

Princess Royal pours a Miller Lite



HRH The Princess Royal officially named the Sea Otter-designed and built *Regal Lady* wide-beam rivercraft when she visited Derbyshire's Sea Otter boats in October.

The ceremony may well have been one of the most informal HRH has had to perform as she was required to pour the contents of a bottle of American Miller Lite lager over *Regal Lady's* bow.

The £70,000 boat was the first of a £1m export order for the rapidly expanding Derbyshire firm.

During her 50-minute visit, escorted by owners Raymond and Cindy Shepherd, HRH was shown the company's test facility where a boat was

undergoing final trials before delivery.

"Princess Anne seemed particularly interested in the hull building department, where she showed a real knowledge and understanding of Sea Otter's unique water ballasting system," said Ray Shepherd.

The significance of the Miller Lite, said Shepherd, was that *Regal Lady* is the first of 10 boats destined for the USA during 2003 as a result of a partnership between Sea Otter and Simon Norridge of Vacations USA.

Regal Lady is destined to leave Derbyshire for a new life cruising the New York State canals.