

# C F Spencer & Co Ltd

## Marine Consultants and Surveyors

### Newsletter



Winter 2010



**If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.**



~ **Anne Bradstreet**



### Training



Both John Stone and Fraser Spencer are in the process of becoming associate members of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIARB). Provided they complete their assignments due in before Christmas there should be no problems.

We are pleased to say that Fraser is now an accredited Offshore Vessel Inspection Database (OVID) inspector. As the inspection programme gains momentum worldwide we should see him topping up his airmiles.

In addition to broadening the experience of our own staff, Sara Reverso an Italian law graduate (110 cum laude) - spent a couple of weeks as an internee with us. In addition to "normal" documentary work she went out on river Pilotage, to a NUMAST conference on ECDIS and cargo surveys. Unfortunately for us she has now returned to Italy for her holidays, prior to starting with Studio Legale Fogliania in Rome in the New Year and we wish her all the best in her future career.



### Chauncy Maples



As you may remember from our last newsletter CF Spencer & Co Ltd are supporting the restoration of the Chauncy Maples, in Malawi.

The restoration fund (largely supported by Thomas Miller) is progressing well and over halfway to its target.

According to the latest blog update at the time of writing, the vessel is currently in a floating dry-dock ready for sandblasting, and is having bilges cleaned (which must be a fun job for those lucky individuals!) as well as having the broken and damaged wiring and pipe work removed. See the link below for further information.



### Presentations



Following a request from Reed Smith we gave a lunchtime presentation on offshore work, specifically dynamic positioning operations, heavy lift, loadouts and sailaways.

John gave presentations and ship tours on the Shipshape Course in Piraeus held by Overseas Maritime. Additionally Chris gave a presentation on Tanker Charter Practice to the Cambridge Academy of Transport.

We are able to provide presentations on a wide variety of topics. Please contact John Stone for further information.



## Offshore



In addition to qualifying as an OVID inspector in the last quarter, Fraser also attended one rig move as client rep, from Teesside to Denmark. Despite challenging weather conditions the 12,000 mt rig was positioned 60 cm from the platform.

In addition to attending that international rig move, we have also supplied mariners for other rig moves around the North Sea.

Hopefully the weather will improve to allow the moves to be completed before Christmas or at worst early next year.....



## Collision



Over recent months we have been appointed to several collision cases, which have occurred in the UK, Europe and Africa.

One issue that has arisen more than once is the uncertainty of masters with regard to VDR units and the fact that normally you have to "press save" and remove the memory stick to prevent the vital data being overwritten.

The importance of this cannot be overstated, as being able to "watch" the incident makes it an awful lot easier to determine what actually happened, as opposed to what people thought happened or even wanted to have happened.



## Travel



Although the South West ports of Cardiff, Newport, Bristol, Falmouth, Plymouth and Southampton remain our "home ports", we still like to stretch our legs in Schiphol, Charleroi, or Main (Frankfurt) and the like as we travel around the world.

With Bristol Airport 15 minutes away and Heathrow under 2 hours away (weather and road works dependent) international travel is not a problem.



## Towage approval



Slightly smaller than the normal ocean voyage towage approval, was the towage of a refurbished light vessel from Sharpness to Gloucester along the canal. Our thorough testing and inspection of all towing gear, local expertise and careful planning ensured that the operation went just as smoothly over those 15 miles as others have over 1500 miles.



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