

# Big shake-up in Moonraker boats group.

The BRUNDALL boatbuilding Moonraker group of companies has been completely reorganized in what was described as "a tidying up operation to enable Moonraker to carry on business".

A new company, Moonraker Marine International Ltd. has been formed.

It absorbs Moonraker Marine, Bell Buxton Boats Ltd. And Industrial Marine Plastics, which operated separately under the old Moonraker grouping.

The reorganisation was explained yesterday by Mr. Colin Chapman, chairman of Group Lotus, who in a private capacity is one of the group of local businessmen putting up new capital for Moonraker Marine International.

The new company will be under control of Mr. David Lane, a management specialist, who has filled in a similar role with Group Lotus for the past three years.

## PROBLEMS

But Mr. Chapman stressed that Group Lotus, as a company was not directly involved with the new Moonraker set-up.

"We were approached by the old Moonraker operation to assist the management problems which had been caused by an over-rapid expansion. Mr. Lane has been seconded on loan from Group Lotus to deal with these problems", he said.

"But the financing is a strictly private operation. There are some people who hold shares in the new Moonraker company who also hold Lotus shares, but that is purely coincidental".

Moonraker Marine International has bought the assets of the old companies and will carry on their activities and production.

## ORDER BOOK

Asked how he saw the future of Moonraker under the reorganisation, he said:

"I think the future is very good. The Moonraker craft are a good product, there is a good order book and the company has good production techniques which have enabled it to build up in two years one of the most important boat building businesses in the country".

The land on which the Moonraker business is carried on is owned by Mr. B. J. Bell, who said the company would be his tenants.

While Bell Buxton Boats, who were engaged in fitting out the Moonraker craft, had been taken over by the new company, he personally had no part in the financial side of the reorganisation but would remain in a technical consultancy capacity.

## EXPANSION

He did not think production would be cut under the streamlining of new management. "There is an air of general expansion into new models which are now on the drawing boards".

Mr. Bell added that Bell Boats Ltd., which has always carried on business in its own right, and of which he is a director, would continue to do so completely independently.