

Marine Motors Ltd.

Redbay Stormforce 7.4

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they can be completely closed to the weather without any hindrance to the boat or crew.

And for those winter days there are even a couple of heaters installed to take away the chill. With seating for four inside there is a bench seat aft for two and though still outside, the canopy still offers some small amount of shelter.

Console

Redbay like their RIBs uncluttered so, in addition to a practical layout, they have made sure there is adequate storage for equipment...



The top of the bench seat opens to reveal a small chest, while the seat bases and console supply the rest.

After a short while we dropped the canopy, an effortless exercise that took



two and a half minutes and naturally her looks changed significantly. Although not designed to, she looked quite sporty, enhanced by two double stainless steel "A" frames, one in the customary position aft and the other over the console to support the canopy as well as house the aerials and antennae.

Power

Weighing in at around a tonne and a half, this is a substantial craft, but the Evinrude got her on the plane quickly and she shot up to her top speed of 38 knots. Using very little trim, she sat firmly in the water and required little trim to plane, or compensation once there. In turns, she was nimble but not lively. There was not a tendency to skip or slip and before long I was

revelling in locking her over at full speed easing just a couple of hundred revs before locking in and powering those "G's" back on to exit the turns. For a while I forgot this was a cruiser!!

Even with the canopies down, the console and screen did a masterly job of deflecting wind and I realise now why even living on the Essex coast, Dave is now no stranger to Calais! There was absolutely no wind, or even a ripple on our test day, so the best parts of this craft I was unable to test, but reports from Dave and others confirmed what I had thought, that these are capable of dealing lousy weather.

Creature Comforts

There are some really nice touches on the Redbay. On the front of the console are drop down steps port and starboard, so you don't have to stretch to mount the side decks.

Other niceties include waterproof console storage, interior lights, treadmaster decks, heavy duty wear and tread patches on the tubes and 3/4 length safety lines.

Verdict

All in all the Redbay is a very well set up RIB, the canopy really extends the

cruising capabilities thanks to the reduction of elemental exposure and in turn makes even cold rainy days fun.

Length Overall -	21'5" (7.5m)
Internal Length -	19'5" (6.8m)
External Beam -	7'9" (2.78m)
Internal Beam -	4'5" (1.57m)
Fuel Capacity -	Gallons (173ltrs) (2×5gal emergency tanks)
Engine -	225hp digital ficht Evinrude