



Newsletter - February 2008

Dear Fellows, Members and Friends,

Firstly, on behalf of the Committee, may I wish you all a very successful, healthy, and enjoyable 2008. If it is anything like 2007 it will almost certainly rush by and, before we know it, it will be Christmas again.

BRANCH'S NEWS

1. Education:

a. Understanding Shipping:

Fifty three students, out of the 64 who had initially enrolled, finished the Understanding Shipping course on the 10th of July 2007. On the 8th of September 2007 49 of those sat the exams at Marlow Navigation. 48 passed. This is an excellent performance. In addition, another 4 have passed during the re-sits that took place in October, at the premises of Columbia Shipmanagement.

All tutors have received very good comments about the standards of tuition, and of the material of the course. Some constructive criticism was also provided which helps us improve what we are offering to the students.

New tuition material has been sent to us by the Institute, who revised the course for all

Distance Learning Centres. The Branch, together with Mr Ben Casey of the CSC, will review this and make amendments, if and where necessary, so that the new material can be used for the 2008/2009 course.

This is now the 8th consecutive year in which the course has been run. Our target to have 50 to 60 students every year was well exceeded, with 66 students enrolled.

All "Understanding Shipping" Tutors are Members of the Branch and carry out the assessment of the students' work in their own private time and receive a very small symbolic remuneration. We would like to urge more members to become tutors in order to assist this big effort, which targets the education of those colleagues that have had no shipping background, sea related, educational or otherwise.

b. "Career at Sea":

This is a significant campaign approved by the Ministry of Education of Cyprus undertaken by the Education Activities Working Group of the CSC, within which the Branch also participates, where presentations were held for the career officers of secondary schools about employment opportunities in the Shipping



Industry. The presentations took place in Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca during the first week of October 2007. Dr Ierides, Secretary General of CYMEPA (Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association), gave the presentations, assisted by the rest of the Group members. The Branch's Chairman also participated to promote the Professional Qualification offered by the Institute.

The presentations were well received by the participating teachers with a number of questions being asked.

c. Organisation of the Exams/Tutorials:

The qualifying exams will take place during the last two weeks of April. 2008. 25 students have enrolled for this year's exams. This shows that the interest for the Qualifying Examinations and the qualification that ICS provides is increasing.

The Branch will give the students the opportunity to attend hourly tutorials on several of the examination subjects and Members who are interested to assist are welcome. They should get in touch with our education officer, Christos Tangaris.

2. Events:

a. Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place at Curium Palace hotel on 15th November 2007. The deliberations of the AGM, including the Chairman's report, approval of the Branch's accounts and re-appointment of auditors, were followed by 26 Fellows/Members as well as guests from the CSC, the Greek Branch and the Branch's auditors, Messrs Price Waterhouse Coopers.



Participants at the Branch's AGM

b. Member's Meeting:

Following the AGM, our guest speaker, Mr Rhys Clift, partner of Hill Dickinson LLP, ran a mock mediation as narrator and mediator with the participation of 6 members of our Branch namely, Maria Kazamias, Demetris Constantinides, Nick Rich, Yiannis Shittas, Xanthos Kyriakou and Sergey Simakin playing the parts of the lawyers, owners, charterers and shippers, in a scenario involving the explosion



of a container onboard a container ship. The Mock mediation proved to be a light hearted and entertaining method of learning more about mediation and how it might work in real life.

Rhys stated:

"Mediation is a relatively new way to settle commercial disputes. It is a form of ADR or Alternative Dispute Resolution. The key distinguishing feature of the process is the role of the independent mediator; much depends on his skill, knowledge and expertise.

Mediators do not issue opinions, nor make judgements nor awards. Mediation is not a decision making process but a process of managed negotiation. Mediation has a structure, a timetable and a dynamic that ordinary negotiation lacks. It is extremely effective with a high success rate. It is quick, cheap and it works".



