



The Bahamas FLAG

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY

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Bahamas hits 50 million gt

With the signing of the 57,696 gt *Gentle Leader* to the Bahamas flag in October this year, the Register has topped the 50 million gt mark, much to the delight of BMA's Director Ken McLean and all BMA's staff.

Owned by Gentle Maritime Ltd and managed by Stamco Ship Management Co Ltd, the DNV class car carrier was delivered from the Polish shipyard Stocznia Gdynia S A on 2 October. The vessel, which can carry up to 6,600 vehicles, brings the number of ships flying the Bahamas flag to 1697.

Speaking at a celebratory event in London, hosted by BMA's Chairman Ian Fair and attended by shipowners, cruise line representatives and class societies among others, Ken McLean said, "At the beginning of the decade we had 30 million gt on the Register. Everyone in the Authority has worked incredibly hard to achieve this result. I am delighted that we have made so much progress and that we still continue to attract quality ships to the Bahamas flag."



Gentle Leader

New Ministers appointed to Environment Ministry

With environmental issues high on the priority list of most of the world's nations, it is no surprise that the government of The Bahamas, with its long maritime history and modern-day success story in shipping, has appointed two new ministers to the Environment Ministry.

Dr The Hon Earl D Deveaux



Dr The Hon Earl D Deveaux was appointed Minister of the Environment in July 2008. His new portfolio includes maritime affairs and shipping and the BMA looks forward to continuing its excellent relationship with The Bahamas Government. Dr Deveaux has previously held posts as Minister of Works and Transport and as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Dr Deveaux won a scholarship to the University of Miami where, in 1971, he was awarded a Bachelors Degree in economics. He was listed in the "Who's Who" of American universities and colleges for academic and leadership achievement. Dr Deveaux has served in many diverse areas including government planning, research and credit with the World Bank Corporation as well as many roles within the agricultural sector.

He is married with two daughters and five grandchildren.

The Hon Phenton O Neymour



The Hon Phenton O Neymour was appointed Minister of State in the Ministry of the Environment in July this year. He previously held the post of Minister of State for Public Utilities.

Mr Neymour has a Bachelors Degree in chemical engineering, with a minor in mathematics as well as a Master of Science in environmental engineering with a minor in business administration from Syracuse University, New York. He also holds a Master of business

administration from the University of Miami.

He is currently Vice-President Emeritus of the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation. Mr Neymour is married with two children.

Director's message

Gratifying though it may be that the Bahamas Register has reached the 50 million gt milestone, representing as it does the dedication, hard work and high standards of BMA's staff, it does not mean that we can now rest on our laurels.



Quite the contrary! Following the undoubted success of Posidonia 2008, which attracted record numbers of both exhibitors and visitors, and provided the BMA with an excellent forum to strengthen our relationships with our Greek shipowners, we must now set our sights on meeting the goals of Posidonia – a reduction in detentions, in fatalities and environmental pollution.

International shipping is the safest, cleanest and most efficiently run industry in the world and yet it is still the whipping boy for politicians and the general public alike. In these challenging times, the BMA must play a major role in ridding misconceptions and improving the image of shipping. It is no exaggeration to describe the international shipping industry as the life blood of the world economy, with some 50,000 merchant ships carrying 90% of the world's trade. And when we reflect on the fact that in the last ten years trade has doubled, whilst at the same time the number of accidents at sea has halved, we have a good, no, an excellent story to tell.

Furthermore, shipping is the least environmentally damaging form of commercial transport especially compared with land based industry. It accounts for a meagre 4.1% of total emissions and, according to Lloyd's Register, a cargo ship of 8,000dwt consumes eight times less fuel than a mid-size truck. With so much uncertainty in today's global markets, shipping's availability and reliability at relatively low cost is vital to the continuing growth of the world economy. It is often the only means of moving freight.

Working with our owners, including the BSA, who's forthcoming AGM will give us the opportunity to deepen our collaboration, we must strive continually to improve safety, standards and reliability within the shipping industry as well as do our bit to protect the environment.

International maritime conference in Bahamas

"Opportunities in maritime and trade services" will be the theme of a major three-day Bahamas international maritime conference and trade show being held in Freeport in November. The Bahamas Maritime Authority is a major sponsor of the event.

