

# NAUTICAL INSTITUTE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2013



This newsletter to the branches, keeps you informed of the technical projects and work in progress within the Nautical Institute. It also keeps the branches informed of the future discussions at IMO with which the NI is expected to be involved.

Branches are encouraged to consider these projects when compiling their programmes for future technical meetings. The branch database on-line can also be consulted to see a summary of the technical subjects other branches have been engaged in.

## IMO WORK IN PROGRESS

At IMO the NI delegation uses the feedback from the Sea-Going Correspondence Group (SGCG), workshops, seminars and input from branches to contribute to the debates.

### **Entry Into Enclosed Spaces**

Associated with the entry into enclosed spaces debate is the mandatory carriage of oxygen meters. The NI submitted a paper to the DSC sub-committee in September proposing that suitable equipment and continuing training be made a statutory carriage requirement. The paper was welcomed and after some debate it was decided that there was a need for a multi-meter rather than just an oxygen meter and this will be discussed in various IMO sub-committees with a view to being accepted next year.

### **Noise**

IMO has two work programmes on this issue – noise from ships affecting marine creatures and noise on board ships affecting seafarers

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We would particularly invite branches to contribute to our involvement in the correspondence groups at IMO. Two of these are:

**Review and Modernisation of the GMDSS:** The GMDSS already provides for exchange of information vital for maritime safety and for certain general communications. E-navigation initiatives will create the need for additional communications capabilities. The project is intended to allow the evolution of maritime communications to meet these needs and improve service through the introduction of modern technologies.

The latest correspondence group report, which included all the points raised by the Sea-Going Correspondence Group, was discussed at the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group in October, and their report will be considered at COMSAR sub-committee later this month

We welcome input from branches on this subject. Further info from [hg@nautinst.org](mailto:hg@nautinst.org)

**Virtual Aids to Navigation:** The correspondence group has been re-established to develop symbols for virtual AtoNs. User groups have re-iterated the principle to keep it simple for sailors (KISS) and we will continue to input the views of our members in this regard. Branches wishing to have input to this can obtain the proposed draft of new symbols from [hg@nautinst.org](mailto:hg@nautinst.org)

### **Environmental Awareness**

Port reception facilities and garbage management is still an ongoing issue of concern, particularly as the updated MARPOL Annex V took effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Continuing input from branches on the current situation in their region is welcomed.

### **ECDIS**

Mandatory carriage of ECDIS implementation began to phase in on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. The industry group, chaired by The Nautical Institute and comprising leading international shipping organisations has produced two guidance documents – one for generic training, and one for familiarisation, both reproduced in Seaways and available for download on the ECDIS forum website (<http://www.nautinst.org/en/forums/ecdis/index.cfm>). Printed versions are available from NIHQ for distribution at branch events. We intend to make the NI a leading organisation for ECDIS related issues and the ECDIS Forum will reflect this. Branches are encouraged to include ECDIS issues in their technical meetings. In particular, the NI had a significant input at the drafting group for the new IMO Model Course 1.27 (Operational Use of ECDIS) where the course syllabus was sufficiently detailed to need a full 40 hours to complete. We would be interested to receive information from branches regarding what their Flag Administration's accept as hours of training for ECDIS generic courses based on the new Model course 1.27.

### **Mentoring**

For many years NI members have raised the issue of 'Competency' amongst seagoing personnel and the perception that competency may be slipping in certain areas, particularly those of practical applied seamanship. Members have challenged the Institute, through the current 5 year strategic plan, to help improve this situation. The Institute has responded with a range of projects, but perhaps the most important will commence in 2013 with concerted effort to improve Mentoring at Sea!

In December of 2012 The NI President Captain Krishnamurthi (Krish) launched a new book written by Capt Andre Le Goubin entitled "Mentoring at Sea – The 10 Minute Challenge". The book explains how knowledge gained through experience, and then reflected upon, can be passed on in an informal but purposeful way. Every suggestion will take no more than 10 minutes to carry out but incorporating opportunities for mentoring into the daily onboard routine will widen and consolidate the on-the-job experience of those progressing through the ranks. It will also improve communications and enhance team-building and hopefully lead to a reduction in accidents and incidents. See December 2012 Seaways or visit the 'Mentoring Forum' on the NI website for more details.

The wonderful thing about mentoring is that it requires no regulations and minimal (if any) finance. Over the next few years the NI would like to promote the act of Mentoring at Sea, and the Branches will be crucial in this campaign. We are aware that there are natural inhibitors to mentoring, and also many examples of good practices. We will be asking all of our Branches over the next few years to hold mentoring workshops in order to capture these issues and contribute to the promotion of mentoring. Over the next few months NIHQ will be sending out some further information and promotional materials concerning mentoring, however this is an issue that all members and mariners can contribute to and we request that all of our Branches start to consider how they can help promote a professional approach to Mentoring at Sea.

*For further information or to discuss how branches could address any of these topics please contact Harry Gale, Technical Manager ([hg@nautinst.org](mailto:hg@nautinst.org)) or John Dickinson, Head of Delegation IMO ([jmd@nautinst.org](mailto:jmd@nautinst.org))*