

E-Shipping Network

William O'Neil to take the helm

Former International Maritime Organization Secretary-General Canadian William O'Neil has been named as President-designate of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers in succession to Anthony Cooke.

Highly respected for his tireless work in promoting the maritime industry throughout his 14-year tenure at the United Nations agency, Mr O'Neil is confident that he can successfully guide the ICS over the coming two years.

"I will be delighted to be involved with the ICS. I am keen to give what help I can to promote a body I see as an important force for raising professional standards in the maritime world. I am also a firm believer in the importance of education and am attracted by the Institute's enthusiasm to build on the increasing international popularity of its examination programme"

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Mr O'Neil's two-year term begins next month, upon formal ratification from the Institute's Controlling Council. Current Vice-President Richard Sayer will continue to serve as Vice-President to Mr O'Neill.

A sobering lesson

A city broker is currently being sued for pulling out of an employment contract after he claimed he was too drunk to remember signing it. The broker has argued that he was clearly under the influence when he signed the contract and the terms of it are therefore unenforceable. However, unsurprisingly this is not how his future employers have seen it.

Once an offer has been accepted, provided that offer is supported by some form of consideration (for example, the employee is to work in return for payment of a salary) and

there is an intention to create legal relations, a contract is formed.

However, the broker may have a valid excuse to withdraw his acceptance. The fact that he was drunk when he entered into the contract could be enough to prove that the terms of the contract are unenforceable. Courts have found that a contract is voidable in such circumstances.

If he could prove this, he may be successful in defending an action for breach of contract. However, it is also possible that the broker could be liable under the contract if he ratified it after becoming sober. If, therefore, he affirmed the contract in the cold light of day, his position is substantially weaker.

Spinnaker Consulting Ltd is a recruitment specialist for the shipping industry. For employment law advice and recruitment services contact Eric Branson on: ebranson@shippingjobs.com.

Maritime World Explained

The Institute's Education philosophy is that those involved in the business of shipping should have sufficient knowledge of law, economics, insurance and finance to be able to discuss issues in a meaningful manner with those offering professional advice.

Maritime World Explained is a one day course aimed at increasing the effectiveness of recently qualified professionals - lawyers, accountants, bankers, insurers et al - who have joined a city firm and find themselves with a shipping related portfolio to manage.

MWE is also suitable for those with a few years experience seeking an update from senior players in the industry

The day's presentations will cover:

Shipping overview – Nick de Spon, Chevron Texaco

Shipowner's perspective – Peter Goodfellow, Stelmar

Ship Operations and Management - Malcolm Willingale, V Ships

Shipbroking – George Panayides, N S Lemos & Co

Speakers for the insurance and the legal topics are to be confirmed.

The inaugural course will be held on Friday October 22, 2004 at the Army and Navy club, Pall Mall, London.

For further information, contact Alan Philips on: director@ics.org.uk.

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Prizes make a point

As London gears up for its annual prizewinners' ceremony, to be held later this month, the Institute wishes to record its sincere thanks to all prize sponsors for their continuing generosity.

The prizes are not only a reward for the achievement of individual prizewinners, but they are also a demonstration of the industry's visible and outward recognition of the value of populating the shipping profession with high achievers.

If you or your company would like to be involved in future prize sponsorship, please contact Alan Philips on <mailto:director@ics.org.uk>.

A word to the wise

"Going back to studies is a daunting task for most of us," confides Girish Shahani of KC Maritime.

When Mr Shahani registered for the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers examinations in October 2003, it had been over five years since his last studies.

Following on from his success in the ICS exams, Mr Shahani is keen to impart some of the knowledge gained to future students.

"The knowledge I gained is priceless and I am sure it will help me a great deal in my job. In fact I have already started using the information in my day-to-day work. I can assure you that you will have no regrets provided you follow some basic fundamental rules:

1. Register for the course well in advance.
2. Choose subjects that interest you and/or those that are associated with your work.
3. Plan your studies well – do a little bit of reading everyday rather than leaving everything for the last minute.

4. Keep up-to-date with the current events in the Shipping industry by reading extensively.
5. Don't get nervous – you have nothing to lose by trying for the exams. Just do your best!
6. During the exams choose your questions diligently. Read the question paper well, before attempting to answer it. Also plan your time well – five questions over three hours gives you approximately 35 minutes per answer – avoid taking longer than this on any question.

"I would strongly recommend this course to anyone who is even remotely associated with the shipping business," he adds.

Further information on the ICS professional examinations and related matters, please contact Sandra Hemming on: tutorship@ics.org.uk or visit the website at <http://www.ics.org.uk> and look under the Education section.

Dates for the diary

September

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| 1 | 1100 | TTA Committee |
| 16 | 1030 | Federation Council - AGM and Meeting |
| 29 | 1000 | Executive Council |
| 30 | 1000 | Examiners and Assessors Meeting |
| 30 | 1230 | Prize-Giving Luncheon - Drapers' Hall, London |

October

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| 1 | 1030 | Education and Training Committee |
| 1 | 1400 | Educational Fund AGM |
| 1 | 1430 | Educational Fund Trustees Meeting |
| 20 | 1330 | ICS AGM |
| 20 | 1400 | Controlling Council |
| 21 | 0900 | Controlling Council |

The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers is an internationally recognised professional body that provides training courses for companies and individuals. The Institute aims to set the highest standards of professional service to the global shipping industry through education and example.

E-Shipping Network is the official e-zine for the ICS and is published six times a year, complementing Shipping Network, the official magazine for the Institute, which is published three times a year.

To find out more about the Institute and how to become a member visit the homepage at <http://www.ics.org.uk>, or call Alan Phillips on +44 207 623 1111.

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