

“Shropshire” Christened As Latest Addition To The Fleet Nears Delivery

On 12 February 2009 Dawn Kitchen, wife of Bibby Line’s Managing Director Jebb Kitchen, christened the 57,000 deadweight bulk carrier as “Shropshire”, previously referred to clinically as Hull No GY409 and so the next addition to the Shipping Divisions fleet took another step closer to delivery.

The project has come a long way since mid-2007 when Bibby Line took-over the contract at the then emerging shipyard of Yangzhou Guoyu. Jebb said; “The fact that the shipyard have reached this stage is testament to the belief we had in their commitment to build both a shipbuilding facility and our vessel in parallel.”

Having launched the vessel on 10 December 2008 at Yangzhou Guoyu on the Yangtse river, employing the novel, but effective system of airbag launching; the christening ceremony took place during an unseasonably warm but breezy day at the shipyard, whilst the vessel completes final fit out work and prepares for the all important sea trials.

A gathering of guests drawn from local government dignitaries, company directors and management, and key project stakeholders attended this memorable and always emotional ceremony. Dawn made a short speech, presenting a gift to the vessel of an antique map of the county of “Shropshire” and, most importantly, broke a bottle of champagne on the hull at the first attempt!



Mrs Wang, Mr Zhong (China Merchants Bank) , Dawn Kitchen, Sir Michael Bibby, Mr Wang (owner of the shipyard)

“Shropshire” is expected to enter service in early May 2009 where she will be deployed in dry bulk trades carrying commodities such as steel, grain and coal to mention just a few. The vessel is classified as a handymax size vessel, being of 57,000 deadweight, and is equipped with cranes and cargo grabs enabling the flexibility of self-discharging. She is built to a standard Dolphin 57 design, one well-tried and tested within the industry.

Bibby Ship Management, the appointed ship managers, are now starting the complex and multi-faceted process of ensuring the vessel is supplied with all necessary resources and commissioned correctly to smoothly enter international trade.