

inflatable speedboats, jet skis and even canoes.

"Last year over 1,000 people took part in the free have-a-go events over the three days and we expect even more to take to the water this year," said Ben Sutcliffe, one of the main organisers of the event.

"This element of the show is sponsored by Swansea Water Sports and All Points West and there will be RYA trained staff from both companies in attendance to make sure everything is done correctly and safely."

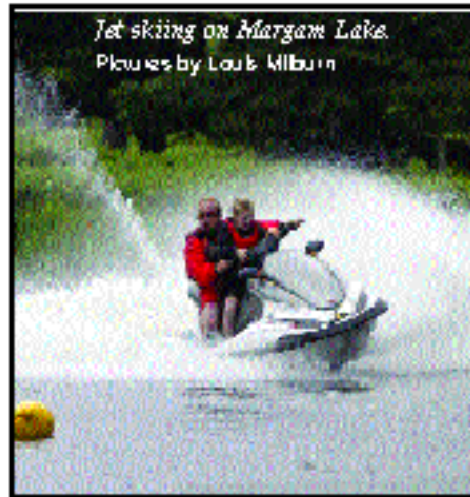
Filling the parkland in front of the castle will be a vast range of marine craft of every description, from dinghies and trailer-sailors to cabin cruisers and power-boats.

Among them will be the Ocqueteau range supplied by Martletwy-based Pembrokeshire Sportsboats. Hugh Hodgson, who runs Pembrokeshire Sportsboats, explained that Ocqueteau has a high profile in France, especially in Brittany, but as yet isn't widely known in this country.

"That is starting to change, and I am sure that our presence at the South Wales Boat Show will increase interest still further," he said. "The sportsboats they produce are ideally suited for the Welsh coast. Basically they are fishing boats on the outside, but inside they have all the comforts of a cabin cruiser."

As an eye-catching addition to his trade stand, Hugh will be parading *Rue Ice*, a 'Blade Runner' offshore powerboat racing machine which once clocked 101.7mph on Lake Windermere. *Rue Ice* was purchased recently by Hugh's brother Clive and should be one of the stars of the show.

Other Pembrokeshire companies taking part will include



Jet skiing on Margam Lake  
Pictures by Louie Milburn

Milford-based Celtic Maritime Connections – no doubt flagging up the attractions of SeaFair Haven – Mitec, the boat-building arm of Pembrokeshire College, and Pembrokeshire Cruising.

A Neyland marina-based company Pembrokeshire Cruising runs a sailing school and also charters out yachts – either bare-boat charter or skippered adventure cruises to Ireland or the Scilly Isles.

As well as looking to sign up people for these charters, the company will be hoping to interest buyers in the range of Jeanneau yachts which it sells.

"In particular we will be showing the Jeanneau Sun 2000, a 20-foot trailer-sailor ideal for people who live in Cardiff or Swansea to tow off for a weekend's sailing,"

said a company spokesman.

The Sunday of the Boat Show is Father's Day and a number of special events for dads are being organised. The whole show is designed to appeal to the family, with a specially-laid sandy beach – complete with pirate ship – for children to play on, the Swansea Sound Roadshow and an appearance from Dylan the Dog.

Units of the South Wales Sea Cadets will be competing in a number of challenges, there will be spectacular displays by top jetski and 'Zapcat' drivers, and there will even be a surf simulator.

"This is an attraction guaranteed to pull in the crowds," said Ben Sutcliffe. "All ages will want to try surfing or show off their surfing skills, and the simulator is surrounded by an inflatable cushion so no-one gets hurt"

The Boat Show runs from 10am to 6pm each day.