Rhys Clift in action during the mock mediation

c. Social Events:

- **i. Annual Dinner:** After the very positive comments and suggestions we received following last year's dinner, the decision has been to organise this year's dinner at the same venue as last year, the St Raphael Resort, but with some further improvements based upon feedback received and additional support received from the Under 35's sub-committee. The dinner will take place on the 22nd of February, 2008 at 20:30. The Mayor of Limassol, Mr Andreas Christou, the President of the CSC, Mr Dirk Fry, the Chairman of ICS, Mr Kevin Shakesheff and the Director of the DMS, Mr Serghios Serghiou, will honour us with their presence. We also look forward to welcome other guests we have invited from the CSC, CYMEPA and Price Waterhouse Coopers. The Under 35's sub-committee has undertaken to organise the event, the music and a prize draw.

- **ii. Informal Get togethers:** Following the organisation of the Branch's first informal get together at Starbuck's Café on 29th June 2007 the Under 35's sub-committee arranged a second informal event at Woodman's Pub on the 17th of October 2007. We hoped that the members would have grasped these opportunities to come, meet with colleagues and exchange ideas. Unfortunately this has not



been the case and only a small number of people attended.

We shall not give up that easily but we would like your suggestions and ideas about informal events.

d. Tutor's Dinner

Several members and friends of the Branch have given up considerable amount of their time either by correcting papers and advising students that participate in the Understanding Shipping course or during the tutorials that the Branch organised for the students of the QE or both. The Branch decided to thank all these people, Mr Imad Elias, Dr Sotiris Jeropoulos, Soterios Karantonis, Andreas Neophytou, John Hadiparaskevas, Christina Christoforou, Stella Mavrommatis, Angelos Menelaou, Andreas Frangos, Yiannis Shittas, Xanthos Kyriakou, Nicolas Assimenos as well as Mr Casey of the CSC, who administers the US course, by inviting everybody to a dinner which was held at Aliada restaurant on 31st October 2007.

3. Charity 2007

As part of our on going effort to raise the profile of the Institute in the local community and to show a humane face for our Branch, this Christmas we decided to make a donation to the "Make a Wish" Foundation. The idea originated from the Under 35's sub-committee

and came as a suggestion to the Branch committee who adopted it with pleasure. A total of CYP 900 was gathered and we thank all those who offered money for this cause. The check was handed over to the representative of the foundation, Mrs. Chryso Pitsillides, on 22nd December 2007.

Having had such a success we shall repeat the fund raising next year and donate the money to another Charity.



Stephanie Morghabel and Maria Kazamias with Mrs Chryso Pitsillides

4. Questionnaire

The Evaluation Report of the first Questionnaire of the ICS Cyprus Branch, conducted by the Under 35's sub - committee was circulated to all members on the 2nd of November 2007.



The Committee has taken already onboard the various suggestions made and will do its best, with the members' support, to meet their expectations.

The results were also handed over to both the Director as well as the Chairman of the Membership Committee of the Institute by our Branch Chairman during the last Controlling Council meeting in Singapore.

The main points are summarized here below:

i. Why join ICS? The majority of the respondents (these being either Fellows or Members who filled out the questionnaire) indicated that the main reasons for joining the Institute was for knowledge and qualification. Therefore, this is a pointer for the Branch to focus on fulfilling these aims by organizing seminars more frequently, inviting speakers on current topics of interest, etc.

ii. Are they happy for being Members? The greater part of the respondents confirmed that the Institute has met their expectations. Nevertheless, many of them specifically suggested the organization of more seminars, the recognition of the certificates by national educational establishments and the Cyprus Government, the provision of career assistance, etc. These comments are to be carefully considered as there is much room for improvement.

iii. Why not attend ICS events? An important conclusion is made about the attendance percentage to the Branch's meetings and/or events. It seems that low attendance does not have to do with the venue or the date/time. The problem with low attendance sometimes may be related to Fellows' and Members' busy schedule and their travelling commitments for business.