Providing a unique international platform to showcase the many facets of the Bahamas maritime industry, particularly in the fields of trans-shipment, trade, ship ownership, registry services, ship repair and other related services, the conference will be opened by Prime Minister Hubert A Ingraham, with IMO's Secretary General Efthimios Mitropoulos giving the keynote speech.

"The Bahamas is highly respected in the international maritime community," stated the Ministry of the Environment. "However, in order for The Bahamas to maintain its



position of prominence in the region and in the world, policy makers and program planners must stay abreast of the ever-changing demands and developments in the international shipping industry."

The conference aims to promote The Bahamas as a hub of international trade, to highlight the benefits and advantages of the Bahamas Ship Registry and to draw attention to the latest developments and maritime opportunities in The Bahamas.

Smooth seas don't make good sailors

When Natalie Verance joined her first ship, the tanker *Ocean Breeze* on March 17 2006 as a cadet, she was told that she was "stupid" for choosing the maritime industry as a career and that she was incapable of going to university. How wrong and short-sighted her critics were!

Today, Nassau born Natalie is a sophomore at the California Maritime Academy, studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in marine transportation and a third mate's licence. Once she graduates, she intends to go to sea until she becomes a Master Mariner.

When Natalie was at school she was content to follow conventional career choices – a

teacher perhaps or a doctor, or maybe an officer in the police or fire service. But as Natalie told us, "I started to yearn for adventure and as time went by the traditional career options didn't seem very exciting." Her horizons were broadened when, in 2003, Captain Bain, then BMA's Senior Nautical Inspector, visited Natalie's school, R M Bailey Senior High in Nassau and told the students about a cadet programme for those who wanted to learn more about their historic maritime tradition. Natalie was inspired. She took a marine training course at the Bahamas Defence Force base where she got her STCW certificate. She also joined the Bahamas Maritime Cadet Corps in 2004.

Earlier this year, Natalie set sail on the *T/S Golden Bear* as a third class cadet performing able seaman duties throughout the voyage.

Now Natalie wants to share some of her experiences with other young people who want to pursue a career in the shipping industry. "I would tell young people like myself that the maritime industry has pros and cons like everything else in life. But if you want something, you have to work at it because wanting is not enough. Surround yourself with positive people and have a positive outlook on everything. My mother always tells me the harder I work for something the more I will appreciate it." "Failure is another route to success and smooth seas don't make good sailors."



Update on Goal Based Standards.

Goal Based Standards, a concept first put forward to IMO for consideration by The Bahamas and Greece, has made further progress towards providing the shipowner with a degree of certainty of longevity and strength for newbuild vessels.

During its 83rd Session, the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO approved a plan for a pilot project for the trial application of Tier III verification process of the Goal Based Standards for new construction of tankers using the common structural rules of the International Association of Classification

Societies. The object of this project was to carry out a second trial and validate the Tier III verification process, identify shortcomings and make proposals for the improvement and implementation of same.

The 15-member pilot panel under the co-ordination of Capt. P Little of the USCG, met

in February and May 2008 in London and in June 2008 in Shanghai and made significant progress, having further examined and evaluated the verification framework of Tier III, the estimated resources for an appropriate verification and the efficiency and effectiveness of the verification process.

A report of the pilot panel is to be submitted to the forthcoming MSC 85 in November 2008 recommending the approval in general of the proposed Guidelines for the verification of compliance with the GBS and other related issues.

Long range identification and tracking of ships (LRIT)

The concept of long range identification and tracking of ships (LRIT) was introduced to enhance the maritime security framework by enabling SOLAS contracting governments (in their capacity as flag, port and coastal State) to obtain information on the position of certain ships engaged on international voyages.

Affected ships (cargo ships of over 300 gt, passenger ships, high speed craft, MODU) would transmit information on the ship's identity, location and date/time of transmission.

The Regulation entered into force on 1 January 2008 and there is a phased process for ships to comply with the requirements. The criteria for the compliance date being the vessel's date of construction, operating GMDSS sea area and the date of the ship's radio. The equipment used for transmitting LRIT information is required to undergo a conformance test once fitted onboard and the BMA has approved four companies, LRIT testing Application Service Providers (ASP) to conduct this shipboard test.

