



Newsletter - January 2005

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – New Committee elect

The Branch's 8th Annual General meeting took place at the Alasia Hotel on 24th November 2004 – 19:00 Hours. The Chairman A. Neophytou reported on the activities of the Branch during the last 12 months.

The Branch's main concern was the continuation of the "Understanding Shipping" success achieved with the help of the Cyprus Shipping Council.

The issue of the recognition of the MICS qualification as equivalent to a first University degree was also on top of the Branch's agenda.

Financially the Branch was in a healthy position because most of our Members continue to pay their subscriptions without any delay.

As per our target, 3 Members' meetings/gatherings were organised during the year with interesting presentations as well as an Annual Dinner for our Members.

During the AGM the Branch's Committee retired after having spent two years in office.

Five Members were nominated for the five position of the Committee and for this reason no elections were held.

During the subsequent Committee meeting the following appointments were decided:

J. Hadjiparaskevas	- Chairman
A. Neophytou	- Ex Officio Chairman
A. Andreou	- Vice-Chairman
M. Taliotis	- Secretary
P. Antoniadou	- Treasurer
C. Tsangaris	- Education Officer

After the conclusion of the AGM, the elections and a general discussion on matters of interest to the Branch Members, Mr Andreas Constantinou, Senior Marine Surveyor at the Department of Merchant Shipping gave a very interesting presentation on *EU Enlargement – Impact on the Cyprus Registry*. Mr Constantinou has also presented in brief the History and the Developments of the Cyprus Flag and Registry since 1960 as well as the Government's expectations for the Merchant Fleet under our Flag after joining the European Union.

Mr Constantinou's presentation will soon be posted at the Branch's website.

The AGM was followed by our usual social gathering.

ICS Controlling Council meeting, London 21-22 October 2004.

The Branch was represented at the Controlling Council Meeting of the Institute which was held in London on 21-22 October 2004 by J. Hadjiparaskevas. During the meeting, a wide range of subjects were discussed, from matters of Institute's General policy to matters of interest to Individual Branches.

In brief, the main topics of interest were the ICS management plan to increase its influence



in areas like China and Greece, the aim to increase Membership by 5% per year, efforts to promote Corporate Membership and to provide training to shipping companies.

Subjects of considerable controversy were the award of the contract for the publishing of the Tutorship books to Whitherbys and whether the Director General is an administrator or a Chief Executive of the Institute with or without voting rights at Controlling Council meetings.

Our Branch raised a number of issues which are of interest to our Members, the main one being the recognition of the ICS qualification as an equivalent to a first University degree.

Regrettably, the approach followed by the Institute is that the MICS Qualification is an entirely different Qualification and should not be associated or compared with a University degree since Membership has its own unique credibility, which needs not to be associated with a University qualification.

It was worth noting, however, that the problem of equivalence also exists in the U.K. This was revealed in private conversations that J. Hadjiparaskevas has had with other U.K. Branch participants after our Branch has raised the subject during the Controlling Council meeting.

During the CC meeting, Mr William O'Neal was appointed as President of the Institute replacing Mr Anthony Cook who retired. A very interesting proposal was brought forward by the Institute's Ex-Chairman Mr. G. Macmillan for the establishment of a Committee for examining a possible change of the Institute's name to reflect the wider Shipping background of ICS Members today, since he was felt that the word "Shipbroker" was no longer fully covering the facets of our Profession.

Seminar on the recognition of Qualifications organised by the Ministry of Labour at Nicosia on 3rd December 2004.

J. Hadjiparaskevas and P. Antoniadis participated at the seminar mainly for gaining information about the possible recognition of the ICS qualification as equivalent to a University degree.

Unfortunately, the seminar did not touch the subject of recognition / equivalence of the ICS qualification, which was our prime scope of attending the seminar. It was rather related to movements of labour within the EU countries for regulated professions such as Doctors, Lawyers etc where a qualification of a certain standard and a certain work experience is required in accordance with EU directives.

For unregulated professions like Shipbroking, there are no rules with respect to employment and is up to the discretion of the individual employer to appoint a person who is deemed to be capable of performing the job for which he / she is employed, irrespective of qualifications and work experience.

Having discussed the matter of equivalence with other professional bodies facing the same problem and since our main objective in obtaining equivalence is to enable our Members to be eligible for employment in the Government or in Semi-Governmental Sectors (e.g Cyprus Port Authorities or Department of Merchant Shipping), the best way in dealing with this problem is to apply to these bodies directly requesting them to change their service requirements for employment (Σχέδια Υπηρεσίας), approving Membership as an equivalent Qualification for applying for such positions. This is to be addressed in the future at a convenient time.



Branch's Annual Dinner

The Branch's Annual Dinner will this year be held at the Alasia Hotel on **Friday 25 February 2005 at 20:00 Hours**.

The Annual Dinner apart from being an occasion to meet and socialise, this year it will be a good occasion to present New Members with their Certificates, which have just been received from London.

Although separate invitations will be sent to each Member, all Members are invited note this date on their diaries; their participation is welcomed.

Tsunami Disaster

The Branch has communicated with the Sri Lanka Branch and the Chennai Branch of the Institute which have been greatly affected by the disaster and have relayed to them our sympathy and our wishes for soonest recovery.

As a gesture of goodwill the Branch Committee has decided to donate the amount of USD 500 to each Branch. We have requested the Branch Chairmen to distribute this amount at their absolute discretion either directly or via relief organisations to any Member of the Branch in need or to any other sufferer of the disaster.

ICS Examinations 2005

The Institute examinations, which are planned to take place between 11- 19 April 2005, will again be organised by our Branch.

The venue will be the Alasia Hotel and all participants will be notified by our Education Officer Christos Tsangaris of the date and time of their examination.

New Members

We would like to welcome to our Branch the following Members, who after the completion of their examinations, have been admitted to Membership:

Xanthos Kyriacou
Angelos Menelaou
Elena Christodoulidou
Paula Ioannou
Yiannis Shittas

We have also noted, with regret, that a number of our Members were relocated and are no longer on the Island. After the relocation of Alex Marr and our Branch's Secretary Graham Cowling last year, Jan Siemens was relocated in Germany and Linos Voscarides in Belgium. We wish them all every success in their new positions.

The Branch's Membership now stands at 32 Fellows, 32 Members, 7 retired Members/Fellows and 1 Affiliate Member, a total of 72.

An updated list of members may be obtained from the Branch's website www.icscy.com or the secretary of the Branch M. Taliotis.

Members who have not yet provided us with their photographs, they may do so at their convenience.

Subscriptions 2004-2005

Members who have not settled their Subscriptions for the year 2004-2005 are kindly requested to arrange payment soonest.

*John Hadjiparaskevas FICS
Chairman*