

# UK CLUB

## HiLights

Summer 2004 Issue No. 11

### A letter to our Greek Members

How time flies! A year has passed since Peter Wright's retirement and the responsibility of maintaining the important direct relationship between the senior P&I Club management team and those Members supported by the Piraeus office was passed to me.

I enjoyed meeting so many of you again at our Poseidonia open day and I look forward to seeing you again during my continuing stays in Piraeus through the course of the year.

Our Club has invested heavily in providing service to our Greek members in recognition of their pre-eminent position in the world market and within the Club membership.

Since 1998, Thomas Miller (Hellas) has served the region as a fully empowered claims handling syndicate, now under the leadership of Philip Clacy as Area Director.

Phil is supported by Tony Fielder and Paul Kaye, the resident P&I and Defence Club claims specialists and ten other executives. The mixture of British and Greek staff means the expertise and contacts of this office are exceptional. You have all made it clear to me how much you value dealing with claims locally.

There is still a strong focus on Greek issues in London. Charles Elmer is the director of area group L1 that looks after Greek interests in London. Nigel Brooks leads the underwriting service for the Greek membership. He will be introducing his new assistant Paul Collier to you in the coming months.

Mike Jarrett leads our American regional operation from New Jersey serving a significant Greek maritime community



*Athina Vakali (Blossom Maritime Corp.) Philip Clacy, Nick Milner, Michael Kougellis (Cyprus Maritime Co Ltd) Cedric Chatteley*

on the east coast and beyond. With support from its unrivalled international office network, your Member service infrastructure is more extensive than ever.

Seven Directors on the Club Board are drawn from the Greek maritime community, including our Chairman, Aleco Kairis. They take a close interest in the standard of service to Members and question me on that subject regularly. Your opinion and feedback on that subject and other Club matters is always welcomed and shared throughout the team. Please keep it coming either to me or my colleagues in Piraeus.

Yours,

Hugo Wynn-Williams  
Deputy Chairman, Thomas Miller P&I Ltd.

## Poseidonia report 2004

The Thomas Miller Hellas team was supported by a number of our colleagues from London this year including Stephen James (Chairman of Thomas Miller P&I Ltd.), Hugo Wynn-Williams (Deputy Chairman of Thomas Miller P&I Ltd.), John Morris (Chairman of Thomas Miller Defence Ltd.), Daniel Evans (Senior Claims Director of Thomas Miller Defence Ltd.), Nigel Brooks (Greece Area Underwriter), Paul Collier (Underwriting) and Charles Elmer (London Area Director). We were of course all kept very busy through the course of Poseidonia week both in the office and at the numerous social occasions for which Poseidonia is so well known.

Our office open day on Thursday 10th June presented Members with an ideal opportunity of visiting both the exhibition itself and our offices on the same day. We were delighted with the overwhelming response to our invitation with in excess of 400 Members, brokers and other friends visiting the office during the course of the day.

Among the first of our guests to arrive was the UK P&I Club chairman Aleco Kairis. The P&I Club Board was further represented by fellow Director, Adamantios Lemos. Welcome guests from the UK Defence Club Board included the Board Directors Michael Pateras and George Gratsos. Some of our visitors had travelled some distance to attend Poseidonia and include our open day in their itinerary. We enjoyed the company of guests from the marine communities of Denmark, Singapore, Japan and West Africa as well as our nearer Mediterranean neighbours.

Members were able to experience the office at first hand whilst meeting the Club team of claims handlers, managers



*Thanos Papadopoulos, Despina Theoharakis & Anthony Sakellis of Teo Shipping Corporation, Hugo Wynn-Williams & Nigel Brooks*



*Marcos Vassilikos of Eurobulk Ltd with Phillip Clacy*

and support staff. As far as refreshments were concerned we followed the successful formula adopted for the inaugural open day held during Poseidonia 2002 with a barbeque and sushi available on the balcony.

"It was fantastic to see such a cross section of those involved in Greek shipping, both locally and worldwide, in our office. It proved an excellent opportunity for the Members to see personally how we work and to meet our team" explained Philip Clacy, the Area Director based in Piraeus.

There are now ten claims handlers in the Piraeus office with a wide variety of legal and practical shipping experience. Tony Fielder is the Senior Claims Specialist and Philip Clacy has overall responsibility for the office. The executive claims staff offer specific assistance on all types of P&I and Defence claims to the significant proportion of the Club Membership serviced by the Piraeus office. All staff are bilingual in English and Greek.

"We continue to greatly value the importance of having Greek nationals in our office" commented Philip Clacy, "The Greek Membership obviously appreciates the opportunity of discussing their claims face to face and in their own language".

The Piraeus office has developed significantly since 1996, when it was set up as an active representative base for liaising with the Members locally. In 1998, its role extended to that of the claims handling group, dealing with all types of P&I and Defence claims worldwide for Greek based Members. The team re-located to the present office with its panoramic views of Piraeus harbour in 2000.

Philip Clacy explained that, "Looking forward, we hope to continue to strengthen the team based here in Piraeus and we look forward to welcoming our many friends in the industry to our Poseidonia open day in 2006".



