

# SOUTH WALES SHOW

The South Wales exhibition at Margham Hall suggests that our boat show season now goes on all year round. Simon Everett was there to find out how things are developing.

The second South Wales Boat Show was bigger and better than last year's and, despite the heavy rain on the Friday, it was a roaring success for all concerned. The poor forecast might have kept people from going out but it seems that a great many of them came to the show regardless. It turned out to be a good move as the rain clouds blew away, the sun shone and enthusiasm for the boats soared.

The main focus of the show was on sports boats, with a good showing of smaller boats, sailing dinghies and kayaks to keep the youngsters happy. The majority of the event was set out on the grass in front of the impressive setting of Margham Hall, which in itself is worth a day out. Surrounded by marine paraphernalia the venue could not have looked more attractive to the boat buying public. >



For those in search of bargain ropes, anchors and other useful boating kit there were some fabulous deals to be had. One punter was chuffed to bits to be going home with 100m of anchor rope for under £20. He more than covered his entry with what he saved on his bargain.

There were plenty of boating fashions too and the fashion show was worth watching, especially for the men. Wet suits, bikinis, swim suits and footwear were all being paraded by models provided by the Welsh modelling agency, LUSH. The girls then went on a tour of the show to enable exhibitors to benefit from some useful boat embellishment.

The Sea Cadets were much in evidence, helping with the general running of [▶](#)



The LUSH agency girls, kindly provided by the Welsh Tourist board, gave the event some real glamour



The Sea Cadets were on hand to help with the running of things and a great job they did



Magnificent Margham Hall makes a breathtaking backdrop



Picton Boats put on a good display on home turf



Sadly, that's not the purchase price



Despite some fairly high-end sports boats, the emphasis on accessibility was very positive



Anyone know the key to a woman's heart?



When Mastercraft turns up, you know it's a serious show



Who says boating's a rich man's game?



The Hov Pod put in regular stints with its crowd-pleasing flying displays

the event and taking time out to drool over the boats they dream of affording when they are older. There was plenty to see and do all around. The rides on a hovercraft were very popular as was the Zapcat white-knuckle experience on the lake, along with an equally wet trip on a Yamaha Waverider.

Mike Jarman was always mobbed out with his demonstrations of survival skills and the insect eating culinary demos were surprisingly popular. Locusts for lunch anyone? Just in case you're wondering, he runs wilderness trips to Canada each October where you travel by canoe and live in the wild.

As the show becomes established it goes from strength to strength with wilder and more varied attractions. It's only to be expected. With a vibrant pro-powerboating ethos, the Welsh can look forward to a lot more of the same. ■