



Newsletter - December 2001

Committee Meetings

The meetings of our Branch Committee members have continued being held as usual on the first Wednesday of every month at 18:45 hours at the Alassia Hotel in Limassol.

A time-consuming item that has been continually on our Agenda is Education. Our prime concern has been the “Distance Learning Centre” of our Branch, as well as our course “Understanding Shipping”, but other matters dealt with during the last four months included the following-up and preparation for attendance of the ICS Head Office Controlling Council Meeting (CCM) held in London on 24th and 25th October 2001, which was attended by our Vice-Chairman Andreas Neophytou, the possible recognition by the Cyprus Government of the Institute’s Certification qualifications, Financial results for the period 1st January 2000 to 31st May 2001 and others.

Membership

During the CCM in London three new persons have been approved for membership and they have meanwhile joined our ranks:

Ms. Elena Yerolemou
Ms. Smaragda Kaminara and
Mr. Alex Zotiades.

They are wholeheartedly welcomed.

Consequently our membership as at November 2001 has changed to a total of 62

members, as follows:

FICS	26
MICS	26
Retired FICS	4
MICS	2
Affiliates	4

Education / DLC

Out of the 82 Students who had initially enrolled for our foundation course “Understanding Shipping” for the period October 2000 – August 2001, 67 Students managed to complete all their assignments by the conclusion date of 20th August 2001. Subsequently they had to attend their oral interview and also sit for their written examinations.

We are deeply indebted and thankful to Messrs Marlow Navigation for having allowed us to use their training centre at their new premises. The examinations were held on Saturday 6th and Saturday 13th October 2001. We had four interview groups organised, each consisting of two members of the Institute, as well as a separate adjoining site for the written part, supervised by our Course Coordinator, Mr Ben Casey of the Cyprus Shipping Council. Altogether the examinations were carried out in a very efficient and well-organised manner.

After marking by the examiners, the final tests had been submitted to TutorShip in London for their review of the final results, in combination with the progress of each



Student, as regularly reported by us during the nine months of the course.

I am extremely happy to report that 66 Students were successful, 5 of them with merit and only 1 failed. In fact their certificates have already been despatched to us for signature by our Branch and distribution.

The Director of Education of our London head-office was extremely impressed by the professionalism of our Distance Learning Centre and had in three separate occasions expressed his praise for the Cyprus Branch.

No doubt this is reflected onward to our Tutors.

Our new course for the period October 2001 – July 2002 has already commenced effectively with the assistance and support of the Cyprus Shipping Council. For this year we have 77 Students, a very outstanding number, for a small country like Cyprus and we are currently between the 1st and the 3rd lesson.

Tutors

Apart from the 6 earlier Tutors, another Tutor has been fully approved by TutorShip, our member Christos Tsangaris of Cymepa.

He is already fully active with his Students.

ICS Controlling Council Meeting (CCM)

The last CCM was held in London between the 24th and the 25th October, 2001.

The Agenda as usual included various subjects, for reporting, discussion and action concerning Finance, Professional Membership (applications for promotions, elections and re-elections, resignations, strike-offs, etc), FONASBA, ECASBA, Publicity, Education

and Training, Branches and the Institute Development.

Finances

Our Vice-Chairman has reported that the Finances of the Institute were once again one of the main points of the meeting. Budgetary control is exercised and reviews are being undertaken in all major areas of expenditure. Ideas were expressed for the improvement of deficits, through administrative restructuring, membership and Company membership growth, education etc.

Undoubtedly, with all efforts for the modernisation of the Institute to meet the challenges of the new century, installation of new computer systems and Databases, overseas Branches expansion, revision of Syllabuses, recruitment of new Tutors, widening of the range of courses offered and training efficiency, the Institute requires a sound financial base in order to achieve its goals in terms of growth, membership and influence.

Branch self-sufficiency and self-financing will be the aim. Although overseas Branches undertake administration tasks on behalf of the Head Office, it seems that such objectives will inevitably lead as well to the curtailing of the income of the Branches, which is deriving through examination and registration fees and out of the percentage of the subscriptions withheld by the Branches for their local purposes, etc.

Our Branch has strongly voiced its disapproval of any measures to this effect. From the onset of our Branch we had always been cost-conscious in every respect; all Committee members tried to economise and even contributed where possible, so that our Branch would become financially healthy, for the purpose of supporting and furthering the interests of our Members.



Our Vice-Chairman did point out this fact to the Controlling Council Meeting and that any action from their part would only prejudice our efforts.

With the support of the other Branches and mainly of Mr. Theo Koliandris of our Affiliated South Wales and West Branch, decisions for the present were deferred; however, it appears that certain surpluses from the economically strong Branches unavoidably will have to flow back to the Head Office.

Education and Training

The Director of Studies unfortunately offered his resignation and he has already left the Institute. Although he is not replaced, the situation will be reviewed by the new Director of the Institute Commodore Alan Phillips, succeeding Mrs Barbara Fletcher who is retiring at the end of December.

The review of the syllabus has been completed to ensure that the Institute's qualification meets the needs of the industry world-widely. The new syllabus has been agreed by the relevant Focus Groups and approved by the Education and Training Committee and the first examinations under the new curriculum will take place in April 2003.

Membership Certificate Qualification

As you are aware the membership of our Institute is regarded in UK as equivalent to a first degree and is accepted as a qualifying requirement for entry to Master degree courses at UK Universities.

In an effort to have our qualification also recognized by the Cyprus authorities as equivalent first university degree, we had

applied to the Ministry of Education for their advice.

They have informed us that in accordance to the provisions of the relevant law regarding recognition of Higher education certificates, the responsible body for the recognition of such certificates is the Cyprus Council for the Recognition of Education Qualifications (KY.SA.T.S.) and their web page is <http://www.moec.gov.cy.kysat.html>

They have clarified that the acceptance of any specific qualifications for the purpose of obtaining employment, or registration with professional councils as provided for in the legislation, lies exclusively with the respective bodies (the Public Service, the Employer, the Professional Body etc) which bodies have the authority to direct any person interested to KY.SA.T.S., should they deem it necessary. Therefore the Ministry of Education has expressed the view that any person interested, may apply to KY.SA.T.S. for the recognition of his qualifications, but any recognition does not in any way bind other relevant bodies of the State.

Applications can only be made by individuals and not by professional bodies against payment of the appropriate fee.

Should any of our Members wish to apply for the recognition of their qualifications they may obtain all relevant information through the above web page.

Taking the opportunity to relay our warmest Greetings for Christmas and all best wishes for the new coming year 2002 to all our members and their families,

Soterios Karantonis FICS., ACI Arb.
Chairman