

HOVERCRAFT FIRST FERRY

Rhyl really had something to look at when the hovercraft unromantically called the VA3 made its appearance on the first ferry run between here and Wallasey. They had a boisterous day for it, but the craft made light of heavy weather and rode on its cushion of air without a hitch.

With a crew of two the ten-tonner will carry 24 passengers at about 70 m.p.h. It will do the 19-mile trip in 25 minutes, as against at least two hours by road. This is by way of being a trial service, until September. Vickers are preparing VA-4, a hovercraft of about 100 tons.

As the craft rode a foot or so over the water, it had a rather bumpy ride. However, all the passengers enjoyed the experience. They were the first people to be carried commercially on a machine of this revolutionary kind. Hovercraft are in their infancy and no-one can say with certainty what their future will be. The Rhyl-Wallasey ferry is the beginning of something which may have a tremendous future.