

Rather than being a full Newsletter this is just to confirm the activities that have been planned for the next months. We have just concluded making up the books for Calendar year 2000. By exercising the strictest economy we have come out at break-even (in fact a surplus of £383!)

I would say however that this is far from satisfactory because travelling has been cut back drastically . It is high time that we did another Far East Tour though I personally will be flying the flag when chairing many sessions of the BIMCO AGM in Beijing 14th – 18th May 2001.

We are working hard on arranging a meeting with the European Commission (hopefully European Commission Vice President – Transport & Energy Mrs Loyola de Palacio and Head of Division for Maritime Safety Mr. Willem de Rooter).

Such is the interest of the Commission in things Maritime that we feel this visit has some urgency.

"Frank Chao"

The tragic and premature death of Frank Chao at 67 has come as a shock to all of us in IMIF.

He was virtually a Founder Member of IMIF through Wah Kwong and over the years contributed much, not least by helping to arrange our frequent visits to the Far East.

Always cheerful and perennially optimistic (almost dangerously so in respect of his shipping activities and even more so his race horse owning) he was a colourful charming generous and larger than life character.

He will long be remembered, and the world has become a duller place without him. I personally have lost a good and much valued friend.

IMIF Spring Programme 2001 – buffet luncheons

Friday 16th March 12.30 – 14.30

Host

IMIF members Andreas and George Tsavlis of Tsavlis (Shipping) Ltd have kindly agreed to host this luncheon.

Venue

The Boardroom, The Baltic Exchange, 38 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BA

Speaker

James Bell

The International Commission on Shipping (ICONS) comprises a small team under the Chairmanship of former Australian Transport Minister Peter Morris. It has been asked to investigate and appraise current approaches to

achieving compliance with international minimum safety, environmental and social requirements. It is examining whether current approaches are in line with international law and will recommend appropriate compliance/enforcement strategies to encompass both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.

James Bell, a member of the Commission and the former Permanent Secretary of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) will talk on the latest developments concerning ICONS.

Tuesday 24th April 12.30 – 14.30

Host

IMIF member David Southwood, Executive Director, Heath Lambert Marine has kindly agreed to host this luncheon.

Venue

Heath Lambert Group, Friary Court, 65 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2NP

Speaker

Andrew Craig-Bennett

Andrew has a well-established track-record in the maritime industries, having worked for Constant and Constant in the 1970's before joining Charles Taylor and Co., managers of the Standard P&I club. Later he worked for John Swire and Sons Limited in Hong Kong and for Cosco in Beijing. He is justly renowned for many excellent articles on different subjects in the "Quarter Points" column of "Lloyd's List" and also in "Lloyd's Maritime Asia". He had recently joined the Wallem Group.

Andrew will talk on "Sorting out Certification".

Tuesday 22nd May 12.30 – 14.30

Host

IMIF member Richard Greiner of Moore Stephens has kindly agreed to host this luncheon.

Venue

Moore Stephens Training Centre, 1 Snow Hill, London EC1

Speaker

Les Callow

Double hulls have been proclaimed by some to be the perfect preventative solution to a host of maritime oil spill problems. There are others though who have their doubts. Dr. Les Callow, Director of Amtec Consultants Ltd will talk on "Double Hulls – are they all they're cracked up to be?"

Tuesday 19th June 12.30 – 14.30

Host

Simon Tatham, Partner, Stephenson Harwood has kindly agreed to host this luncheon.

Venue

Stephenson Harwood, One St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8SH

Speaker

Brian Orrell

Brian Orrell LLB (hons) is the well-known Secretary General of the National Union of Marine Aviation & Shipping Transport Officers (NUMAST). At a time when the entire global manning and training facilities for seafarers is undergoing major and worrying changes Brian will speak on "Recruitment problems in our industry."

IMIF Shipping Bankers' Forum

Held on Thursday 15th February 2001 at the offices of Norton Rose, Kempson House, Camomile Street, London EC3A

A productive and wide-ranging discussion on the role of shipping bankers, their effect on and their thoughts about current maritime market trends took place on Thursday morning 15th February 2001. The discussion was opened by Mr. Fred Weenig, Director of Shipping, ABN Amro Bank N.V., Rotterdam. Following the meeting delegates were joined at a buffet-luncheon by Gordon Hall and other partners of Norton Rose.

The following delegates attended:

Mr J G Davis Chairman, IMIF
Mr F Weenig ABN Amro Bank
Mr N Barton Citibank NA
Mr B Boe Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken
Mr V d'Orgeval Aifin S.A.
Mr J W Denstad DVB Nedship Bank
Ms M Doedons ING Bank
Mr R Harrington Shipping adviser – Royal Bank of Scotland
Mr E Harris Landesbank Schleswig-Holstein
Mr J Hodgson Deutsche Schiffsbank AG
Mr E Lassen Danmarks Skibskreditfond
Mr M A J Parker Citibank NA
Mr K McRae Den Norske Bank
Mr P Stokes Lazard Capital Markets
Mr L C Varnavides The Royal Bank of Scotland
Mr I Bouskill Secretary, IMIF

IMIF would like to thank

Fred Weenig for opening the discussion, all the delegates for participating in the meeting and Gordon Hall and Norton Rose for their generosity in hosting the IMIF Shipping Bankers' Forum.