



# THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SHIPBROKERS

(REPRESENTING SHIP BROKERS, AGENTS AND MANAGERS)

## LIVERPOOL BRANCH



### NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

#### Branch Annual Dinner 2019

The Branch held another successful Annual Dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in April with 260 Members and Guests attending.

In her speech, the Branch Chair, Mrs Vikki Whitfield FICS said it was her great pleasure to welcome you all here to the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers Liverpool Branch 55th Annual Dinner and it's great to be back at the Crown Plaza. I'd like to thank all those companies who have taken a table at tonight's dinner, and all of your guests for attending. It's great to see the familiar faces returning and also some new faces here tonight. I would also like to extend a special thank you to our dinner sponsors this evening:- Normac Shipping, Cory Brothers Shipping and the Graypen Group (who are also celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year in the industry – congratulations to you all!)



Branch Chair Vikki Whitfield (right) presenting Lauren Caldwell with the Branch award for successfully completing the PQE examinations

She said that the Branch Committee is very proactive and holds monthly meetings to discuss local issues, education and training and general shipping information. We have recently started to hold study groups for the local students where they can discuss examination subjects and ask any questions that they are struggling with. She thanked Lauren Caldwell from the Armitt Group and Colin Bonsor, the Branch Vice Chair from Quality Freight for giving up their personal time to support the students.



Branch Chair Vikki Whitfield (right) presenting Mary Asuquo with the Branch award for successfully completing the PQE

Our Annual Branch Golf Day in July last year was another successful event, the winning team where Quality Freight. Thank you to Barry and Seb for organising another exceptional day. This year's golf day will be held on Wednesday 31st July at Heswall Gold Club. Even if you are not playing golf this is an excellent opportunity to network, or bring along customers with an evening meal being enjoyed in a relaxed environment, so please show your support and contact Barry or Seb to register your teams or your interest in buying tickets for the evening.

Continuing her speech she advised that it is a challenging time for the maritime sector and despite this Liverpool's maritime activities continue to grow.

Peel Ports have secured a new permanent trans-atlantic container service. The Canadian Express service will connect southern European Ports with Liverpool and ultimately Canada. The route will be served by eight 5,500 TEU vessels with two calls per week.

The Liverpool 2 container terminal is one of the most operationally efficient and modern terminals in Northern Europe, it is capable of accommodating the world's largest container vessels, future-proofing the facility to allow global shippers 'ship-to-door' access to major import centers at the heart of the UK. I am sure all agree this is great news for the local economy and some really positive news, given the current economic climate.



Branch Chair, Vikki Whitfield (right) presenting Barry Stokes with the Chairman's award for recognition of services provided to the local economy.

A little further up the coast line is The Port of Garston. Garston currently handles around 600k tonnes per annum, welcoming around 280 ships a year.

The Port of Garston has been a focus for investment for ABP over the last few years. With nearly £10m invested over the last 3 years on their infrastructure including new lock gates, the latest handling equipment, and high quality stores for their feed and food customers.

Improvements and investment continues in their equipment and staff to ensure that they are able to offer the best levels of service to both new and existing customers.

The Port of Garston are working hard to develop their business to be ready for the future. I really believe there is potential for major growth on the Mersey.

I appeal to all of the local companies that have joined us here evening to support your employees and the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers. Our economy is only as strong as its workforce. The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers has for many years provided the shipping industry with highly qualified professionals and with your support will continue to do so into the future. Put your employee's development at heart of your business strategy, give back to the economy and our industry by helping to shape the next generation of shipbrokers, charterers and all the other various roles within our organisations.

This year we have a number of awards to give out but before I go onto the awards part of the evening, I would like to say how great it is to see so many women within the room this evening.

After commencing her exams in 2018 and undertaking 4 course subjects to complete her PQE during 2019. I'm delighted to welcome our newsiest Branch member to come and join me, ladies and gentlemen please give a round of applause to Mary Asuquo, from Peel Ports.



Vikki Whitfield during her speech to the Members and Guests at the Annual Dinner

The next award goes to another lady who commenced her exams during 2015 and undertook all 7 course subjects to complete her PQE during 2018. In 2015 she won the Armac award for the highest gained mark in the Port Agency paper worldwide, she is also my younger sister and best friend in life! Ladies and gentleman pls give a round of applause for Lauren Caldwell of the Armitt Group.

Lauren for her sins has also decided to join us on the Branch Committee and we are delighted to welcome her to the branch.

