



Newsletter - May 2006

Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers Director General's visit to Cyprus

The Director General of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers Mr Alan Phillips and the Institute's Marketing Officer Mrs Deborah Newbury visited our Branch between 8 – 11 February 2006.

The purpose of their visit was to attend the Branch's Annual dinner, which had been planned for Friday 10 February 2006, meet with our Members as well as visit a number of shipping / shipmanagement companies on the island with the aim of promoting the Institute and its Educational programmes. In addition, to exchange ideas as to how the ICS may improve the benefits offered to its Members.

Our opening meeting with Mr Phillips and Mrs Newbury was held at CYMEPA, who kindly accepted to host our guests. During the meeting our guests were given an overview of our activities. We explained that the Branch, as provided by the articles, is run by a Committee consisting of five Members who meet regularly once a month. The Branch organises quarterly meetings for its Members where prominent speakers are invited to give presentations on subjects of general interest to our Membership and also gave a full analysis of our Educational activities.

As a fully fledged Distance Learning Centre, in coordination with the Cyprus Shipping Council, the Branch runs successfully the Understanding Shipping course for the 6th consecutive year with 50-60 students participating yearly. The administration of the course is carried out on the Island with the

assistance of duly approved local Tutors. All Tutors are volunteers and Members of the Branch and receive only a symbolic remuneration for their services. We have also mentioned that we organise the examination centre in Cyprus for the Institute's yearly examinations.

Reference was also briefly made to our Branch's donations to the Chennai and Sri Lanka Branches for the victims of the "Tsunami" disaster and to the Pakistan Branch after the earthquake which hit the country last year.

We have stressed to Mr Phillips and Mrs Newbury that the biggest problem we face as a Branch is that of the long discussed issue of equivalence of the MICS qualification which despite our efforts, we have failed to achieve. Mr Phillips confirmed that the Institute will fully support any action we may decide to take in this respect.



The Branch's Chairman handing over to Mr Alan Phillips a small present in remembrance of his visit to Cyprus during the Branch's Annual Dinner.



The Director General was well aware of our activities. In the eyes of the Head Office we are a young and very active Branch. Our growth rates greatly exceed the target growth rates of the Institute and he is very pleased with the success and acceptance of the “Understanding Shipping” course by the local shipping community.

With respect to the Institute itself, Mr Phillips stated that after difficult financial years, the Institute’s financial position is now strengthened due to the reduction of costs, an increase in the revenues and a substantial amount received from the UK Government as a VAT refund.

During an open discussion which followed, Mr Phillips asked whether Members feel that they get enough benefits from the Membership. We replied that the same question was raised in a number of committee meetings but the answer is not easy. Our younger Members consider Membership a useful tool to open career opportunities and that the value added to the qualification will be greatly enhanced if the equivalence issue is resolved.

We would appreciate any suggestions and thoughts you may have as to how we can improve Membership benefits, for our considerations and for also forwarding to the Head Office.

The discussions with our guests continued over dinner until late in the evening.

Director Generals’ visit to CSC and Shipping Companies.

Escorted by the Chairman, our guests’ two day visit plan commenced with the CSC. All issues related to the role of the Institute as an education provider were discussed and ways of further cooperation examined. As expected, a large part of the discussions focused on the

“Understanding Shipping” course; CSC expressing their satisfaction for the course and the way it is organised and ICS expressing their appreciation for CSC’s support.

Our meetings continued with visits to Intership Navigation, Columbia Ship-management and ended with a visit at Uniteam Marine Limited.

During the second day of their visit, escorted by our Vice Chairman Mr Andreas Andreou, our guests visited Hanseatic Shipping, Marlow Navigation and Interorient Navigation.

Matters raised during the discussions with the said companies included the support given by them to the ICS Educational programmes and Membership. The possibility of company Membership was also raised.

The general message from all companies was that they fully support and in most cases finance the “Understanding Shipping” course and any efforts of Members of their staff for attaining ICS Membership. Company Membership is not, however, of real interest to any of the local Corporations.

Branch’s Annual Dinner at the Curium palace Hotel on Friday 10 February 2006

This year’s Annual Dinner was organised on Friday 10th February 2006 to coincide with the ICS officials’ visit to Cyprus who had the opportunity to discuss various issues with Members of our Branch and socialise with them.

During the dinner the Director General gave a small speech stating that he is very glad to be among a young and energetic Branch and presented the Membership Certificates to our new Members Ms Stephanie Mogharbel, Mrs Elena Christodoulidou, Ms Elena Schiza, Mr Achilleas Achilleos and Mr Christos Tofas.



Thereafter, on behalf of the Branch, our Chairman offered small gifts to Mr Phillips and Mrs Newbury on the occasion of their visit to our island.



The Branch's new Members after receiving their Membership Certificates from Mr Alan Phillips during the Annual Dinner. From left to right: Mrs Elena Christodoulidou, Branch's Chairman Mr John Hadjiparaskevas, ICS Director General Mr Alan Phillips, Mr Christos Tofas and Ms Stephanie Mogharbel.

The Annual Dinner was well attended by our Members and their wives. The feedback from the Members was positive and we believe that we all had a very enjoyable evening with good food and wine as well as excellent music.

ICS Yearly Examinations.

The Institute's examinations in Cyprus which were carried out from 10 until 20 April 2006, were once more organised by the Branch.

In an effort to reduce the examinations expenditure, there has been a change in the venue this year. The examinations were carried out with the assistance of our Education Officer Mr Christos Trsangaris at the CYMEPA House instead of the Alassia Hotel. Our profound thanks are extended to CYMEPA and its Secretary General Dr. Michael Ierides as well as our Education Officer Mr Christos Tsangaris for all the assistance in the organisation of this matter. Invigilation was again carried out by the Foley's Grammar School team.

In total 26 students took part in the examinations and it is expected that most of them will complete their examinations this year.

The examinations were performed in an orderly and professional manner. Our Education Officer was closely monitoring each examination session for any assistance and for resolving any problems arising.

Members meetings

Some of our younger Members expressed the idea that in addition to our quarterly meetings, we could also organise social gatherings such as bowling competitions etc. We feel that this is a very good idea and will give the opportunity to the younger Members to socialise more freely with the rest of the Members.

Our new Members Ms Stephanie Mogharbel, Mr Yiannis Shittas and Mr Xanthos Kyriacou volunteered to organise such an event. The Committee would appreciate your feedback for arranging the event as soon as possible.

Recognition of the ICS Qualification as Equivalent to a first University degree

Since the issue of Equivalence has turned out to be very difficult to resolve, we have had further discussions with Frederick University and they will now proceed with an official comparison / evaluation the ICS syllabus and the Frederick syllabus and will provide information as to how many / what exemptions from their syllabus they may grant to our Members for attending their Masters degree.



Members' Contact Details

All Members whose contact details have changed are requested to advise the Branch Chairman or Secretary of their new details for updating our records.

The latest list of Members may be obtained from the Branch's website www.icscy.com or the secretary of the Branch Mr Michael Taliotis.

Wishing you all Happy Summer Holidays,

John Hadjiparaskevas *FICS*
Chairman