



The London P&I Club

# CLUB News

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## Club's free reserves strengthened by positive performance in 2016/17

The London P&I Club has recently published its Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 20 February 2017, which are available [here](#). These show a strong bottom-line result for the year, underpinned by positive returns from both underwriting and investments. This pleasing performance saw the free reserves increase by US\$27.3m, further bolstering the Club's financial strength.

In the Annual Report, we consider the main drivers behind the result, including what was a relatively benign claims outturn by historical standards. We also review other developments at the Club over the last 12 months, such as changes to our corporate governance, adjustments to various aspects of our mutual underwriting strategy, and progress involving our tailored P&I covers for the owners of smaller ships and for charterers.

The Annual Report also looks at how the Club works to build on its central objective – the delivery of specialised P&I and FD&D support from a strong financial base – through a high level of engagement with our Members in addition to our day-to-day work. An example of this involves the Club's loss prevention output, most recently



The Phoenix Rising is entered in the London P&I Club by Kassian Maritime Navigation Agency Ltd, Members since 1984.

illustrated by our involvement in the publication of important guidance on *Reducing the risk of Liquefaction* (available [here](#)) in conjunction with Bureau Veritas and TMC Marine. Then there is the range of seminars, workshops and other events that the Club holds for Members and other friends around the world. These include the quarterly presentations on a range of legal and practical issues hosted by our Piraeus office at its in-house auditorium. Other recent events held in Manila, Istanbul and Hamburg are featured on page 2 of this edition of *Club News*.

On page 3, Board director, Anthony Jones, reviews one aspect of the range of cyber risk and security issues to which the Club is giving increasing attention. This involves data protection – in particular the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation which has implications for companies handling any form of personal data either in the EU or relating to EU nationals.

And on page 4, we feature Sintija Sona who has recently returned to the London claims team, following a secondment to our Hong Kong office.

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# Meeting up with Members and friends

The Club has played host to Members, brokers and friends at various events in Europe and Asia during recent months. Photos from these invaluable and enjoyable opportunities to meet up are shown on this page.

After the success of last year's inaugural event in Hamburg, the Club held its second annual seminar and reception at the Hamburg & Germania Rowing Club by the Alster lakes. Guests at the June event, including brokers, assureds, lawyers and correspondents, were welcomed by Reto Toggwiler, underwriting director, and colleagues from the Club's German team. The seminar, presented by claims director, Ian Barr, and Simon Leslie, associate director, examined how the Club assisted a Member in the response to and handling of a reef damage case, as well as the legal and technical issues involved.

During May, the Club's Turkish team hosted an evening reception in Istanbul for more than 150 guests at the Wyndham Grand Kalamis Hotel on the Jigger Roof Bar. The Club holds other regular events in Istanbul, and the success of this year's event clearly reflects the growth the Club has seen in the Turkish market over recent years.

In the Philippines, the Club held P&I presentations and receptions in late February and early March. In Cebu, the event was held in conjunction with the Visayan Association of Owners. The other event was held in Manila, and centred on a joint meeting of the Filipino Shipowners Association and the Philippine Inter-Island Shipping Association. This included claims director, Ian Barr, outlining case studies of maritime casualties handled by the Club.

All at the Club appreciate every occasion to meet and 'catch up' with Members and others around the world, and we would like to thank everyone who attended these events.



Ian Barr and guests at the Hamburg presentation



Thomas Droemer, Victoria Papageorgiou, Reto Toggwiler, Bjoern Tietgens, Simon Leslie and Ian Barr at the Hamburg event



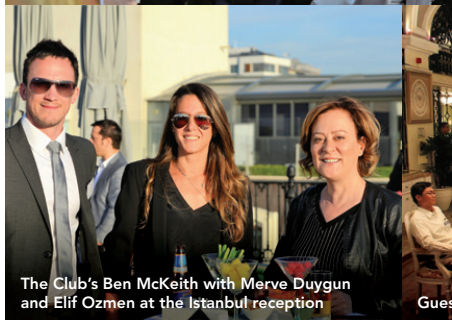
Garry Stevens and Reto Toggwiler welcome guests at the Istanbul event



Burak Akdemir, Sadan Kaptanoglu, Aret Tasciyan and Victoria Papageorgiou at the Istanbul reception



The very well-attended Club event at the Wyndham Grand Kalamis Hotel in Istanbul



The Club's Ben McKeith with Merve Duygun and Elif Ozmen at the Istanbul reception



Guests gather at the Club's event in Manila



Ian Gooch at the presentation in Manila



Friends and colleagues from the shipping industry at the Club's event in Manila





# Take action now to comply with new data protection rules

By Anthony Jones, director, London P&I Club



**The pace of change in technology over the last two decades has transformed the way companies do business with written communications almost instantaneous and huge volumes of data capable of being transferred anywhere in the world at the touch of a button. The downside is that the data held or transmitted electronically is vulnerable to cyber-attack, and this at a time when there are increasingly onerous obligations being imposed on businesses to protect the data they hold and process. In this article, Anthony Jones, director at the London P&I Club, highlights new data protection regulations which come into force next year.**

Over the last few years there have been regular media reports of businesses and government bodies being subject to database hacking, with the hackers obtaining customers' personal details, often in large volumes. This has led to

increased awareness of the need to protect the personal data held by organisations, and associated legislation such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), requiring appropriate safeguards to be put in place. The deadline for compliance with GDPR is May 2018. Given the revenue-related fines contemplated by GDPR, failure to take measures to protect data held is both an operational and reputational risk with financially significant consequences for any company doing business within the EU or dealing with EU-based individuals.

