



The Bahamas FLAG

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Minister's wife in Shanghai for naming ceremony

Mrs Barbara Jean Deveaux, wife of the Bahamas' Environment Minister, has officially named one of the newest vessels to register with the Bahamas Flag.

The ceremony took place in Shanghai, The People's Republic of China, on Wednesday 6 January this year. The vessel, named the *CS Caroline*, in honour of the late Winifred Caroline Mortimer, will be managed by the Bahamian company Campbell Shipping Company Limited.

The *CS Caroline* was built in Jiangsu Province, The People's Republic of China, by Tsuji Industries (Jiangsu) Co Ltd and designed by Algoship Designers Limited. GTR Campbell Marine Consultants Limited supervised the construction of the ship.

Minister Deveaux said that the Bahamas ship registry had many vessels built in China by Bahamian companies and valued well in excess of a billion US dollars. He also noted that The People's Republic of China and The Bahamas have had formal diplomatic relations for more than 12 years.

"However, our cultures have been comingled for a very long time as many of The Bahamas' most successful citizens are of Chinese origin," Minister Deveaux said. "The relationship between our countries has proven to be mutually beneficial to both countries. The Bahamas has benefitted from significant Chinese investments, notably Hutchinson Whampoa in Freeport, Grand Bahama. The generosity of the Chinese people is exemplified in the gift of a sports complex and expert technical support by the Government of The People's Republic of China."

The CS Caroline



From left: Dr Deveaux, Eleanor Phillips, Director, the Nature Conservancy Bahamas, Lowell J. Mortimer, President, Campbell Shipping, Mrs B.J. Deveaux and Yasuji Kodama, Vice President, Tsuji Heavy Industries (Jiangsu) Co Ltd



End of an era as Erma Mackey retires



Mrs Erma Rahming Mackey, who until January this year headed up BMA's Nassau office, has retired. Mrs Mackey, who has enjoyed more than 30 years in the maritime industry, first joined the Ministry of Transport in 1976 as an Executive

Officer attached to the Maritime Affairs Division which pre-dated the establishment of the Bahamas Maritime Authority in 1995.

Amongst other things, Mrs Mackey has, since 1977, been responsible for administering Part II of the Merchant Shipping Act, which deals with the registration of ships and related matters. She also chaired the Oil Spill Contingency Planning Committee of The Bahamas from 1979 to 1997 and organised and participated in the Clean Caribbean of the Americas (CCA) Oil Spill Mobilisation and Deployment Exercises.

Mrs Mackey, who is a Hubert Humphrey Fellow, holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration, a Bachelors Degree in the

Principles of Leadership and an Associates Degree in Financial Management.

On a more personal note, Mrs Mackey is an ardent sports person with a particular passion for softball - she played in both leagues at second base, both slow and fast pitch. Her current hobbies are sewing, reading and her newly acquired love of spin-reel fishing. Her long and remarkable contribution to the work of the BMA will be greatly missed and we wish Mrs Mackey a very happy retirement. See page 7 for her personal reflections on the last 30 years.

Director's message

I have been in post for four months now and feel immensely privileged to be heading up one of the world's leading ship registers. I have been impressed by the dedication and hard work of the Authority's staff both in London and internationally.

In the 34 years since the first ship was registered in The Bahamas, we have come a long way. The Authority has gained its deserved reputation as a result of quality and consistency – consistently strong performance at IMO, consistent application of regulatory requirements and consistently good service and response to the needs of our shipowners. Moreover, consistency is the key to quality, by any definition. And whatever the future holds, we will maintain and build on these foundations of quality.

And we never forget that our current shipowners provide a major contribution to the quality of the Bahamas flag. As a result we have established long-term relationships with them – something that is just as important to us when we attract new clients to our Register.

Looking to the future, we have many new initiatives in the pipeline, from internal restructuring and continued professional development for our staff to a major upgrade

of our registration software which will have a massive effect on how we provide our owners with a faster, more consistent quality service. We are improving the effectiveness of our already fast and simple registration process as well as speeding up the issuance of officer and seaman's record books. Plans are also underway to upgrade all our IT systems to further increase the speed and efficiency in all aspects of our administration – registration, inspections, casualty, licensing and accounts.

Bahamian expertise in the maritime and financial services sector, together with a comprehensive range of docking and wet berth facilities – as well as workshop and repair facilities in Grand Bahama – make a very attractive combination. This represents a one-stop shop cluster of maritime services for shipowners, which the BMA actively supports. And the recent adoption of the Bahamas Yacht Code is part of the Bahamas Government's effort to provide a seamless service for our high net value clients.



