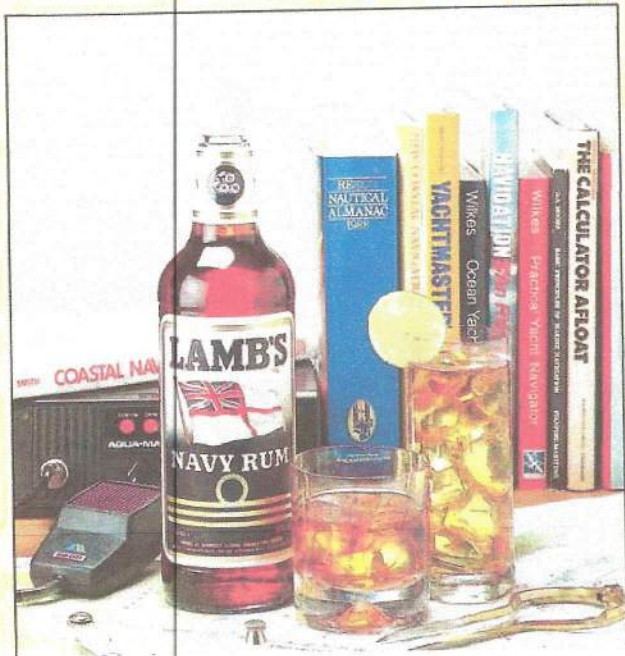


Richard Carr

At the tender age of twenty-nine, Richard Carr is head of a multi-million pound leisure company, yet this ambitious young businessman has a hell-raising reputation that quite often hampers his social life.



School chums of Richard Carr could not possibly have foreseen their colleague would one day be Chairman of a vast public company. On leaving school Richard joined an agricultural college with a view to becoming a farmer! After a brief spell 'on the land', Carr realized the wax coat and green welly brigade were not his cup of tea.

Bernard Cook (Robert 'Supercat' Cook's father) was looking for someone to look after his large motor cruiser moored at Poole. Richard grabbed the opportunity; what nicer way to spend your days than swanning around a flashy boat cleaning, painting and doing the odd jobs to keep Mr Cook happy. After three years, Richard decided he wasn't going to make a fortune in this line of work, so he enrolled at college on a heavy engineering course, learning to become a welder. By night he was assembling trailers for a local company, Pronto Trailers, and after twelve months of little sleep and grimy surroundings, welding soon lost its appeal.

By now it had become obvious that if Richard was to make something of his life he was going to have to choose a profession and stick to it. His parents were successful in the hotel and catering industry and it was along these lines that Richard decided to follow.

After a period working in hotels and restaurants, Carr opened a fast food outlet in the centre of Bournemouth and for two years ran a Hamby House himself. Such was the success of this enterprise that fast food giants Wimpy began to express an interest in this budding entrepreneur.

Wimpy Houses are usually franchised and it was a busy town centre restaurant under the Wimpy banner that really started the Carr bandwagon rolling. His company, Allied Restaurants Ltd., saw tremendous potential in these franchises if managed properly and this was one field Richard excelled in. Gradually the company expanded, with more Wimpy Bars being added to the list. To date, nineteen counter-service restaurants make up Allied Restaurants, together with two major night clubs, Zig-Zags in Bournemouth and, most recently, The Mariner complex at Poole. With over one thousand employees on the payroll, Allied went public in November 1987 and the shares have proved a good buy, despite Richard losing £1 million personally during the stock market crash. As a businessman Carr is a quiet, shrewd operator, a quality which has brought him success and the respect of his associates, but like many executives in pressure orientated professions, he needs an outlet. Offshore Powerboat Racing is Richard's choice of relaxation. He acquired a Phantom deep vee monohull, *Warrior*, in 1985, with three Mercurys fitted and set about winning the Class 2 Championship. Unfortunately the *Warrior* crew hadn't bargained on Tim Hill's *Double Two Shirts*. The enormous Planatec relegated *Warrior* into second

Alfred Lamb



place throughout the '85 season. During the London-Flamsgate battle it did appear that Carr might be in with a chance; *Double Two* had broken down and *Warrior* was streaking along with the leaders following Robbie Hood's exceptionally fast cat. Suddenly, *Warrior* ground to a halt. The catamaran, drawing very little water, had managed to skim over the sandbank whereas Richard's *Phantom* didn't. The luckless crew sat marooned for an hour waiting for the tide to rise before setting off again.

Throughout their debut year the warriors developed a reputation of being the rowdiest 'over the top' team on the UK circuit. Unfortunately the hell-raising ruffled a few official feathers at various functions and the name of Carr was not always welcomed with open arms. Richard's theory on life is 'work bloody hard, and play even harder', but in 1987 a considerably subdued figure entered the fray in a brand new catamaran *Get Carter*. After a disastrous season littered with

mechanical failure no one would have blamed him for drowning a few sorrows. Instead, perseverance and amazing patience paid off with a magnificent victory at Southampton's Powerboat Festival and it was more like the old Carr standing in front of the TV camera showering everyone with champagne.

Whether Richard will continue to restrain his youthful exuberance for 1988 remains to be seen. Already he's seen someone take a fancy to his new £90,000 Ferrari, though fortunately the police retrieved it within hours. But with his catamaran now sporting three brand new engines, six spare ones waiting in the wings, the boat renamed *Top Cat* and 1985-86 National Champion Steve Bourn at the helm, Richard intends to make this season a never to be forgotten year, and if success does come his way, no one will be the least surprised if the odd party gets a bit carried away under the direction of Richard Carr.