

C F Spencer & Co Ltd

Marine Consultants & Surveyors



Winter 2011

"My eyes are blind but I can see
The snowflakes glisten on the trees"

~ Black Sabbath

Seasons Greetings

Winter? It's meant to be cold isn't it?
That really depends on where in the
world you are.

At the time of writing we have one man
in the much warmer West Africa,
another in the very pleasant Dubai and
a third in Scandinavia, where apparently
it was not warm at all, but very windy.

Doubtless the British weather will be
lulling us all into a false sense of
security and surprise us with a foot of
snow the day after the UK gritter fleet
has been sold to China.

We do hope you enjoy the newsletter
and wish you all the best for the rest of
2011 and for 2012, Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.

Court

Fraser's recent expert work ended
without his having to go into the box
and helped the ship owner reach an out
of court settlement that was not half as
eye watering as the original claim.

John has recently been appointed on
behalf of an injured fisherman as well as
being asked to give an opinion on a
cargo of iron ore fines which liquefied on
passage in the Far East.

Draft Survey

Despite the advances in technology on
board ship, the fundamentals do not
change much, if at all. When you have a
bulk carrier discharging at multiple ports
around Europe, you need a draft survey
or three. Fortunately for us this time the
ship arrived and completed cargo at
sensible hours and not at 0300.



Engineering

Since joining us Richard has been busy
marketing; he has done such a good job
travelling all over the UK that he is
being rewarded with a mini break
accompanied by John in Greece where
they will be flying the flag and speaking
to our various clients there.

In the short time Richard has been with
us we have started to receive a broader
range of appointments and also a shift
in the type of "quick" questions we have
been asked, which we are always happy
to answer.

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Travelling without moving

Over recent months we have been asked to provide remote assistance to local surveyors when jobs have got very interesting very quickly, and there has not been enough time to fly out.

Tankers and their problems have not really changed very much since Fraser, Richard, Keith and Chris were on them. Disputes between ships and shore figures, load and discharge, are still common.

Although we would not have minded attending in Houston, or the British Virgin Islands, Iraq was always going to be a tough port to find a volunteer to travel to. Although after three weeks on a semisubmersible rig trying to move between locations east of the Shetlands in the autumn storms Fraser was considering his options; I mean how bad can the British Virgin Islands really be...?

Gardener's Corner

With autumn having been a touch warmer than usual, after some furious picking and pickling we are now fully prepared for a cold snap.

The festive Sloe Gin has been bottled, John's (in)famous Damson Vodka and Chilli Sherry, and Keith's Cherry Brandy. Not that we drink a lot you understand but roll on next year we say when the vintage grapefruit Chardonnay will be ready for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Conferences

Keith and Fraser both presented papers at the recent Project Cargo Risk Management conference in London, which in the end tied in fortuitously with Keith's return flight from Scandinavia and the passport control strikes. The presentations will be available for download from our website shortly.

Chris accepted requests to speak at the IIMS Conference in Bali and at Dubai. His conference in Bali tied in suspiciously well with a three week holiday in New Zealand during the Rugby World Cup, as well as marketing in California, Hong Kong, and Australia....., whereas he assures us Dubai only tied in with The National Day celebrations, the IRB Rugby 7's and the Nautical Institute Christmas Party.

The conference hotel in Dubai was only a few steps away from the fantastic musical fountains, whose son et lumière display is quite magical.



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