

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

ONE of Hertfordshire's longest-running family businesses, Beales Hotels, has an unusual way of developing teambuilding among staff. Managing director, Andrew Beale—the eighth generation to run the company—takes staff from its two four-star hotels on boating trips along the Great Ouse.

Employees from West Lodge Park in Hadley Wood and Beales Hotel in Hatfield are invited to join the boss on board his cruiser Good Luck for a day's sailing and lunch.

Working the locks, taking the helm and mooring the boat involves everyone on board, from

# Why we're all in the same boat

novice to experienced 'boaters'.

Stacy East is the new sales manager at Beales Hotel, Hatfield: She said: 'I joined the company just one week before the outing and it was a great way to meet other members of staff, from both hotels, and chat to the MD. I have never experienced anything like this with other hotel chains I

have worked for—it was a lovely day and great fun.'

The boat trips are treated as a work day, with mileage, meals and drinks all paid for, and all members of staff are invited to come aboard on one of the excursions held throughout the year.

Andrew said: 'These trips are not intended as a training exercise. They're all very relaxed and just about having fun cruising along the river with a stop for lunch.'

'But they do actually bring together members of staff who normally may not meet and gives me the chance to get to know them better as well.'

Beales Hotels was crowned Coult's Best UK Family Business 2008 in the Greater London region. The company was also voted overall winner in the 2008 Sustainable City of London Awards for its dedication to environmental issues.



All aboard the good ship Good Luck.



Stacy East at the wheel.