



A RARE BIRD

OVER THE YEARS there has been a number of fast ferry designs of which only one or two vessels were ever built.

One of these was the Supramar PT.20B Mk II. While not altogether unique, only one of this variant was constructed.

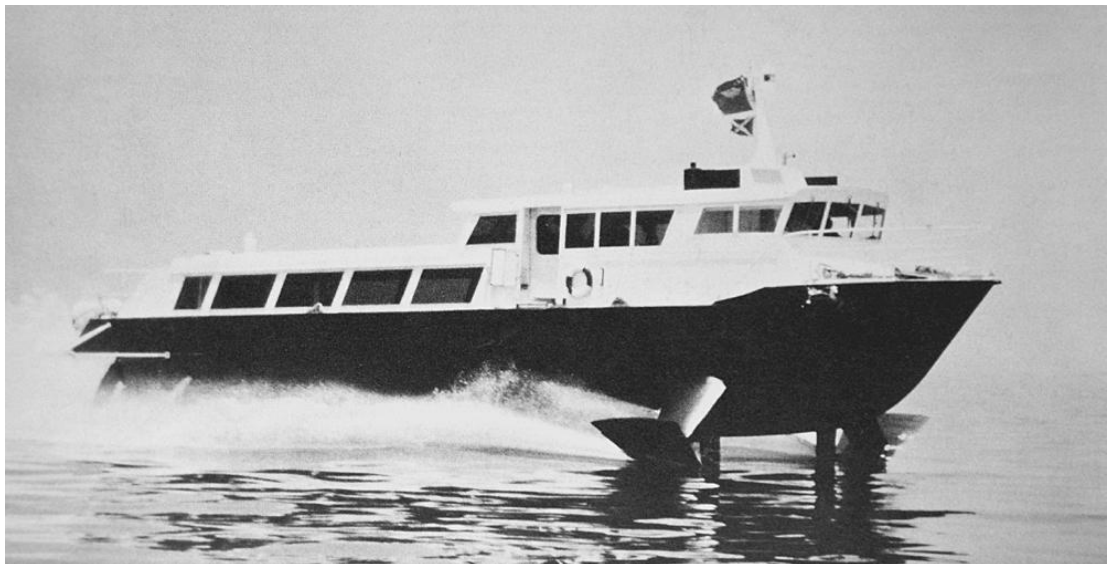
Sharing the main particulars with the PT.20B (and PT.20), the Mk II differed visually in that it featured more angular lines on the superstructure, especially where the windows were concerned, and which were also larger. The wheelhouse bears a strong resemblance to that on the PT.27, which was a crewboat version of the PT.20 and of which four were built in the Netherlands already in 1959 for Shell Oil of Venezuela.

However, what makes the Mk II stand out from the rest of the PT.20Bs is that it was the sole hydrofoil to be built in Singapore by Vosper Private, an affiliate company of Vosper

Thornycroft in the United Kingdom, under license to Supramar. The parent company had delivered a Supramar PTS.75 built at its Portsmouth yard in 1974 to Far East Hydrofoil in Hongkong (see the March 2013 *CFF*).

The PT.20B Mk II was completed in 1978 but reportedly did not enter service until 1986. Having been acquired by Rawa Safaris, the vessel, *Rawa Bird*, was introduced on tourist trips in south-eastern Malaysia between Mersing and the islands of Pulau Rawa and Pulau Tioman. The hydrofoil appears to have been in service here for only a short while, but as is often the case with past operations in these parts of the world, we have not been able to disclose the later whereabouts of *Rawa Bird*. It may very well be sitting in the backwaters somewhere in Asia, much as the former Japanese PT.50 discovered in the Philippines which we reported on in November. **cff**

Above : *Rawa Bird* entered service in Malaysia in 1986. It is seen here in Mersing in April of that year. Note 'Turbo' at the rear
/ GEORGE SCHNEIDER photo



Right : The sole PT.20B Mk II built by Vosper Private in Singapore in 1978
/ SUPRAMAR AG photo