

C F Spencer & Co Ltd

Marine Consultants and Surveyors



Spring 2011

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" ~ Robin Williams

Legal Goings On

At the time of writing the Winter Newsletter, both John and Fraser were in the process of completing assignments for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIARB). We are pleased to say that their assignments met the required standard and they are both now associate members.

John's legal expertise and experience keeps growing and he was recently cross examined in London for an arbitration he has been working on over the last few months. The cross examination was a bit of a surprise as he was not expecting to be called that week. As he acknowledged on his return to the office, London Arbitration is a little different to his previous cross examinations in Sudan and United States of America. John continues with expert opinion work and has a number of ongoing cases in progress.

Chris continues with his expert opinion work and has several cases ongoing at the moment. Although he professes to wish to slow down, there is little sign of that, save for the occasional long weekend.



Deck Transportation

Prior to the loading and sailaway of modules for the two new aircraft carriers being built in Scotland, we were asked to certify gas free of ballast tanks prior to loading of cargo and welding of seafastenings. All went smoothly, see below.



Photo courtesy of Henry Abram & Sons Ltd

Publications And Presentations

As well as providing clients with presentations tailored to their particular requirements and interests, John recently took part in an event at the London Shipping Law Centre together with Ince and Co and the West of England. This was chaired by Lord Rix on Dry Bulk Cargo Issues, and was very well attended.

We have also recently written articles for Shipping and Transport International Magazine, one on 'speed and consumption' and a second one on 'documentation and record keeping'.

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Draft Survey

Although not a frequent part of our business, Keith jumped at the opportunity to attend a draft survey at a local port in February. The job became slightly more taxing when the cargo was discovered to be self heating and smouldering gently.

70+ degrees for palm kernel expeller (PKE) is not often a good sign, fortuitously our brand new 1.5 metre long temperature probe performed nicely.



Offshore

Now that winter is behind us, we are preparing for a busy few months of rig moving and other offshore attendances. The North Sea continues to be our main area of work, although one client has just asked us to attend in West Africa, which will be nice for whoever draws that particular straw.

Wales And The World

In the past Fraser has seemingly always managed to time a trip to Wales after an abysmal England rugby performance, not this year though, a pre entry hull machinery survey for new owners, a couple of steel surveys, as well as an investigation into reasons for delay prior to loading to a tanker, all helped the first quarter of this year zip past. Although he is not overly looking forward to any visits to Ireland in the near future.

Travel further afield for everyone has been limited to Falmouth, Sheffield, Reading, Sheerness, various food processing sites around the West Country, Greece and Egypt.

Falmouth involved a day investigating an alleged oil spill which was concluded swiftly and with excellent cooperation from all parties.

Sheffield involved a few hours witnessing wire rope samples tested to destruction, on a machine which was apparently bought second hand in the 1930's, built to last then, not like today's stuff! I blame the parents

Chris spent an enlightening day in Reading thankfully determining why his Molasses samples didn't smell strongly of gas oil and John has been to various warehouses looking at onions, spring onions, sugar snap peas and beans with various degrees of damage.

Our attendance in Egypt was for a little longer, and towards the end quite exciting as everyone seemed to be out to wave goodbye.....

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