

All Aboard with Beales - *team building the family business way!*

Hertfordshire's longest family running business, Beales Hotels, has a unique way of developing team building amongst staff. MD Andrew Beale, the 8th generation of the family to run the company, invites staff from their two four star hotels on boating trips along the River 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, mooring the boat and taking the helm involves everyone on board, from novice to experienced 'boaters'.

Stacy East is the new Sales Manager at Beales Hotel, Hatfield: "I joined the company just one week ago and this has been a great way to meet other members of staff, from both hotels, and chat to the MD. I have never experienced any 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 regularly throughout the year.



"These trips are not intended as a training exercise, it's all very relaxed and just about having fun cruising along the river with a stop for lunch. But it does actually bring together members of staff who normally may not meet and gives me the chance to get to know them better as well," added Andrew Beale.

Beales Hotels was crowned 'Coutts Best UK Family Business 2008' in the Greater London region, beating more than 150,000 other businesses.

The company was also voted overall Winner in the 2008 Sustainable City of London Awards for their dedication to environmental issues.



Top : The latest boat trip in September 2008.

Above : Stacy at the helm!

Above left : A breakaway group in the inflatable dinghy!

Left : A well deserved lunch at The Cock, Hemingford Grey