

Club News

August 2020
Issue 90

Summer update



Since the last edition of *Club News* in March, the shock waves of the COVID-19 pandemic have spread across the world. The virus has wrought profound and substantial losses on personal, societal and economic levels. There remains great uncertainty over the form and scale of its final impact and ramifications.

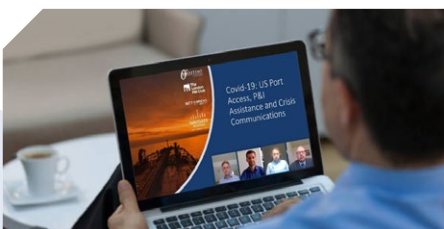
Throughout this period and into the future, the Club is working to maintain close contact with our Members and other friends to ensure we deliver our usual levels of support through these most unusual times. Our shared experiences reflect the importance of strong mutual partnerships in the face of such challenges.

In this *Club News* we feature activities of some of our team members over the last quarter, as well as news of other developments at the Club. For example, in that time we have released news of the

positive operating result for the 2019/20 financial year, together with our latest Corporate Overview, both of which can be seen [here](#). More recently, the Club's Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 20 February 2020 has been published, which can be seen [here](#).

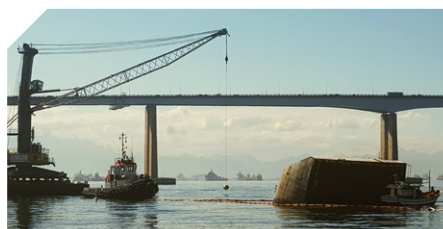
In this issue, we also look at a number of Club videos produced during the lockdown, along with the participation of team members in events ranging from webinars to choral recitals to show support for seafarers across the world who are unable to return home due to travel restrictions. From a claims perspective, we highlight our experience in co-ordinating a casualty response in Brazil at a time of international travel restrictions.

This *Club News* also features other news and developments involving our management team, including a profile of claims manager Reine Gomis.



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Club people
Reine Gomis

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Club engagement via webinars



The launch of the COVID 19: US Port Access webinar

The Club has been determined to provide guidance and support to members throughout the pandemic and has kept in contact through a range of events.

For example, a free webinar was broadcast live by experts from the Club, The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF), Oil Spill Response Ltd (OSRL) and Navigate Response on a practical approach to an oil spill response during social distancing, quarantines and travel restrictions.

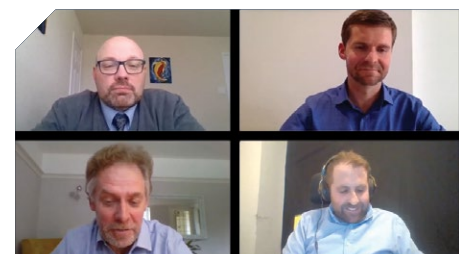
The webinar in May was based around imagined major ship source pollution incidents in Asia and Europe and explored the challenges and solutions involved. Simon Chapman, senior claims manager

at the Club, joined the panel for the two sessions which were beamed across the world.

Also, Ian Carter, associate director at the Club, took part in a Maritime London webinar entitled 'Covid 19: US Port Access, P&I Assistance and Crisis Communications'. This event attracted 230 participants from around the world.

Joining Ian on the panel were Sean Rock, Associate Managing Director of Witt O'Brien's, Dustin Eno, COO & Crisis Response Manager at Navigate Response and Maritime London's Chief Executive, Jos Sanderwick, was the moderator.

Specialists at the Club have also been producing practical videos during the travel restrictions covering subjects including carriage of coal issues and a bunker spill case study. To view the videos, please click [here](#)

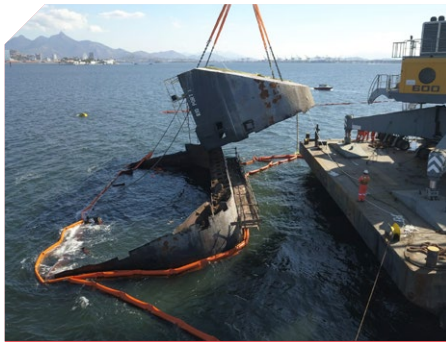


The COVID 19: US Port Access webinar featuring (clockwise from bottom left) The Club's Ian Carter; Sean Rock of Witt O'Brien's; Dustin Eno of Navigate Response and Jos Sanderwick of Maritime London



Club videos
The new videos on the Club's website giving advice on various topics

Global team meets challenge through effective remote-working



The scene of the barge's wreck removal near Rio de Janeiro

The Club has strived to provide normal levels of support for Members throughout the lockdown period, with some claims presenting particular challenges to our teams working remotely across the world.

