



Newsletter - May 2004

Committee Meetings

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

Membership and Education were again the main items of concern, together with our dedicated involvement for the successful progress of the Understanding Shipping Course. Other matters dealt with during the last four months included the Annual Dinner and the April Examinations.

Departure of Graham Cowling



As you already aware, our Secretary, Graham Cowling had decided to leave Cyprus and take on a new assignment in Hong Kong.

We convey to him our most sincere wishes for every success in his new post and we would like through our newsletter to express to him our thanks and appreciation for his hard work, efforts and time that he had devoted to this Branch and the Committee. He will be missed by all of us.

His duties will be temporarily taken over, for a few months until next elections, by our Vice-Chairman by Mr. John Hadjiparaskevas since the Rules of our Branch do not provide for the opting of any extra officer in the Committee.

Annual Dinner

The annual Dinner was held at the Alassia Hotel on the 27.02.2004 and there was generally a very encouraging attendance with over 50 persons present. The food and entertainment were excellent and enjoyed by everyone.

Understanding Shipping

Our course "Understanding Shipping" is fully underway and is scheduled to end in June 2004, with all 55 students hopefully completing the course successfully. The oral and written examinations are planned to take place, circumstances allowing, most likely after the summer vacations.

Shipping Network – ex "Shipbroker Magazine"

The May issue of the 'Shipping Network' will be focusing on Cyprus.

Members have been requested to contribute with articles and also the assistance of various shipmanagement companies was sought. We look forward with interest in receiving the May issue of the magazine.





Spring 2004 Examinations

The ICS qualifying Spring examinations were organized by our Branch during week 16 with the assistance of Foley's Grammar School, who again provided the necessary invigilation under the supervision of our Branch.

The venue was the Alassia Hotel and the examinations were carried out, as usual, in a very orderly and efficient manner.

Recognition of ICS Certificate

The matter of recognition of the ICS qualification was once again raised by our Branch to the Head Office in London.

In a letter we have addressed to the Director General, we have explained that at our Branch here in Cyprus, we frequently hold discussions regarding the recognition locally of the ICS qualification.

We have indicated that the profiling of the qualification of the Institute must be improved and to succeed this, we expressed the opinion that the most secure and effective means would be through an affiliation or partnership with a University.

Such an affiliation would be the only logical measure to implement our Institute's vision of continuing world leadership in the promotion and education of shipping professionals.

As an example of an affiliation with a University, we had cited the partnership between the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and the Oxford Brooks University whereby students are entitled to the BSc. degree awarded by the University on completion of the first 2 parts of ACCA

examinations, after submission of a research and analysis project.

Affiliation and partnership with a University would certainly mean that perhaps the curriculum offered by our Institute and the examinations held would require some modification and upgrading by the addition of certain new subjects.

We had therefore requested the Director General to bring the subject of our letter to the attention of the Education and Training Committee and to ensure that our "University Affiliation" proposal will be included as a special item for discussion at the next Controlling Council meeting.

In addition, we have also applied to the respective Council for the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications (KYSATS) of the Ministry of Education in Cyprus for recognition of the ICS qualification as an equivalent to a first University Degree (ie equivalent to a BSc)

Applications can only be made by individuals and in this case we have used the application of one of our Members as a test case. The procedure has proved to be very time consuming with repeated demands from the part of KYSATS, for clarifications.

We have complied with their requests and are now awaiting their reply.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee Meeting of our Institute was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Wednesday 2 February 2004.

Various matters were discussed including the financial position of the Institute which requires improvement.



Websites

Members are reminded that they may visit the ICS Head Office re-designed website at www.ics.org.uk

The website includes sections for Education, the new syllabus, annual audits, member companies etc.

Members may also download the “Shipping Network” magazine.

Andreas Neophytou FICS., ACI Arb.
Chairman