



CYPRUS BRANCH REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES OF MEETING

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Cyprus branch of the Nautical Institute was held on 4th March 2014 at CYMEPA House, Limassol.

The meeting opened at 1815 hrs and there was a quorum present. There were no apologies received for absence.

The minutes of the last AGM held on 13th March 2013 were approved without comment and there were no matters arising.

The Chairman advised that he had received the following nominations for Committee – Steven Hardy (Interorient), Bill Lunn (BSM), Yvonne Tsanos (Oesterreichischer Lloyd) and Mike McCabe (Seagull A/S). All the four candidates were proposed, seconded and then accepted.

Capt. V.S. Parani, current committee member volunteered, was seconded and accepted as the Hon. Secretary of the Branch. He received a warm vote of thanks.

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 2014/2015 will be as follows

- Chairman – Graham Cowling
- Vice-Chair – Mikhail Konoplev
- Hon Secretary – Captain V.S. Parani
- Hon Treasurer – Aleksandr Kinchin
- Committee Members – Captain Peter Bond, Captain Martin Bankov, Captain Demetris Demitriou, Captain Valentin Mavrinas, Captain Andreas Michael, Steven Hardy, Bill Lunn, Yvonne Tsanos and Mike McCabe.

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 2013/14. It has been a busy year with a number of presentations. The year started with a visit in April with David Patraiko, Director of Projects at the Nautical Institute, London. David made a presentation on the efforts of the Institute on DP (Dynamic Positioning) Operator Training Scheme, E-Nav and the latest developments on ECDIS.

‘Antarctic Adventure’ was a personal account of a voyage on board MS Hanseatic, by Mikhail Konoplev, Vice-Chair, Nautical Institute Cyprus branch, a light and entertaining presentation on 22nd May 2013.

On 8th October, the Branch held an evening presentation on the loss of the factory fishing vessel ‘Gaul’ in 1974 with a fascinating look into deep water forensic investigation by Andy Kirby (ex-UK police inspector- forensics).

Members of the Nautical Institute were invited to the 1st IMarEST Shipping Emissions Conference on 22-23 October and the annual Seagull-Newslink Cyprus user forum on 25th April 2013.

A high-profile 1/2 day seminar on the topic of Master and Pilots on the bridge of ships was held on 8th November 2013. Guest speakers included the President of the Nautical Institute, Capt. Sivaraman Krishnamurthi, Martin Hernqvist of the Swedish Club Academy and Nick Cutmore, Secretary General of IMPA. The event attracted a good audience as well as a good sponsorship from both the local and international shipping industry.

Capt. Krishnamurthi’s presence on the island added force to our marketing campaign for the Institute. Capt. Krishnamurthi and Capt. Cowling paid visits to the offices of local shipping companies as well as the Cyprus Shipping Chamber. We are starting to see an increase in membership, particularly student and corporate membership as a result of this campaign.

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 20th Anniversary gala dinner was held after the seminar on 8th November.

The plans for the year were outlined. There would be a major NI Command Seminar on “Navigation Competence” on 8th November 2014. Details of speakers, venue etc. is yet to be confirmed. The E-Navigation seminar is confirmed for 8th May; Yvonne Tsanos had initiated this proposed subject, secured the two sponsors (UKHO and GNS) and two of our guest speakers. Her efforts were appreciated. Free slots for seminars were available in April and in June 2nd week; topics are to be confirmed.

Members raised a number of points including the suggestion of an open forum/ discussion/ workshop on piracy, leadership, training and the offshore industry.

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.

There being no other suggestions, the meeting was closed at 1900 hrs.

Following the AGM there was a presentation entitled ‘Improving Oil Major vetting performance’ by David Sanderson, Oceanfile Marine Ltd.

PRESENTATION – ‘IMPROVING OIL MAJOR VETTING PERFORMANCE’

Availability and use of on-line vetting tool ‘Oceanfile’ by David Sanderson, Director, Oceanfile Marine Ltd.

The Chairman, Graham Cowling, introduced the speaker and highlighted the relevance of the topic to our daily work. David Sanderson is a director of Oceanfile Marine Limited, along with his joint partner and fellow director David Savage. David is a professional engineer by training with degrees from Leeds University and Imperial College London. More recently and prior to Oceanfile, David was a founder and director of Marine Information Systems, who are and remain primary development contractors for the OCIMF SIRE and TMSA information systems. David's involvement with OCIMF goes right back to the start of the SIRE project as technical architect of the initial version which used fax response technology, and then through subsequent enhancements to the current web based implementation. Around 4-5 years ago, David Sanderson and David Savage, former manager of the SIRE system, identified an opportunity for an internet based fleet management and quality assurance solution for Tanker operators with support for the management and follow up to OCIMF SIRE and CDI Inspection reports. This vision became known as Oceanfile with development work starting in early 2012. Oceanfile was launched in the autumn of 2012 and has since been enhanced through a number of releases on a typical 3-4 month cycle. Oceanfile has a growing number of subscribers with operators of all sizes including a significant Oil major.

The Chairman pointed out that managing vetting inspections was one of the top items on the agenda of every tanker owner, manager and operator. The amount of data to be reviewed and analyzed is vast and should ideally be automatic. Oceanfile promises to offer such a solution.

David began by saying that the application had taken nearly 3 years to develop. The result is that the ‘on-line’ tool contains most of the information presented in a user-friendly manner. For those who have been struggling for years to cope with SIRE (Ship Inspection Report Programme) and other inspection regimes, Oceanfile provides a way to collect and harness the enormous amount of data contained in inspection reports; identify shortcomings; assess risks; and improve overall safety management. Not less important, a way to reduce paper work in the office.

David started by showing us the opening window – a fleet overview with all the Operator’s vessels showing with key data – IMO number, etc. Clicking on each vessel then took the user into details of inspections (simply uploaded from the SIRE/CDI database), the results, deficiencies/observations and operator responses.

He demonstrated how the data could be sliced, diced and analyzed in various combinations. Various graphical options are also available. It features a Vessel Manager, Inspections Summary, Approvals, Management (details of both ship and shore staff are entered with responsibility at all levels assigned for each vessel), Inspection detail, Analytics and Planner. Inspection Costs Manager and Audit tools are also available. For example, it was possible to identify particular deficiency trends across the fleet, pinpointing areas where improvement might be needed. It was also possible to identify certain inspectors with certain types of

deficiency. This might be useful because an Operator could notify the ship in advance of an inspection what a certain inspector might prefer to check.

The program has a built in KPI system, which can be adjusted by the user for self-improvement ie targets can adjusted on a yearly basis to demonstrate improvement. It was noted that the KPI system was for internal use and not available to benchmark against other Operators.

A clearly written user manual can be downloaded from the Oceanfile site.

Rounding off the presentation, David brought some cheer to the younger section of the audience by mentioning that the application was also available for Mac or Android operating systems. Those Superintendents using such devices could then take the device on board and use it for pre-vetting checks as well as to check/analyze previous vetting results – surely an improvement on the clipboard and paper notes!!

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

Following a vote of thanks, the meeting adjourned to the lobby of CYMEPA House where we enjoyed some drinks and snacks on a cool spring evening.

Contribution by Capt V S Parani, Branch Secretary.