For example, claims manager Sintija Sona has been coordinating the wreck removal of a laden barge, which sunk at an anchorage near Rio de Janeiro. Sintija, who was working remotely from London and then Sicily, oversaw an international team response by a salvage consultant, a naval architect, lawyers and correspondents. They collectively worked with our Assured on the handling of the incident including analysis of the best options for the removal work and the negotiation of contractual terms.

Sintija says: "While we had to work around some practical challenges arising from COVID-19 related travel restrictions, our multi-disciplined team and our Assured have been working remotely from different locations around the world.

"I've been very pleased with the way it has come together so effectively, in conjunction with the local authorities, to minimise the effects of the incident. From early on in the case we realised that video-conference calling was going to be helpful.

"Our ability to organise at very short notice team meetings over Zoom in fact meant that we could discuss the developments and take decisions even more effectively than if we had been relying more on written correspondence."



Claims manager
Sintija Sona

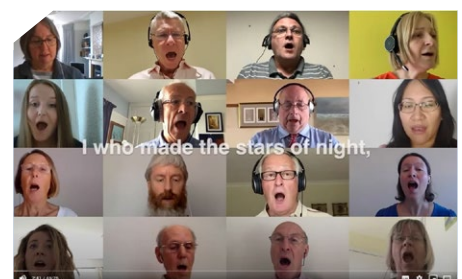
Support for seafarers

The Lloyd's Choir, including the Club's Janet Ching, took part in a 'virtual' service during lockdown to show support for the plight of the seafarers across the world who have been unable to return home due to travel restrictions.

The Mission to Seafarers (MtS) service on Sea Sunday in July featured special guests, chaplains and seafarers from around the world and a message from the charity's President, HRH The Princess Royal.

Janet, who is a senior claims manager, comments: "Sea Sunday has been a long-term fixture on The Mission to Seafarers' calendar, but the event this year carries even greater poignancy.

"Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, seafarers have selflessly continued to keep the global economy turning – ensuring that essential cargoes of food, medicine and other supplies reach us."



The Lloyd's Choir in full song at the Mission to Seafarers virtual service (Janet Ching is far right, two boxes down from the top)

The service can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zboLBgjmjiY>

The MtS website is:
www.missiontoseafarers.org



Club people

Reine Gomis

Claims Manager, London

Reine’s global outlook on life and love of languages fit perfectly with her work in international shipping.

Hailing from Normandy in France, she studied law in Paris and has a Masters in commercial and public law. Later, Reine knew what kind of career appealed to her the most. “A close friend of mine worked in shipping,” she says. “I was drawn to the fact that her job in global shipping connects her to the world. I also realised that the maritime industry offered more opportunities and a higher level of expertise.”

Reine joined the Club in 2009 where she works mainly with Greek Members whom she regularly visits. She admires the country’s strong maritime tradition – as well as its famous hospitality!

Helping Members work through the variety and complexity of issues involved is very satisfying. “I like dealing with different aspects of shipping claims against the backdrop of international and domestic regulations, global economics and geopolitics. It is challenging at times, but I like the fact that I keep learning and developing in my role.

“I particularly enjoy helping crew onboard ships. They are the lifeline of our industry, sailing around the world away from their families and support network. Unfortunately, they can face hazardous situations or get sick. And there are particular challenges at the moment connected with Covid-19. I am proud to be involved in helping, particularly when urgent intervention is needed to safely bring crew home to their loved ones.”

Teamwork and communication are essential to helping Members, she stresses: “It takes a team and an entire network of partners to handle claims. I endeavour to build a good rapport with people I work with around the world. It is important to adapt and understand different cultural backgrounds to perform the job efficiently.”

Reine’s passion for languages extends beyond her professional role. “I have a renewed enthusiasm for languages after visiting South Korea last year,” she explains. “I found that the pronunciation of certain words is very close to my native Guinean dialect. I’ve started studying Korean at home, and every week I correspond with Korean language exchange students who want to speak French or English.”

MANAGEMENT NEWS

We are very pleased to announce the following people have been promoted since the March issue of Club News: Martin Ellingford is now Infrastructure Manager, James Giles becomes an Underwriter, Reuben Porter’s role is Loss Prevention Executive and Andreas Vrontakis has been promoted to Senior Claims Manager.

The Club has also recently welcomed several new members to our teams. At the London office, Ioana Gonciari has re-joined us as Senior Claims Manager while Tim Johnson becomes a new Claims Manager. In Hong Kong, Dhananjay Das Podiyatvariya has been appointed as a Claims Manager and Stan Quan is a Trainee Claims Manager.

Congratulations to Rodney Cook who was married to Hanna in June; and congratulations to Aggeliki Geroukis and Greg who got married in the same month.

Associate Director, Ian Carter, reaches a major career milestone this month when he completes 40 years of service with the Club.

Our thanks and best wishes to Annie Smith who retired from the Club in May after 42 years working at the Club.

It is with sadness we report that former staff member Ethne Jessop, who worked as a Claims Technician from 1977 to 1995, passed away on 7 June.

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