Cyber security is an increasingly hot topic in the shipping industry where data protection issues may seem only indirectly involved. However, all companies are likely to store personal data, whether as hard copy documents or in electronic format on their computer systems. The data may relate to their employees or to third parties such as customers and service providers.

Considering the difficulty of accessing hard copy documents from secure offices, the main focus of initiatives to ensure compliance with GDPR is likely to be on how to mitigate cyber risks to electronic data. As GDPR requirements extend to the transfer of data outside of Europe, shipping businesses and other companies operating in international markets will need to consider their contracts, and potentially redesign business processes. There are heightened obligations for companies with more than 250 employees.

The Club is in the process of reviewing its own practices and procedures ahead of next May's deadline, and we encourage Members to do likewise. The potentially huge fines under GDPR fall outside the scope of P&I cover, and it may not be possible to purchase alternative insurance to cover the risk of non-compliance. Taking proactive steps to ensure compliance before the deadline is the best solution.

# CLUB People



## FIRST Person

**Sintija Sona**

Claims Manager, London

**Sintija describes her work and shipping as inspiring and fascinating, and has experienced contrasting aspects of the industry. She joined the London P&I Club two years ago and currently focuses on handling personal injury matters for Members.**

Before joining, Sintija studied economics and commercial diplomacy in Riga, Latvia, and went on to do her MBA in Strasbourg. This was followed by a period working in broking and insurance market research, principally Lloyd's.

It was her father's work which first sparked her interest. She says: "He's been in the insurance industry for more than 20 years, and so growing up so close to the industry made it familiar. I always thought it was an exciting place to be, and the more I learned about the industry, the clearer it became that I was fascinated by the marine side of insurance."

Sintija, who also speaks French, Russian and Latvian, joined the Club as a ship inspection co-ordinator before assuming her current role in the claims department. She is also studying for the IG P&I Qualification.

"The role of a claims handler presents different challenges every day," says Sintija. "The working environment is dynamic. There are plenty of opportunities to make a difference when working with claims, as the decisions made can change the course of a case significantly. Another interesting aspect is that colleagues, and people in shipping in general, are passionate about the work they do which is very inspiring."

She believes her qualities of attention to detail, the ability to prioritise and assertiveness combine well with those of her team and serve Members well.

"The people I work with are very knowledgeable, and share this with newcomers to bring them up to speed. This benefits Members in ensuring that the issues they are facing are being looked at through a perspective of expertise and experience."

"I find the operation of a P&I Club quite unique – the way in which Club managers and the Members work together forms a closely-knit community where good working relationships are key to successful cooperation."

Sintija has recently returned from a secondment to the Club's office in Hong Kong, which she found to be enriching both professionally and culturally. She comments: "I like travelling very much, and am a strong believer that travelling gives people a new perspective on the things they already know. For example, I see London differently every time after returning from a trip. Also, I always incorporate culinary tourism in my travel plans as I enjoy discovering new cuisines as well as trying to recreate the flavours in my own kitchen."

While in Hong Kong, Sintija "re-discovered" hiking, and intends to pursue it in her future travels, as well as at weekends in the UK.

## MANAGEMENT News

Recently, we have welcomed Edward Waite as claims manager and a new underwriting assistant, Connor Hammond, to our London office.

As detailed on page 2, the Club has held events in the Philippines, Istanbul and Hamburg.

The Club continues to host its series of lunchtime seminars by industry experts at the London office. The most recent have included an update on Early Intervention given by James Wilson of Sea Mediation Chambers; the Ocean Victory case by Ian Chetwood of Ince & Co; and on Tanker Vetting by Helene Peter-Davies of MFB.

The Greek office also holds regular presentations for the shipping community at its in-house auditorium. Recent events included a talk on anti-suit injunctions by Dimitris Exarchou of HFW; shipbuilding contracts by Marie Kelly of Norton Rose Fulbright; while professor Filippo Lorenzon of CJC Law discussed measures to obtain payment of outstanding hire.

Frank He, Minyi Wu and Kitson Fung, from our Hong Kong office, participated in a Cosco Brokers seminar in Shenzhen in July, when Minyi provided presentations on several topics involving bills of lading as well as crew claims.

Congratulations to Queenie Choi and husband Wong Ping whose son Theo was born in March. And best wishes to Hugh Brennan, head of IT services, who celebrated 25 years' service in June.



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