The Bahamas was one of the first countries to complete the prototype testing of the IMO LRIT international data exchange and the BMA continues to participate in the ongoing IMO and IMSO discussion on the technical, operational and financial aspects of LRIT. The Authority is currently finalising details of the Bahamas LRIT Data Centre to which all LRIT data - from Bahamian ships - will be transmitted. BMA Information Bulletins 111 & 116, which are available on the BMA website, provide guidance on the implementation of LRIT requirements and The Bahamas approach to certification.

Please contact the Bahamas LRIT Co-ordinator at email: lrif@bahamasmaritime.com if you require any additional information.

Overdue tribute to the wife of the seafarer

As part of a two-day celebration to mark World Maritime Day, IMO's Secretary General, Efthimios Mitropoulos unveiled an international memorial statue in honour of the wife of the seafarer in Galaxidi, Greece, on 20 September.

In his address to a wide audience, including the Greek Prime Minister, Dr Costas Karamanlis, Mr Mitropoulos said that the whole of the maritime community honoured and thanked their wives who, throughout history, had not only made personal sacrifices but had also made a tremendous contribution to their families' wellbeing and to the cause of shipping.

He described seafarer's wives as the unsung heroines of the maritime community. "The sole purpose of the unveiling ceremony was he

said, "to belatedly, fulfil a duty: that of the maritime community's overdue tribute to the wife of the seafarer. Centuries of man's involvement in maritime affairs have been waiting for this to happen – wondering why it had not happened long ago."

The World Maritime Day celebrations also marked 60 years of IMO's services to shipping.



POSIDONIA

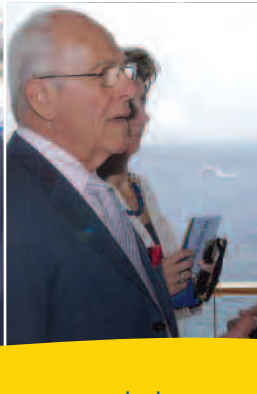
BMA Success in Greece

This year's event was even more successful than its predecessors with more than 17,000 visitors and Far Eastern companies very prominent at the exhibition.

The BMA held a reception on 30 May at the Yachting Club, Mikrolimano Piraeus, which was very well attended.



2008



Closer contact with Greek shipowners

George Zarvanos played a key role on the BMA's behalf at Posidonia 2008. "It was the biggest event so far and I'm delighted that Greek shipowners who already fly the Bahamas flag are very satisfied with the Register. It is my job now to forge closer contacts with owners, to act as a go-between in terms of language and culture and to smooth out the rough edges when it comes to dealing with difficult issues, especially technical problems. Quality is crucial in technical matters and liaison with the Greek Honorary Consul is an important part of my job in promoting the BMA in Greece. I am delighted that two bulk carriers, *Antoine D* and *Jack D*, under DND management, based in Athens, have currently been flagged with The Bahamas."



BSA goes from strength to strength

In anticipation of the forthcoming BSA AGM in November we profile some of the Association's shipowners and their companies.

The BSA was originally set up in London in July 1997 to strengthen the Bahamas flag and to lift its status from rather run of the mill to its current position as one of the world's premier flags. The Association's executive committee represents a cross section of the Bahamas fleet including ferry and shortsea cruise ships, reefers, high quality tankers and operators of dry bulk carriers. By including owners from the

various shipping sectors and nations, the Committee ensures that no group goes unheard or unrepresented.

Originally, the BSA's remit was to promote the interests of Bahamian owners, to involve the owners more closely with the BMA, to give them the opportunity to influence policy decisions via the BMA's direct relationship with the IMO and to provide an effective lobby group in dealings with

international bodies such as the European Community and the US Coast Guard.

In addition to the AGM, the Committee meets approximately three times a year but members often discuss ongoing issues between meetings. The formal meetings are now being supplemented with ad-hoc meetings where a specific issue needs more detailed input. The most recent of these is a working group on the new ILO Maritime Convention.