To further improve our services to shipowners, we are opening offices around the world to offer truly round-the-clock facilities. Immediate plans include new offices in Hong Kong and Greece with more to follow in due course.

The BMA will always seek ways to continually improve its services and to maintain the highest international standards for quality and safety. In these uncertain and changing economic times, there are many challenges ahead but we are going into the next decade with renewed hunger, enthusiasm, vigour and commitment for both our existing owners and for the maritime industry globally. I have no doubt that we will continue to attract many of the world's most prestigious ship and yacht owners because I truly believe that "It's simply better with The Bahamas." I am greatly looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Davy F Rolle

Quality top of the agenda at BIMCATS



"We aim to attract the top end of the market in whatever field we enter," said Earl D Deveaux, Minister of the Environment, in his opening address at the 2nd Bahamas International Maritime Conference and Trade Show (BIMCATS) on 9-12 February 2010 in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

"When we set out to attract ships to our fleet," he continued, "we look for the quality owner with ships of which we can be proud. It is not our aim to have the biggest fleet in the world. What we really want is the best. Fortunately, there are owners who share our aspirations. One result of having such a large, high-quality fleet is that its reputation spreads beyond the ship operating community. It acts as a magnet for other elements of our maritime cluster which are looking for just such an environment for their business."

The combination of the new Bahamas Yacht Code, the large ship repair facility in Freeport, considered by industry experts to have the most advanced environmental treatment scheme of any shipyard in the world, the container terminal, Freeport's oil tanker terminals as well as extensive cruise ship facilities, has established The Bahamas as a one-stop shop for international services. Together with the country's strong appeal as a financial centre and the continuity, consistency and commitment it delivers in providing financial services, The Bahamas is a very attractive environment for business.

In short the Minister said, "If a shipowner, a ship manager or a ship operator is looking for a home for his business, he need look no further than The Bahamas."

Bahamas Arbitration Act



John Delaney

to which The Bahamas became party in 2007.

"The new Bahamian regime is robust, comprehensive and modern," said Attorney General, John Delaney. When it comes into effect, the 1889 law which currently governs arbitration in The Bahamas will be wholly replaced and a state-of-the-art legal infrastructure for arbitration in The Bahamas will be established. Arbitration provides a private means of determining disputes arising under contractual relationships and is an alternative to the court process, although the court still remains available to assist the arbitral process. The new regime substantially corresponds with 1996 English legislation, a major international seat for commercial arbitration. But unlike the English regime, The Bahamas legislation contains provision for confidentiality, invaluable for the privacy of commercial affairs.

"We have every confidence that it will serve our jurisdiction well both in the context of domestic and international arbitration," said Mr Delaney. "And I hope that lawyers and lawyers-to-be will embrace the new opportunities offered and play their part in making The Bahamas a preferred seat for commercial arbitration."

Cheque for £1.3 million presented to IMO

In April, His Excellency, Mr Paul Farquharson, QPM, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the IMO, presented a cheque for £1.3 million to IMO's Secretary General, Efthimios Mitropoulos, to settle the assessed budget contribution to IMO from the Bahamas Government for the coming year. Mr Farquharson was accompanied by Commodore Davy F Rolle, Managing Director and CEO of the Bahamas Maritime Authority and Ms Judith Francis, Maritime Attaché and Alternate Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to IMO.

From Left: Ms Judith Francis, Efthimios Mitropoulos, Mr Paul Farquharson and Commodore Davy F Rolle



The Marine Environment Protection Committee

The 60th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) dealt with many issues, from reception facilities in the Baltic to hold cleaning in the Caribbean.

However, as this was the first major international meeting following Copenhagen, it was understandably dominated by concerns over greenhouse gases (GHG). We had hoped that Copenhagen would provide clear guidance on the way forward through a revision of the Kyoto protocol, which contains the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and means that developed and developing countries must be dealt with in different ways. This goes against the idea that all flags are treated the same.

The BMA deployed a team of three, plus one from the High Commission, supplemented by three from the Bahamas Shipowners Association, to cover all the issues. By adopting this approach, The Bahamas fully represented its interests as well as those of its quality owners.