iv. Any improvements to the Annual Dinner Dance? The main suggestions given for improving the annual dinner dance must be carefully examined by the Branch Committee. Any improvement made to the annual dinner dance and given by the Fellows and Members themselves underlines the fact the Branch Committee seriously considers the opinions of its Fellows and Members and ultimately gives more incentives for higher attendance to the next annual dinner dance.

v. More events? An interesting point is that the main desire of the respondents was to have more social events being organized by the institute (seminars were voted as the second most popular answer) whereas in another question, the majority replied that the main reasons for joining the institute was for knowledge. Obviously, this is ambiguous.

iv. Other Comments? Several comments were made at the end of the questionnaire which are also being examined.



5. Promotions to Fellowship/New members

We would like to congratulate Julia Anastasiou for her promotion to Fellow and welcome Kyaw Naing Tun and Maria Mastoroudes as new members. We expect more promotions to Fellowship and new members during the Executive council meeting next March.

ICS NEWS

1. Controlling Council Meeting

It is important to mention that, at the Controlling Council Meeting in Singapore last October, Kevin Shakesheff, Chairman of Casper Shipping Ltd, a leading specialist ships agency organisation operating in the North East of England and Scotland, was appointed Chairman of the Institute. Karl Franz, the chairman of the German Branch was appointed as vice chairman. It is the first time that this position has gone to somebody outside the UK.

During the Controlling Council meeting, workshops were held dealing with internal and external Communications, best use of electronic systems and structure of the ICS. High on this list of priorities will be making best use of the ICS's new user friendly website. Members are urged to use it in order to have a look at the latest events, news, education and minutes from the Executive meetings.

Emphasis was placed on putting together a good business plan together with a strategy for effective future communications. A copy of the business plan, which was adopted at that meeting, was circulated to all of Fellows and Members from whom feedback, negative or positive is expected. Any comments will be



reviewed, discussed and acted upon at Executive Council meetings.

The Controlling Council has unanimously approved the Life membership applications for Peter Lea, Andreas Loizou, Nikos Stephanou, Andreas Paneras and Michael Mileas, as proposed by our Branch.

The formation of the sub-committee for Under 35's has been mentioned by the Institute's director as possibly a good idea to be adopted by other branches.

2. Executive Council

Our previous chairmen have always been vocal in promoting the Branch's interests at the Controlling Council. Now our Branch will have a bigger voice in the Institute as we have a seat on the Executive Council of the Institute for the current year. The Executive Council meets four times a year and has powers delegated to it to make timely executive decisions on behalf of the full Controlling Council.

Following are some extracts from the message of the new Chairman of ICS sent to the Chairmen of all Branches, giving some important messages:

Dear All,

At the Controlling Council Meeting in Singapore in October I was appointed ICS Chairman of the Institute.

...

The Institute has been going from strength to strength for some years now, and it is my intention to encourage members to continue this drive forward both internationally and in the UK/Ireland.

...

To propel this forward momentum, as with any other modern organisation we need to get our communications and structure in place and functioning. I believe it vital that we strive to keep our members and branches throughout the world abreast of our developments and activities.

...

High on this list of priorities will be making best use of our new website. Our Director Alan Phillips and his team at HQ in London have put a lot of effort in to get this Web site user friendly and up to date. Whilst we need to find ways to encourage members to use it to its fullest, why not get on to it now? Have a look at the latest events, news, education and minutes from the Executive meetings.

...



In my time as Chairman I would love to get around and visit all branches, but I believe that is probably impossibility. However I will try my best to meet or at least get in touch with as many members as I can.

...

Kevin Shakesheff

International Chairman

We look forward to welcoming Kevin Shakesheff during our Annual Dinner and I am sure that a lot of Members and Guests will get the chance to meet him.

We hope that the success of the meetings conducted during 2007 has reached all members and look forward to meeting you all at our events in 2008.

Andreas Andreou FICS

Chairman