

CYPRUS BRANCH REPORT

CYPRUS BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES OF MEETING

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Cyprus branch of the Nautical Institute was held on 13th March 2013 at Cymepa House, Limassol

The minutes of the last AGM held on 13th March 2012 were approved without comment and there were no matters arising

The Chairman advised that he had received two nominations for Committee – Captain V Mavrinac of Columbia Shipmanagement and Captain VS Parani of MSC. Both candidates were seconded and accepted. In addition, Captain Martin Bankov of Marlow Navigation and Captain Andreas Michael of Kyprosun volunteered during the meeting, were nominated and accepted on to the Committee.

Committee members are elected for a period of three years. All the existing Branch committee members indicated their willingness to remain and therefore the NI Cyprus Branch Committee for 2013/204 will be as follows

Chairman – Graham Cowling

Vice-Chair – Mikhail Konoplev

Hon Secretary – TBA

Hon Treasurer – Aleksandr Kinchin

Committee Members – Captain Peter Bond, Captain Martin Bankov, Demetris Demitriou, Captain Valentin Mavrinac, Captain Andreas Michael, Captain VS Parani.

The Chairman noted that the Committee is now well supported and should be able to provide an excellent range of activities for the Branch in the coming year.

The Chairman then gave a report on branch activities for 2012/13. It has been a busy year with a number of presentations including ECDIS – Strength and Weaknesses, Ice Navigation and Shipping KPIs. A ½ day seminar entitled ‘Mentoring and leadership on board’ was held in Nov 2012. The Spring presentations included ‘Death in an Enclosed Space’. A number of social functions were arranged including a Summer BBQ in the mountains and a Valentine’s Dinner arranged jointly with IMarEST. Co-operation with the local branches of the IMarEST and ICS remains strong.

The Hon. Treasurer, Aleksandr Kinchin, presented his financial report and noted that the Branch funds were in good order and in surplus. The accounts were signed off by the Treasurer and two committee members.

Members raised a number of points including the suggestion of an open forum/discussion on ECDIS, presentations on Offshore gas opportunities in Cyprus, STCW and Offshore Rig moves.

Following the AGM there was a presentation entitled ‘Death in an Enclosed Space – The Need for Portable Gas Detectors on Ships’ by Kimon Spanos, Sales Manager, Stop SA.

PRESENTATION – DEATH IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE

The Need for Portable Gas Detectors on Ships’ by Kimon Spanos, Sales Manager, Stop SA.

The Chairman, Graham Cowling, introduced the talk by reviewing the MAIB accident investigation report on ‘ERRV Viking Islay’, where three seamen died after entering an enclosed space, which was oxygen deficient.

Kimon began by giving us a brief introduction to the dangerous and toxic gases that might be encountered on board ship – what they are, how they behave and the various dangers. He then defined an enclosed space

- Large enough for a worker to enter.
- Not designed for continuous worker occupancy.
- Limited exit and entry points.

He pointed out that some enclosed spaces on board ship could be ‘open topped’ such as a cargo hold. It is very important that Crew understand what an enclosed space actually is.

Kimon went on to explain that 65% of accidents in enclosed spaces occurred because of atmospherics – fire, explosion or toxic gases. Under the ISM, it is the ship manager’s responsibility to make sure that there are proper procedures for entry, there is testing and monitoring equipment and that there are adequate rescue equipment and procedures in place and that persons going inside are adequately protected. It was also interesting to note that activities within an enclosed space such as demucking, painting, sand blasting and scraping can make the atmosphere in a space ‘unsafe’.

Emergency procedures should focus on getting people out of the space under their ‘own power’ if possible and to make sure that attendants do NOT enter before help arrives.

Continuous monitoring of the space using both remote sensors from outside and using personal meters is essential. The monitoring devices should be capable of monitoring a number of gases such as Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S), Oxygen, Carbon Monoxide (CO) as well as explosive (LEL). He also explained what kind of toxic effects these gases can have on the human body.

Kimon then looked in detail at the gas detecting equipment and some of the issues surrounding them. He pointed out that sensors gradually get used up over time and need to be replaced. He looked at the different flammability ranges of different gases and explained that sensors can be damaged if the incorrect calibration gas is used (higher than 100% LEL concentrations) and that is why you never use cigarette lighter gas to check a sensor! Combustible gas classification – Ex IIA IIB IIC was explained as well as IP (Ingress

Protection) rating giving two numbers – the first being the degree of solid contact prevention and the second being the degree of water ingress protection.

Making sure the instrument is ready for use includes the following essential checks

- ‘Zero’ the instrument in fresh air.
- Check the accuracy every day.
- Do a functional ‘bump’ test.
- Adjust the span after gas calibration but only if necessary.

Rounding off the presentation, Kimon told the audience some amusing anecdotes with his experiences working with fire brigades where all the gas detection equipment sensors had been ruined by an over-zealous cleaning lady using cleaning fluids to clean them after use!

The full powerpoint presentation is available on the Branch website www.nautinst-cyprus.org

Following a vote of thanks, the meeting adjourned to the courtyard of CYMEPA House where we enjoyed some drinks and snacks on a warm Spring evening.