The other critical part in the GHG debate was market based measures (MBM). The Bahamas opposed the current proposals for MBMs. They would penalise the trade of developing countries and were disproportionate to the contribution of shipping to global green house

gas emissions. Some proposals were for an international tax which would create a worrying precedent. Many developing countries opposed the principle of an MBM due to concerns over CBDR. An expert group will work on the feasibility of shipping MBMs before the next MEPC meeting but it is not expected that significant progress will be made until the next global climate change meeting in December 2010.

Various amendments were made to MARPOL including the designation of the wider Caribbean Region as a special area under Annex V. The proposed designation of the Baltic as a special area under Annex IV had been highlighted to The Bahamas by the BSA as being a matter of serious concern because of the lack of reception facilities. Following much debate, it was agreed to postpone this until the Baltic States fully comply with the requirements for reception facilities.

Significant work was done on the energy efficiency design index and the ship energy efficiency management plan and they were finalised for approximately 85% of vessels. However, further work is needed and so an intercessional working group will be set up before the next MEPC meeting.

The Bahamas will, of course, continue to track, monitor and work with its quality owners to ensure all interests are properly represented at the IMO.

Looking forward to Posidonia

For the first time in six years, The Bahamas Maritime Authority will be an exhibitor at the forthcoming Posidonia 2010 exhibition in Greece.

Co-sponsored by the Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB) and the Ministry of Tourism, the BMA will have a strong presence at this year's event, hosting a special lunch on 4 June when the Authority will be promoting "the Bahamas Brand" - another first.

The Bahamas is home to a vibrant and growing maritime cluster which includes essential support industries such as major transit and ship repair facilities, Freeport's oil tanker terminals, finance, insurance and ship broking services as well as expert maritime legal expertise, all of which is spearheaded by the BMA. So it is not just the quality and efficiency of service that shipowners have come to expect from the Bahamas flag but rather a one-stop shop for international services that The Bahamas can offer. And with the recent adoption of the Bahamas Yacht Code (BYC), ship owners, managers, and operators looking for a home for their business, need look no further than The Bahamas.

See us at stand 235

BIMCATS

The first Bahamas International Maritime Conference and Trade Show, held in Grand Bahama was an unqualified success according to Minister Earl D Deveaux.

And welcoming visitors to this year's conference, the Minister said, "It is my pleasure to be back again, with renewed focus by the Board, shipowners and stakeholders. I congratulate the BMA Board and its members, for their steadfast and excellent management and guidance over the past year. I am especially grateful to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, both of whom worked extremely long hours during much of the past year."



Seatrade Cruise Shipping, Miami and CMA Shipping 2010, Connecticut

Commodore Rolle, accompanied by Deputy Directors, Dwain Hutchinson and Christine Scavella, attended his first ever Seatrade Cruise Shipping International Exhibition and Conference in Miami and the CMA Shipping 2010 Conference in Stamford, Connecticut in March this year.

Commenting on the invaluable insight and knowledge gained from listening to and speaking with industry professionals as well as existing and potential new clients of the BMA, the Commodore said, "It is our job to ensure that the positive lessons learned and information gained at these events are implemented within the BMA in short order to improve and increase our level of service to our valued clients and to attract new ones."



Norway – anything but a cold climate



Norwegian Gem

Temperatures might well be below freezing in Norway for some of the year, but the relationship between the BMA and its Norwegian shipowners is always very warm.

Norwegian controlled ships now represent some 20% of the BMA's registered fleet and range from tankers and bulk carriers to cruise ships and LPGs. And some of the biggest names in the country's shipping industry - Jebsen, Norwegian Cruise Line, Hoegh Autoliners, Norbulk Shipping and many others – have chosen to register their vessels with The Bahamas.

As noted by one shipowner, "The Bahamas is the preferred flag of registry for Gearbulk, based on a combination of high quality standards, efficiency and customer service levels provided by the Maritime Authority. The majority of the Gearbulk fleet has been registered in The Bahamas for many years and Gearbulk's latest new building deliveries, *Corella Arrow* and *Tenca Arrow*, have also been registered with The Bahamas. Gearbulk has always had a close working relationship with the Authority and looks forward to continuing this long standing relationship in the future for mutual benefit."

The Bahamas flag is also greatly respected by other major personalities in Norway's maritime industry - the top law firms and financiers. As a partner of Advokatfirmaet Thommessen AS noted, "Our experience with the BMA in London is that they are very service minded and hence our impression of the BMA is that it is a customer friendly and efficient ship registry." Similarly, one of the country's leading financiers recognised their long standing relationship with the BMA and the fact that the registry has been approved by the bank for many, many years.

The BMA looks forward to many more years of warm and strengthening relationships with its Norwegian shipowners and colleagues.