### New joiner - Dominic Hurst

We are looking forward to welcoming a new senior claims executive to our team to handle both P&I and Freight Demurrage and Defence claims. Dominic Hurst will be joining Thomas Miller Hellas on 2nd August. He is an English qualified solicitor who trained with and worked for a major maritime law firm in London. Following a secondment to a P&I club manager Dominic decided that he preferred club life and has since worked for two clubs gaining experience in London, Hong Kong, Oslo and Greece.

Dominic and his Greek wife are looking forward to returning to Greece full time in the near future. We feel sure that Dominic's enthusiasm for the work and the Athens environment will make him a valuable member of our team.

### Poseidonia Cup

The Thomas Miller (Hellas) office put together a spirited performance in the 2004 Poseidonia Cup on Friday, June 4.

The crew, made up of Members and Miller staff alike and including many sailing novices, was hosted by Philip Clacy, Nick Milner and Cedric Chatteley. Sailing in charter yacht "Andromeda", TM(H)'s entry was in the Cruiser Racing division along with 21 other boats drawn from the maritime community.

Competitors in the two six mile races around Athens' Faliron Bay battled strong southerly winds and adverse weather conditions, including heavy rain, to complete the course. TM(H) brought up the rear of the fleet with Thenamaris and Anangel Shipping. UK Club Member Dorchester Maritime took the Cruiser Racing Division title in "Meliti" and Commercial Trading won the Racing Division in "Atalanti XIV".

All crews were invited to the Astir Palace Hotel in Vouliagmeni for the awards ceremony and a well-earned drink at the reception of Lloyd's Register, the event sponsor.

The 2004 Poseidonia Cup was the second such competition and attracted a record number of 39 crews for the two divisions, nearly doubling the entries in the inaugural race in 2002. The races were organised by the Hellenic Ocean Racing Club, the sailing club inspired by UK Club Director and chairman of the Poseidonia Cup Committee, Nicholas Lykiardopulo.

The full results of the races can be found on the Poseidonia events website.



*Ernie Foster and  
Capt. Christos Molfessis of Transman Shipmanagers S.A.*



*Geoff Hawkins of Tsakos London with Philip Clacy*



*Nigel Brooks, Ernie Foster & Michael Pateras  
of Common Progress Cia Naviera S.A.*

### Pursuing owners' interests

The following letter was recently published in Lloyds List. It highlights the need for governments and their immigration authorities to work more closely with one another and with shipowners and P&I clubs in the disembarkation and repatriation of stowaways.

"Sir,

Your recent features on stowaways with special reference to the cases of the Well Pescadores and Wisteria and post-September 11th rules, and the imminent implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code in July, make depressing reading. The alleged events on the Well Pescadores, where five stowaways were put over board onto improvised rafts with the tragic loss of two of them, are to be deplored. Such actions, if proven, may have been prompted partly by fear of heavy fines for bringing stowaways into US ports. However, several other countries also levy fines against ships arriving with stowaways on board. As a senior claims handler for the UK P&I Club, I have often found that, after stowaways are discovered on board, some countries and government departments are not as helpful as they could be in helping to repatriate stowaways to their countries of origin.

Understandably, immigration authorities face monetary restrictions and do not wish to be left with the financial burden of repatriation. This fear is usually unfounded, since repatriation, usually with escorts, is often covered by owners' P&I clubs as part of ships' terms of cover. Certainly, claims handlers require assistance from immigration authorities to allow the repatriation process to proceed without unnecessary hurdles. Once repatriation documentation is obtained, usually with the help of a local embassy, and the authorities are assured the cost will be met, there is no need for non-cooperation. The onus is then on governments and their immigration authorities to be more flexible in cooperating with the shipowner, and in being more flexible towards one another. Life would be easier for shipowners in their dealings with stowaways and incidents, such as the alleged events on the Well Pescadores, would be avoided." Ernest Foster, Senior Claims Executive, TM(Hellas).

### Athens Olympics 13th - 29th August 2004

Like other Thomas Miller offices worldwide, Thomas Miller Hellas maintains a business continuity plan which responds in the event of a crisis.

The Athens 2004 Olympics may cause the smooth operation of our office to be affected by security measures. Therefore, we have made specific arrangements to allow our business to continue without disruption. If we need to rely on these Olympic specific plans the Membership will be advised of the necessary information including all contact details by e-mail. The information will also be posted on the UK Club website at [www.ukclub.com](http://www.ukclub.com).

Thomas Miller (Hellas) Ltd, 93, Akti Miaouli, 185 38 Piraeus-  
Tel: +30 210 429 1200 Fax: +30 210 429 1207 or 429 1208-  
Area Group E-Mail: [hellas1.ukclub@thomasmiller.com](mailto:hellas1.ukclub@thomasmiller.com)

Thomas Miller P&I Ltd  
London  
Tel : +44 20 7283 4646  
Fax: +44 20 7283 5614

Thomas Miller (Americas) Inc  
New Jersey  
Tel: +1 201 557 7300  
Fax: +1 201 946 0167

Thomas Miller (Hong Kong) Ltd  
Hong Kong  
Tel + 852 2832 9301  
Fax + 852 2574 5025

ML/H1/07/04

  
UK P&I CLUB