Dale Ploughman, Seanergy



With more than 43 years of shipping industry experience, Dale Ploughman is currently a member of the board of directors and chief executive officer of Seanergy. He has been the Chairman of South African Marine Corporation (Pty) Ltd, a drybulk shipping company since 1999 and he is also a board member of Bulk Energy

Transport SA. Mr Ploughman has served as president, chief executive officer and director of Golden Energy Marine Corp since 2005 and he also serves as president and chief executive officer of numerous private shipping companies controlled by the Restis family. He holds degrees in business administration and personnel management and Master's level Sea Certificates and was educated at the Thames Nautical Training College, HMS Worcester.

Dale Ploughman, BSA's Chairman, says that the Bahamas flag, now the third largest in the world, is well respected among all its owners. "At the BSA, we continue to stress to our members the advantages of belonging to a premier flag, but also the responsibilities that come with that membership – maintaining quality standards, respecting the environment and most importantly adhering to the rules that protect our environment. And in today's booming shipping industry, one of our key roles is to promote awareness of such a multi-faceted industry and to encourage young Bahamians to develop a maritime career."

Joe Valenti, Crystal Cruises



Mr Valenti began his maritime career as a member of the US Coast Guard where he served in deck, technical and environmental positions afloat and ashore. He retired from the service with the rank of Captain. He presently serves on the Advisory Board of Lloyds North America and the Advisory Board to the Dean of the

University of California, Los Angeles Extension Program and on a number of committees within cruise industry associations. He is a graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy and US Naval Post Graduate School and completed additional graduate work at Yale University.

Mr Valenti has been a cruise line executive for over 13 years. He is currently the Senior Vice President Marine Operations at Crystal Cruises where he is responsible for the day to day operation and maintenance of the company's ships. The company was formed in 1988 and has two luxury cruisers – the 940-guest *Crystal Symphony* launched in 1995 and the 1080-guest *Crystal Serenity* launched in 2003. Crystal Cruises is dedicated to preserving the marine environment and oceans upon which its ships sail. "I personally feel that the relationship between the BSA and BMA has allowed for a meaningful exchange between the two organisations as well as providing an opportunity for the Shipowners to be heard at IMO, within the European Union governing authorities and the US Coast Guard," said Mr Valenti. "With the rapid changes occurring in environmental regulations and the coming changes in ILO Labour Maritime Convention, this is most important to us."

David Robinson, Teekay Shipping



After getting his Master's (Foreign Going) Certificate of Competency, Mr Robinson sailed as Master on the British Resolution and British Beech before moving ashore to take up a post as a Marine Superintendent with BP where he also worked in the marine, drydocking, crude oil programming, chartering and fleet operations groups. During this time he was seconded to the City of London where he helped organise the 800th anniversary celebrations including a Tall Ships Regatta. He has also worked for Vela in Saudi Arabia and KOTC.

Mr Robinson joined Teekay Shipping in 2001 and was initially responsible for running one of their Ship Teams which looked after 20 Aframax tankers. He is now Vice President of Fleet Operations running Teekay's full fleet of about 200 vessels including crude oil, clean product, LNG and LPG carriers, FSOs, shuttle tankers and a number of other vessels designed for specific trades, a large proportion of which fly the Bahamas flag. Founded in 1973, Teekay is a recognized international leader in energy shipping. Its strength lies in the global reach of the organization, the size of the fleet, and the quality of its people and operations.

Mr Robinson first went to sea in 1972 as a deck cadet with BP Shipping. His first vessel was the *British Osprey*, a 16,000mt product tanker which he joined in Fremantle, Australia. "I had never even been on a plane before! I count myself very lucky to have entered the shipping industry at a time when there were ample opportunities to advance. Ten years later, people were not so fortunate." Mr Robinson said. "I am a strong believer in people – they are what make all the difference in shipping. If you want to raise the bar, invest in people – a philosophy very dear to both the BSA and the BMA."



Johan Hagn-Meincke, Clipper Group



Mr Meincke has lived and worked in Ireland, Hong Kong, the USA and Canada and has experience in operations, chartering, sale and purchase, acquisitions and mergers, partnerships and joint ventures as well as insurance and procurement.

Mr Meincke was born in Denmark in 1950 and his career in the maritime industry now spans 40 years. It began in 1968 when he joined A P Moller in Maersk. Ten years later he joined the Clipper Group where he is now Director, Fleet Management. The Clipper company was incorporated in 1972 and currently owns some 100 vessels and operates a further 250. Vessels range in size from 3,500 dwt small tankers to 84,000 dwt panama bulk carriers. Clipper also has investments in VLCCs, ro/ros, reefers, cruise vessels and ferries.