Corella Arrow

BSA website

The Bahamas Shipowners Association, which recently celebrated 11 years as an Association, has launched a new user-friendly website.

The Association's members have common interests and a common purpose and, having joined, most choose to remain members of this influential and effective body. They pool knowledge and experience, and collectively provide a clear voice in BMA policy making.



The Association's elected Executive Committee is made up of owners from various nations and shipping sectors - ferry and shortsea vessels, cruise ships, reefers, high quality tankers and operators of dry bulk carriers. No group goes unheard or unrepresented. The Committee holds regular meetings to review proposals that affect the shipping industry. And delegations from the Association hold their own discussions with the US Coast Guard and the European Commission.

Visit the BSA website on

<http://www.bahamasshipownersassociation.com/>

BSA appoints new secretary



Ms Kendanique Ferguson has been appointed as the new Secretary to the Bahamas Shipowners Association (BSA). Ms Ferguson holds a Bachelors Degree in Law (LL.B) from the London Metropolitan University. She has been working for the BMA's head office in London for eight years and is currently studying for a Chartered Secretarial qualification.

The BSA welcomes Ms Ferguson aboard and together with the BMA wishes her every success in her new role. Congratulations.



The birth of the Bahamas Register - Erma Rahming Mackey

Thirty-three years, three months and twenty-eight days! To some it's a lifetime by today's standards but to me, it's the length of a career, mine, with The Bahamas Ship Register.

My journey began in December 1976, as an Executive Officer within the Maritime Division of the Ministry of Transport. There were just two of us, the Director, Captain Alan L Morris and myself, venturing out into the big leagues as an "open register".

The Government of the day had taken a firm position that The Bahamas, which was the gateway to the new world in the 15th Century, now had the potential, through its shipping register, to appeal to the entire 20th century world.

As a result, the Government engaged in vigorous campaigns to promote the Register. High level promotional tours went to the Far East and seminars were held in Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore, introducing the Bahamas Ship Register to shipowners. Later, promotional trips were made to Greece, Sweden, Switzerland, and France.

The Register's focus was always to attract internationally renowned ship owners and our earliest registered tonnage included some of the most prestigious companies of the time – Exxon, Cunard, Lauritzen, Getty, Maersk, Smits and East Asiatic, to name but a few. In many cases, these and other owners not only registered one or two ships but brought a substantial part of their fleet, including new ships, onto the Register. They had "tested the water" and found it to their liking.

In 1979 a London office was opened to attract European ship owners and in 1983, a New York office was established. Notwithstanding the intense competition between international registers during the late '80's, the Bahamas Register grew consistently and was dubbed the fastest growing Register during that period, in addition to becoming the premier flag for cruise and passenger ships.

Early in the 1990's it became clear to the Government that public image and perception were vitally important to the continued growth and survival of the Register, and that in order for its success to continue and to thrive, some intrinsic changes needed to be made. This, to my mind brought about one of the major changes - the establishment of a government-owned, semi-autonomous public corporation, the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA), whose primary function was, and still is,

to promote, regulate, facilitate and administer the Register and its related functions on behalf of the Government of The Bahamas.

The establishment of the Bahamas Maritime Cadet Corps in 2002 was a major challenge. 10th, 11th, and 12th Graders participate in an afterschool programme set up to familiarise them with the maritime industry as a possible career, initially either in navigation or engineering. This programme is guaranteeing a cadre of young Bahamian maritime professionals to secure The Bahamas' position as the gateway to the entire world.

But in my opinion, the most exciting development is the most recent. After thirty-

plus years of the Bahamas Ship Register's existence, a fully qualified, competent, forward-thinking, committed Bahamian national has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the BMA - Commodore Davy F Rolle. To my mind, such an appointment can only further enhance The Bahamas' position within the industry. With our rapidly expanding maritime cluster facilities, I truly believe that The Bahamas remains in the enviable position of being able to provide "open registry" services as well as a wide range of corporate services to the international shipping industry. Why? Because "It is simply better with The Bahamas".



