



Newsletter - October 2005

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Branch will be held on 23 November 2005 at 19:00 hours at the Alasia Hotel. Individual invitations have already been circulated to all our Fellows and Members via E-mail or fax.

The meeting will commence with the Chairman's report giving a brief summary of the activities of the Branch since our last AGM. The Chairman's report will be followed by an analysis of the Branch's financial results and yearly accounts by our Auditors and our Treasurer. The meeting will continue with questions, answers and a discussion on issues of particular or general interest to our Members.

To conclude, one of our Members Mr Costas Joannides, Managing Director of HSBC Insurance Brokers Ltd will deliver a presentation on the subject of "Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance". Mr Joannides's presentation will be followed by our usual social hour.

It will be our pleasure to welcome you all at our Annual General Meeting. Please note the above date on your diary and make a special effort to attend.

"Understanding Shipping" Examinations

The Institute's "Understanding Shipping" Examinations were carried out on Saturday 10 September 2005 at the premises of Marlow Navigation Co. Limited. Fifty Five out of the Sixty Four students initially registered have completed last year's "Understanding Shipping" course.

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the course, all students were invited for a fifteen-minute interview and were thereafter requested to write two short essays, to show their basic understanding on the subjects covered by the course.

The interviews were conducted by four teams of two tutors each and all administration arrangements were organised by the course co-ordinator Mr Ben Casey.

Alternative arrangements were made to examine four students who, for various serious reasons, were unable to take part in the examinations on the above date.

We take this opportunity to thank all our tutors for the effort and time they spent for the success of this course, as well as our ex-Chairman Mr Andreas Neophytou for allowing us, once more, to use the premises of his company for carrying out the examinations.



Our Education Officer Mr Christos Tsangaris and our Tutor Ms Christina Christoforou interviewing a student during the Understanding Shipping Examinations



Ex-Chairman's Participation at the ICS Education Seminar at Luton

The seminar which was organised by ICS at Luton on 21 May 2005, was attended by 40 - 45 participants, all Members of the Education and Training Committee and representatives of U.K and overseas branches.

The main aim of the seminar was to review the existing methods, subjects and procedures that the Qualification examinations and Foundation Diploma are based on. The major concern was that the Institute should maintain high educational standards. For achieving this, regular reviews of the syllabi should take place together with examining whether additional subjects should be included in the Institute's curriculum.

There were proposals to include a separate course on Geography into the syllabus, as well as to rename the 'Foundation Diploma' to 'Initial Qualification' but these were finally rejected. Other subjects discussed were:

- the ICS decision to authorise publishers to print and sell the ICS Tutorship courses in the bookshops
- the communication difficulties between examiners / tutors and students and the promotion of the course lectures and
- the issue of equivalence of the ICS qualification.

Referring to the discussions for equivalence, Mr Neophytou left with the impression that this was placed on the Agenda only due to our Branch's insistence on the issue. Regretfully, it was for the first time officially stated that ICS is not interested in equivalence since it considers Membership a professional qualification which is unique, of high calibre and which should not be compared with any University qualification.

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

Despite our Branch's persistence on the issue of recognition, as reported above, it is evident that equivalence is not high on the Institute's Agenda.

Regardless of the Institute's stance, we shall continue our efforts for recognition, at least locally, for our Members' benefit. We are examining a number of alternatives as to how we can best approach this problem and if it is at all possible for the previous decision of KYSATS to be reversed.

We have recently had a meeting and exchanged ideas with Mr Andreas Constantinou, Senior Marine Surveyor of the Department of Merchant Shipping on this subject since a number of other professions (eg Master Mariners) face exactly the same problem when it comes to the recognition of their qualifications.

We shall, in due course, report to our Members about our future actions and their outcome.

Donation for the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan

After the recent devastating earthquake in Pakistan, the Pakistan Branch has appealed to all Branches to make donations for the victims of the disaster.

As a response to their request, the Committee has decided to make a donation of USD 1000 to the Pakistan Branch fund with the request to advise us how they intend to distribute the funds collected.



Branch's Donations for the Tsunami Disaster

We have reported in our previous newsletter that the Sri Lankan Branch would use the proceeds received from the donations made to their Branch for the victims of the Tsunami disaster to purchase nets for the local fishermen.

In an act of appreciation for our Branch's donation, our Sri Lankan friends have forwarded to us the photograph below which shows the delivery of the nets to fishermen. The Sri Lankan Branch committee has carefully selected and donated the nets to those fishermen in real need.



The Chennai Branch has also expressed their most sincere gratitude for our donation personally to Mr Neophytou when their representative met with him during the Educational Seminar at Luton.

Participation at the Institute's Controlling Council meeting held at Liverpool on 9 – 10 November 2005

The ICS Controlling Council meeting is a yearly event where all the ICS Branches, UK and overseas meet, to review the policy of the Institute and set up its strategic objectives for the years to come. This year's Controlling Council meeting was held at Liverpool on 9 and 10 November 2005 and our Branch was

represented by our Education Officer Mr Christos Tsangaris.

The most significant issue on the agenda was to analyse the Institute's medium term development plan covering a five-year horizon and receive its members' feedback and input.

It was noted that the ICS is at an important juncture in its history, reserves are reasonably strong whilst there is support from the industry for raising the professional standards in commercial shipping worldwide. In addition, it was stressed that ICS has an important role to play in this as a professional body, as an examining authority and as an education and training provider since the ICS qualification is considered unique.

The essence of this very lively exchange of ideas was that the ICS needs to find ways to promote its image and profile both in the UK and abroad. Necessary amendments to the By Laws were discussed freely and at length.



Photo taken during the Controlling Council meeting at Liverpool 9 – 10 November 2005 showing the following ICS officials from left to right Mr Alan Philips - Director General, Mr Michael Abram - Outgoing Chairman, Mr William - O'Neal Vice-President and Mr Bruce Ogilvy - New Chairman.

In this context, the Director General of the Institute Mr Alan Phillip schedules a number of visits abroad next year and he also plans to visit Cyprus next February.



Membership

Five new Members who completed their qualifying examinations in April 2005 were recently admitted to Membership, namely,

Mr Achilleas Achilleos
Mrs Elena Christodoulidou
Ms Stephanie Mogharbel
Ms Elena Schiza and
Mr Christos Tofas

We wish to congratulate all of them and welcome them to our Branch.

The Branch's Membership now stands at 35 Members, 33 Fellows, 7 retired Members/Fellows and 1 Affiliate Members, a total of 76.

John Hadjiparaskevas *FICS*
Chairman

Members' Contact Details

All Members whose contact details have in any way been changed are requested to communicate with the Branch Chairman or Secretary and inform them of their updated details.

A list of current members may be obtained from the Branch's website www.icscy.com or the secretary of the Branch Mr Michael Taliotis.

Subscriptions 2004-2005

Members who have not settled their Subscriptions for last year as well as for the year 2005-2006 are kindly requested to arrange payment soonest.