In addition to the above I would also like to mention and congratulate our Vice Chair Colin Bonsor (from Quality Freight) on achieving Fellowship status with the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers in March 2019.

In the forthcoming weeks we have 14 students sitting their exams, some of whom are travelling down very early tomorrow morning to the PREP weekend at Warwick, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best of luck.



Toastmaster Stephen Sanders at the Annual Dinner

On to our next award which is the ‘Eric Preston’ award for the Liverpool student gaining the highest mark on any paper taken during 2018 and I am delighted to announce the winner of the award for her score in the Legal Principles of Shipping Business paper is Nga Doan – from the EMR Group.

The final award this evening is the “Chairman’s award for recognition of services provided to the local shipping industry” It’s a new award that has been implemented by myself this year. Each forthcoming Chair will select and present the award at each dinner to the lucky candidate. After giving a brief history of the recipient she

announced the winner as Barry Stokes from Clarkson Port Services.

As mentioned already tonight, the Committee will be supporting 2 local charities Claire House and Clatterbrige Cancer Centre. On behalf of the Committee, I want to thank you for all of your donations tonight.

For those of you eager for me to wrap up so you can count your winnings on the sweep, I’m nearly finished.... I would just like to take the opportunity to thank a few people:-

To my company Frank Armitt, thank you Paula and Allan for supporting me not only with my role as Branch Chair, but for the past 12 years. I am extremely grateful for the support that has been given to me during my career and I hope I have made you both proud this evening.

To my Husband who I have brought along to the dinner and who has been the butt of my jokes this evening. Thank you darling for being a great sport! This is the first time in 12 years you have actually got to see what all the late nights have been about. You’ve played father and mother at times to both our children and never once complained about me always stealing all the lime light. Thank you for being you!

And Finally, I would like to thank the Liverpool Branch Committee members for their support, special thank you to Colin my Vice Chair and Roy for all their help day in and day out and with tonight’s dinner, I couldn’t do it without you all

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## **More success for Liverpool**

No not the football club but Peel Ports

The world’s top five shipping lines are all now calling at Liverpool following confirmation that Chinese giant COSCO Shipping is to ship via the port.

COSCO Shipping will take slots on an existing Canadian service via Montreal with OOCL. It joins MSC, Maersk, CMA and Hapag in starting or growing a presence in Liverpool.

The decision follows a successful trial by COSCO Shipping in October, since when MSC has also introduced a new call to Liverpool, as part of a rotation including Canada, Turkey and various southern European ports.



It is the third major line announcement for Liverpool in the last few months, as the 2M shipping alliance confirmed at the end of 2018 that Liverpool will be a permanent call on its TA4 transatlantic service.

In February, Peel Ports also announced that it was aiming to create 250 jobs, mostly in Liverpool, to deal with continued business growth.

Mark Whitworth, Chief Executive of Peel Ports said: “There’s a real sense of momentum in Liverpool just now. Hundreds of cargo owners have already given their backing to the port as their natural trade gateway, and now more shipping lines are coming on board too. In these uncertain times, one thing that is sure is Liverpool’s prime location for serving the heart of the UK marketplace. We’re confident that this is just the start with COSCO shipping, especially with the recent success of our new MSC service too.”



MV Demeter arriving in the River Mersey

Alan Newell, General Manager of COSCO’s agents China Shipping UK Agency, said: “Our trial at the Port of Liverpool last year was very successful. On the strength of that we are looking to market slots to our customers with a view to growing traffic on the route. It’s clear that Liverpool has a lot of potential as a gateway for many cargo owners in the north of the UK and we are confident that we are capitalising on this growing demand at the right time.”

In a further development Dutch company WEC Lines has announced a new service connecting the Port of Liverpool with two major Portuguese ports and a new link with Spain.

The new weekly service will connect Liverpool with Setubal and Leixoes using the 882teu vessel mv FRANCOPI. The direct calls to Liverpool will import a range of Iberian products.

WEC Lines becomes the fourth major line announcement for Liverpool in the last few months. *Source: Peel Ports*

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## Newsletters

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**We have a new Website. Visit us at [ics.org.uk/liverpool-branch](https://ics.org.uk/liverpool-branch)**

### Contact Us

If you have any items that you would like us to consider for inclusion in the next Newsletter, due to be issued in September 2019, please send them to Roy Cooke, 9 Kinloss Road, Wirral, CH49 3PS or email to [roycooke7@icloud.com](mailto:roycooke7@icloud.com)