EVENTS CALENDAR

THE 13TH EUROPEAN MANNING & TRAINING CONFERENCE

May 25-26 • Hilton Imperial, Dubrovnik, Croatia
Presentation Captain Douglas Bell

POSIDONIA - BAHAMAS RECEPTION

June 4 • Piraeus Yacht Club, Greece

STAND
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POSIDONIA

June 7-11 • BMA, BFSB & Ministry of Tourism

33RD ANNUAL SILVER BELL AWARDS DINNER

June 10
Cdre Davy Rolle & Ms Christine Scavella in attendance

STCW DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

June 21-25 • Manila, Philippines
Captain Bell & Dwain Hutchinson in attendance

2ND CARIBBEAN PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS TRAINING WORKSHOP/SEMINAR

July 13-15 • Grand Cayman
Ricardo Delaney in attendance

15TH CARIBBEAN PORT STATE CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING

July 26-30 • Curacao
Vice Chairman CMOU & Dwain Hutchinson in attendance

Questions we're often asked...

Q Why a Bahamas Yacht Registry?

A With the ever increasing international demand for registration of yachts, the Bahamas Government recognises the need for a dedicated register, which provides a full technical service to this niche market. The Registry has been developed to complement the financial services and tourist industry in The Bahamas.

Q Why should I register with The Bahamas?

A Registration with The Bahamas is open to all international owners. You will be registering with an organisation that has a world class reputation for service and quality. Your views will be taken into account at international meetings of the IMO and ILO by our team of maritime affairs experts. Our dedicated yacht technical team have made it their job to understand the yachting industry and to be responsive to its concerns.

Q What standards do you apply?

A Bahamas Yacht Code (BYC) has been developed for application to large yachts. The Code is an international derivative of the UK Large Yacht Code (LY2) and so there are no "extra" requirements to worry about. Smaller yachts should comply with the UK Small Commercial Vessel & Pilot Boat Code of Practice. Equivalent levels of safety can be agreed where vessels are built to a different standard. The Registry is open to yachts of all sizes and there is a standard regulatory regime for each class of yacht. Our information bulletin 102 <http://www.bahamasmaritime.com/downloads/102bulletn.pdf> has been revised to provide the necessary information on standards and procedures.

Q Will I be paying a premium for registration with a quality register?

A Absolutely not! Our fees are designed to be extremely competitive. Moreover there are no hidden fees with the Bahamas Yacht Registry, which is professionally run by the BMA on behalf of the Government.

Q What service can I expect?

A Our normal range of friendly services is available through all BMA offices. In addition, our dedicated team of knowledgeable yacht surveyors are on hand to provide inspection and survey services and advice to owners, managers, Masters and Captains alike. Our website <http://www.bahamasmaritime.com/> includes a Yacht page which provides contact information, downloadable forms and applicable regulations.

Q Are there any financial disincentives to cruising in The Bahamas with my yacht?

A The duty tariffs that were previously in place have been rescinded. There is now every reason to cruise the pristine Bahamas archipelago without concern for high fees or customs duties. Registration with The Bahamas will include, at no additional cost, permission to cruise the Bahamas archipelago.

News *in brief*...

Bahamas help for Haiti

The world was touched by the plight of the Haitian people following the devastating earthquake in January this year. So many lives lost, so many injuries and so much damage. For Bahamians, Haiti is a neighbour with strong familial and trade ties. It is also a member of the Caribbean Community. The Bahamas Government announced a special Haiti Emergency Assistance Fund to provide an organised and safe way for Bahamians to help.

The High Commission in London in conjunction with the BMA and the Bahamian community, working and studying in the United Kingdom, organised a fundraising event on Friday, 22 January. High Commissioner, Paul Farquharson, opened the evening event and Commodore Davy Rolle, taking up his new position as Director of the BMA, and former Bahamas' Ambassador to Haiti, spoke movingly about the many friends and associates who were lost or injured in the quake and the devastation caused as a result. The evening culminated with a raffle draw.

Care for seafarers

In May in Fort Lauderdale, the BMA and the BSA were joint gold sponsors of the Golden Compass Award Dinner honouring Adam Goldstein, President and CEO of Royal Caribbean International and benefiting Seafarers' House at Port Everglades. In June the BMA and BSA will support another gala event in New York, the 33rd annual Silver Bell Awards Dinner in support of the Seamen's Church Institute.

This type of support is close to Commodore Rolle's heart. "In this, the Year of the Seafarer and especially with piracy posing ever increasing risks, we will do whatever we can to protect and support our innocent men and women who sail our vessels and on whom world trade depends," he said. "We would like to establish our own seafarers' support system in The Bahamas and will undertake to talk to all relevant organisations to see how we can take this forward as soon as is practically possible."

New appointments



Kyra Fraser

Kyra Fraser joined the New York office of the BMA as an Administrative Assistant in October 2009. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Math and Computer Science from the University of South Carolina Aiken.



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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