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QE2 SAILS HOME FOR BIRTHDAY PARTY

**The most famous ocean liner in the world celebrates 36 years
and is set to become the longest serving Cunarder ever**

Queen Elizabeth 2 will mark 36 years of service on Monday 2 May when she arrives in her homeport of Southampton – 36 years to the day that she left the same port for New York on her 1969 Maiden Voyage. And what a 36 years they have been!

A special Birthday party will be held on board to honour the ship. Special guests will include nine former and current Captains and John Whitworth OBE, now 80 years old, who was the Managing Director of Cunard Line at the time of **QE2's** introduction and who was instrumental in the ship's construction.

A Record Unlike Any Other

She has sailed more than 5.3 million nautical miles – that's more than any ship in history and is equivalent to travelling to the moon and back over 11 times. She has carried nearly three million passengers – many of them returning again and again to their second home. Her arrival in Southampton on 2 May will be her 641st visit there and mark the completion of her 1,374th voyage. It will be her 4,856th port call. She has sailed at an average speed of 24.75 knots over the last 36 years.

.../ last 36 years.

QE2 can sail backwards faster than most cruise ships can sail forwards and one gallon of fuel moves her 49.5 feet! She has made 795 Atlantic crossings and completed 23 full World Voyages. In that time she has been commanded by 23 Captains.

A History Unlike Any Other

QE2 was launched by Her Majesty the Queen in 1967 and was the last passenger ship to be built on the Clyde. For the last 36 years **QE2** has been the most famous passenger liner in the world and yet when she was introduced city analysts claimed that the age of the liner was dead and that **QE2** would be mothballed within six months. How wrong they were!

She was one of the star attractions when she led the Tall Ships into New York Harbour for the Statue of Liberty's centenary celebrations in 1986; over one million sightseers flocked to see her when she called at Liverpool for the first time during Cunard's 150th anniversary celebrations in 1990 and she was at the head of the flotilla reviewed by the Queen on the 50th Anniversary of 'D' Day in 1994. This year she will play a key role in the Trafalgar Commemorations in June.

However, **QE2's** history has not only been one of sedate cruises, ecstatic welcomes and luxury living. In 1982, she was requisitioned by the Government for service in the Falklands Campaign - and so joined the ranks of the great Cunarders called upon to serve the country in times of conflict.

In fact **QE2** goes from great things to greater and many sailings this year – her second season of European cruises – are already sold out.

.../ already sold out.

Longest Serving Cunarder

2005 is a special year for **QE2**. On 4 September, she becomes the longest serving Cunarder ever when she passes the 36 years 4 months and 2 days' record of **Scythia**, which sailed from 1921 to 1957.

QE2 was also the Cunard flagship for longer than any other from 1969 until she handed over the role to **Queen Mary 2** last year, and in November last year she became the longest serving Cunard express liner when she passed the 35 years 6 months and 1 day record previously set by **Aquitania** which served Cunard Line, in peace and in war, from May 1914 to December 1949.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

A complete list of QE2 Fun Facts and Statistics is attached. A complete fact sheet on QE2 is available on request.

For Further PRESS Information

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Photography

Images of QE2 are available for downloading at: www.cunardimages.com

login – press

password – guyonda

QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

36 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

QE2 has...

- completed 1,374 voyages with an average speed of 24.75 knots.
- sailed 5.3 million nautical miles – that's more than any other ship ever and the equivalent of travelling to the moon and back 11.25 times and sailing around the world over 230 times.
- carried almost three million passengers.
- completed 795 Atlantic crossings
- completed 23 full World Cruises
- nine diesel electric engines – each the size of a double decker bus.
- the most powerful propulsion plant on a non-military vessel.
- the largest marine motors ever built.
- the largest cinema at sea (capacity 531).
- the only Synagogue at sea.
- called at New York 207 times and Southampton 641 times
- been commanded by 23 Captains.

QE2 is...

- probably the most misnamed ship in the world. She is **Queen Elizabeth 2** (not Queen Elizabeth II) indicating she is the second Cunard liner named Queen Elizabeth.
- the most famous ship in operation.
- the only ship to be awarded Five Stars by the RAC.

- the largest consumer of caviar on earth.
- the fastest merchant ship in operation capable of speeds of up to 34 knots (cruising speed 28.5 knots).

Unbelievable!

- She cost just over £29 million to build in 1969 – since then Cunard has spent more than fifteen times that amount on refits and refurbishments.
- The £100 million cost of re-engining her in 1986 / 87 is the largest amount spent on such a project. Her steam turbines had taken her a total of 2,622,858 million nautical miles – the equivalent of 120 times around the world.
- On 13 June 1999, **QE2** exceeded 175,290 hours of steaming time – that equates to exactly 20 years (including four leap years).
- Cunard's first ship **Britannia**, would fit into **QE2's** Grand Lounge.
- One gallon of fuel moves **QE2** 49.5 feet; with the previous steam turbine engines, one gallon of fuel moved the ship 36 feet.
- The diesel electric system produces 130,000 hp, which is the most powerful propulsion plant of any merchant ship in the world.
- **QE2** can sail backwards (full speed astern is 19 knots) faster than most cruise ships sail forwards.
- The 95 MV total power output is enough to light a city the size of Southampton.
- **QE2** sends all its used cooking oil ashore for reconstituting into animal feed.
- By the end of 2002, **QE2** had visited New York more times than any other port: 680 times followed by Southampton (598), Cherbourg (264), Port Everglades (129) and Barbados (118).
- An estimated one million turned out to see her when she called at Liverpool for the first time on Tuesday 24 July 1990.
- 277 metres of cling film is used very year, enough to go around the **Queen Elizabeth 2** nearly 731 times.

- The ship's fuel oil tank capacity of 4,381.4 tonnes is sufficient for 10 days' sailing at 32.5 knots, equalling 7,800 miles.
- **QE2** consumes 18.05 tonnes of fuel per hour – that's 433 tonnes per day.
- Heineken and Becks together account for almost 50% of the beer consumed.
- Her rudder weighs 80 tons.
- Pound for pound, the most expensive food item on board is saffron (2.5 times the value of Beluga caviar).
- The number of tea bags used each day would supply a family for an entire year.
- To eat **QE2's** daily consumption of breakfast cereal, one person would have to eat at least two packets a day for more than a year.
- Enough fruit juice is used in one year to fill up **QE2's** swimming pools nearly 8 times.
- Approximately 600,000 litres of beverage are consumed annually.

The kitchens and dining rooms have:

glassware	51000 items
crockery / dishes	64000 items
cutlery	35850 items
kitchenware	7921 items
tableware	64531 items

Linen consumption on a transatlantic voyage:

tablecloths	2932
oven cloths	1000
pillow cases	3100
laundry bags	3250