Chris Oliver, Gearbulk



Mr Oliver first went to sea in 1980 as a Deck Cadet with Mobil Shipping Co Ltd. He qualified as a Navigating Officer in 1984 and continued to sail with Mobil for the next ten years by which time he had become a Master Mariner. He has sailed on a range of vessels including VLCCs, product tankers, OBO and North Sea shuttle tankers.

Mr Oliver joined Gearbulk in 1994 and within two years was part of the Operations Management Team responsible for the Fleet Performance Unit which covered a wide range of operational and ship management activities. The majority of Gearbulk's fleet, approximately 65 vessels, is Bahamian flagged and as Mr Oliver points out, "Gearbulk has always shared the BMA's positive approach towards quality and we look forward to continuing the long standing relationship."



Gearbulk have had a representative on the Bahamas Shipowners Association Committee for the past 14 years and have worked closely with the BMA during this time. According to Mr Oliver, "This forum has always proved to be of mutual benefit in allowing owners to be more aware of ongoing issues and of the Authority's position and direction. Conversely, it has also allowed the Authority to be aware of the views or concerns that owners have. The Committee has given Gearbulk the opportunity to have a closer relationship with the BMA which allows both organisations to discuss a range of maritime issues that are influenced by Flag States. It also encourages open and constructive discussion with other senior company representatives."





Maritime future looking good for Bahamas

The Bahamas Maritime Authority and the Bahamas Shipowners Association, recognising the importance of personnel to the long term sustainability of the maritime sector, have continued to offer their support and assistance to cadetship initiatives aimed at the recruitment and training of young Bahamians.

The initiatives are focused on three different academic levels of achievement, coupled with financial sponsorship and sea berth contributions which have been provided by a number of Bahamian shipowners.

High school

The Bahamas Maritime Cadet Corps (BMCC) under the leadership of Mr Dudley Martinborough, a BMA Board member, has seen some 244 high school students graduate from its programme with the STCW Convention familiarisation and basic safety training. The BMCC continues to attract new entrants with some 205 cadets currently in the system.

Technical Schools

The BMCC has formed a collaboration with Holland College in Canada where more than 50 cadets have been enrolled in the programme which leads to the STCW rating certification and, following the requisite seetime, STCW officer certification.

University

There are currently 20 students studying for degrees in marine transportation or engineering at California Maritime Academy (CalMaritime), State University of New York (SUNY), Marine Academy and Massachusetts Marine Academy. In addition to their academic qualifications, all the students will obtain professional STCW certification as Navigation or Engineering Officers.

The success of these initiatives is evidenced by the first BSA cadet, Misty Bain, now serving as Chief Mate, several graduates being employed onboard ships and at port facilities and some graduates training as Harbour Pilots in the Bahamian ports of Nassau and Freeport.

These initiatives demonstrate the BMA/BSA commitment to The Bahamas and to the wider global maritime sector and recognise the public concern about declining seafarers' numbers.



Your comments

If you have any comments about the Flag or need to tell us of a change of address please contact us.

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News in brief...

Recent appointments



Dr Phillip Belcher

Dr Phillip Belcher has been appointed as a Technical/Compliance Officer in the Maritime Affairs Department of the BMA's London office.

Dr Belcher is a Master Mariner with several maritime degrees – BSc and PhD – from Cardiff University. His PhD thesis looked at the implementation of international regulations on board ships, especially where the human element was concerned.

Previously he managed the technical and professional output of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners. Dr Belcher has broad seagoing experience gained on board oil and gas tankers, containerships and ferries. He has worked closely with many sectors of the maritime industry and has also served as an IMO delegate for the International Association of Institutes of Navigation.

Bridget Chigbo

Bridget Chigbo joined the Bahamas Maritime Authority London office in January 2008 and is attached to the Registration Department as a Registration Assistant. Prior to this appointment, Ms Chigbo worked in the financial services industry in The Bahamas.



She is a graduate of the University of Buckingham, England where she studied Law with Economics and obtained a Bachelor of Law degree (LL.B) (Hons).