

"A miracle of spring  
A miracle of beauty"  
Miss Piggy's Fantasy ~ The Muppets

## Spring 2012

### Spring 2012

Global warming is great, winter is reduced to about a week and spring has well and truly started with various flowers and plants in bloom in the hedgerows. At this rate by the time the Olympics come round in July they will be called off on health and safety grounds for it being too hot.

Until then, or until the weather changes and we all suddenly find ourselves under a metre of snow in April, we hope you find this issue interesting, and if you would like to come on one of our future Ship and Port Management Visits please let Fraser know.

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### Ship and Port Management Visits

In the past we have offered informal ship visits to various people, as and when the opportunity has arisen. We have now formalised this and the inaugural visit has just taken place. Although not the busiest ports in the world, Bristol, Newport, Gloucester, Sharpness, and Bridgwater do have a wide variety of ship types along with the various NABSA berths, drydocks and repair facilities in various locations. The feedback we received was very favourable and we will be running another course in late summer.

### Old Tonnage

There is a lot of excellent new tonnage around, and obviously older vessels still have to be looked at. Thickness testing of the shell plating of an 87 year old steam powered, bucket dredger is our current record holder.



### Shipping and Transport Magazine

When we took Richard on as our Engineer we knew he had expert knowledge in the "dark arts". What we were not expecting was for him to write a really interesting article on steel costings relating to dry dockings and ship repairs.

Please go to [www.stl-mag.co.uk](http://www.stl-mag.co.uk) for more information on their publications or contact Richard if you have any specific questions about drydocking, steel repairs, shaft bearings, flange couplings and double reciprocating steam engines etc.

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### Engineering Problems

Like buses we find that sometimes the same type of jobs come along in quick succession. Richard had a busy period before and after Christmas with collisions. Luckily for Richard and the clients two of the attendances were quite close to each other so he got to minimise his travelling time and the clients got minimal mobilisation fees.

The third attendance was "up North" and was quite involved requiring a couple of days to sort out who had done what to whom and how much damage had resulted. Although very straightforward on first appearance, getting all the evidence together in this instance was quite eventful.

Richard was recently asked to attend in Mauritius (Indian Ocean very, very nice) at short notice for an incident, unfortunately for him and all his willing baggage handlers this job was cancelled equally quickly.

### Record Breaking (?)

Another couple of rig moves this season; North Sea, West Africa, and one on a harsh environment jack up in 100 meters of water in the northern North Sea. The rumours on board were that the move was setting records for the greatest water depth combined with the most Northerly location.



### Oil Products

The only problem with being able to respond 24-7 is that sometimes the phone rings at midnight. This happened in January with Fraser then attending a vessel to assist in a potential cargo claim; fortunately for the owner when sampling (for the third time) the cargo was passed.

We assisted another client in preventing a problem and therefore a potential claim regarding allegedly offspec bunkers which the ship had loaded, and subsequently (before using them) found to be unsuitable. Fortunately for all concerned the ship was routed to pass the bunker port a few weeks later and so was able to return the fuel oil back to the supplier.

### Summer Lunch and Homebrew

Our annual Summer Shipping Lunch will be on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> June, and this year all being well we hope to have some very special West Country homebrew for the attendees to sample.

The debate in the office as to what goes best with bbq'd prawns, beef, and sausages is currently raging between the White and Rosé Wine factions who have joined forces to counter the alcoholic Ginger beer supporters.

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