Moving through to the cockpit of the boat - there is a wide access area with two hatches to large storage lockers either side within the consoles; the starboard side also

offers access to the back of the helm to the electronic workings of the boat.

There is plenty of storage throughout the boat by way of two underfloor lockers, one between the consoles and one very good-sized underfloor aft locker with two removable locker hatches. (The 120-litre internal fuel tank sits between the two, pretty much smack in the central point of the boat). The side pockets, which are also of a good size, are fitted out with rod holders either side. We mounted our Fusion waterproof speakers in the rear of these pockets, which protect them and help them produce some good base at the same time. Additional storage if you are still requiring more, is available within the helm and passenger seat pedestals and the aft corner bin seats which are removable - great when heading out for a fish and the space is more of a priority than extra seating.

There is more storage available under the transom where the oil reservoir, fuel filter and battery are also stored; all neatly hidden away by a domed-on curtain.

The consoles, as well as offering excellent storage, house the waterproof Fusion MS-IP600 marine stereo (which is also iPod or iPhone compatible - its great having the availability of hundreds of tracks of your personal taste of music - to play depending what mood one is in) and a cabin downlight, the helm has E-TEC i-Command gauges that offer all the engine management information that you could ever wish for from a boat of this size - all programmable and best of all quite easy to use! Next to the gauges we have flush mounted an Eagle Fishlife 640c GPS Fishfinder combo, another easy-to-use unit with good screen display even with the worst glare of the day. Below the steering wheel are two Aquatech switch panels which control the cockpit lighting, navigation lights, bilge pump and underwater lights. These are mounted in the transom either side of the bung and look great at night - and are said to be great fish attractants - will report back on that! The seating position is very good, and I find the driver's seat comfortable, although one of the only problems I could find on the boat is that tendency to slide off the front



*The rear removable bin seats provide storage and seating.*



*Additional storage is also available in the wide side pockets.*