

EXPANDING BY DE-CREASING

Why don't we have six litre in Britain? A question often asked by potential competitors to that class. Last year *Unipart* battled relentlessly in Class 2 when its true capacity lay in 6 ltr. This season *Vladivar* and John Hampton's *Faze One* join Class 2 but again both craft are really 6 ltr boats. The division has supporters in Italy, South Africa and Dubai yet Britain chooses to ignore it. The reason given is that there are too many classes

already. So why not drop 1.3 ltr, after all there is a ready made class for these boats in OCR.

Whilst promotion experts and organisers continually strive to make offshore powerboat racing comprehensible to the layman, the current complexities of seven classes and sub-divisions do little to help their cause. The easiest solution would be to reduce the custom-made raceboat class to two and let the cruisermen have one class. In recent years the British premier division has been as badly supported as the smallest class,

so why persevere with them? Amalgamate Class 2 and 6 ltr as one class and 2 ltr and 4 ltr can join forces to make the Economy Class. The fact is that when a new class is introduced it seldom attracts newcomers to the sport it just means other classes decrease in numbers as competitors move up a step. Rarely do they enter Class 1 however, astronomical costs see to that.

The backbone of powerboat racing lies in Class 3 and its two divisions. Many of these enthusiasts would prefer to race as

one, guaranteeing line-ups of up to thirty five boats. The more powerful section would also conjure up at least twenty competitors, what an easy combination it would be to follow. Even the television companies could cope with two classes and Joe Public would have little trouble following the simple formula we have suggested.

What about the Class 1 competitor already in existence? They would hardly miss out, there will always be the Needles and Cowes-Torquay Internationals to fly their flags and would do the job properly. There is also the European circuit waiting for a British deluge.

