

**THOMAS  
MILLER**

# Robin Travis Scholarship

REUNION HAMBURG 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012







# Message from Hugo Wynn-Williams

## Chairman - Thomas Miller Holdings Ltd



On this twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the Robin Travis scholarship, I would like to thank all of you for taking part in the scholarship over the years and for your continuing interest in Thomas Miller and the clubs it manages. We believe it has been a worthwhile initiative in developing understanding between the shipping, transport and insurance sectors in London and Germany as well as forging business contacts and friendships. It has always been a two way process, and we have learnt a lot from you and your time with us and we have enjoyed keeping in touch with you. Some of you are still with the same company and some have moved on in businesses which are very much aligned with our work.

Wherever you are and whatever you are now doing, I would hope that you feel that you are very much part of what is now a Robin Travis alumni. David Martin-Clark who was the Senior Partner of Thomas Miller at the time of Robin's death in 1991 has written a short piece about him and how much energy he put into working in the German market. We will continue the scholarship in Robin's memory.

We have managed to capture short details of most of the scholars with their contact details and we sincerely hope that you keep in touch with us in Thomas Miller and with each other.

### ***Robin Travis Scholars***

1992 Ulf Bertheau  
1993 Gero Kupka  
1994 Werner Gerdt  
1995 Moritz Mittelbach  
1996 Ulrike Baum (née Langerbein)  
1997 Thomas Doering  
1998 André Schneider  
1999 Christina Guntermann (née Schultz)  
2000 Thomas Barthel  
2001 Katharina Rivett (née Malkowsky)  
2003 Christiane Rambow  
2004 Wiebke Harke (née Heckt)  
2005 Falk Fischer  
2010 Michael Wiegemann  
2011 Yik Shing Yan  
2012 Tabea Vogelsang

# Robin Travis

Robin Travis joined Thomas Miller in 1966, at the age of 22, having obtained a law degree from Oxford; he then qualified as a barrister.

Following initial training under Frank Ledwith, he was posted to Syndicate 3, which I was managing and I was tasked with “knocking Robin into shape” which was quickly done.

After a spell in Syndicate 3, Robin moved to Syndicate 4, which was headed by Michael Miller, a partner of Thomas Miller. In both syndicates, Robin gained wide experience of the German market, particularly the owners and brokers based in Hamburg and Bremen. He came to feel increasingly at home there and his competent and practical approach, his direct style of ‘can-do’ dealing, his lively sense of humour and his zest for life in general won him affection and respect from those with whom he dealt.

He developed a particularly close friendship with Heinz Kuehl, the principal of the Club’s Bremen correspondents, J&K Brons, and through him with Brons’ principal client, Norddeutscher Lloyd, which merged in 1970 with Hamburg Amerika Linie to become Hapag-Lloyd AG. The most important case that Robin handled for the UK P&I Club in Germany was the mysterious total loss with all hands of the Hapag-Lloyd barge carrier “Muenchen” in mid Atlantic in December 1978.

Robin’s close engagement with the German market continued when he moved from the P&I Club to the TT Club in the early 1980s, with a view to his becoming a partner in charge of that Club on the retirement of the late Sandy Stirling in 1991.

In March 1991, Robin injured his knee on a skiing trip. On his return to the UK, he underwent a minor operation, during the course of which he suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 47.

His death on 4th April 1991 was a profound shock and a deep loss, to his wife and family, to the Thomas Miller firm and to his many close friends in the German market, some of whom travelled to England for his funeral.

Amidst all the sadness, however, Thomas Miller remained conscious that Robin’s reputation in the German market was a major asset to the firm. It decided that, in tribute to him, steps should be taken to keep his memory alive, in a purposive and constructive way of which he would have approved. And thus the Robin Travis scholarship was born.



***David Martin-Clark***

**1992: ULF BERTHEAU**



I was the first Robin Travis Scholar in 1992 and was working at that time as an in-house lawyer for Egon Oldendorff in Lübeck. I am now a partner in the Hamburg Law firm Luther, specialising in various areas of maritime law including structuring and restructuring of shipping projects, charterparty disputes and the installation of wind farms.

**1993: GERO KUPKA**

Gero was the second Robin Travis Scholar in 1993. At that time he was working as a specialist in the marine and carrier liability insurance with Mannheimer Versicherung AG in Mannheim.

**1994: WERNER GERDTS**



I was working for the Döhle Group when I became the third scholar during the winter of 1994/1995. The following years were dedicated to building up the insurance arm of the Döhle Group. I am now a director of Peter Döhle Schiffahrts-KG, where I am looking after the group's projects, S&P and newbuilding activities.

**1995: MORITZ MITTELBACH**



I am a lawyer and I was the Robin Travis Scholar in 1995. After some time in ship management in Hong Kong and ship finance banking in Frankfurt, I became the Managing Partner of Mittelbach Ship Advisors GmbH. I advise private equity firms and individuals on maritime investments.

**1996:      ULRIKE BAUM (née LANGERBEIN)**



I was already working for Röhlig of Bremen when I took up the Robin Travis Scholarship in 1996. After working in the company's Sea Freight Department in South Africa, I worked in the finance side of the company in Bremen. I am now Chief Human Resources Officer of Röhlig and on the Holding Board looking after Human Resource and corporate Communication.

**1997:      THOMAS DOERING**



Thomas was the Robin Travis Scholar in 1997. At that time he worked for the German and Austrian Marine Division of Winterthur Insurance Company in Neuchatel in Switzerland.

**1998:      ANDRÉ SCHNEIDER**



After my time in London as the Robin Travis Scholar in 1998, I was working in the logistics and supply chain industry before moving specifically into the gas industry. I am now Head of Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Westfalen AG, responsible for gas distribution to hospitals and metal industries and petrol distribution to petrol stations.

**1999: CHRISTINA GUNTERMANN (née SCHULTZ)**



After the Robin Travis scholarship I returned to work for Hapag-Lloyd in Hamburg until I relocated to the US to run their insurance and legal department in New Jersey for almost five years. We moved back to Hamburg in 2008 and I am currently at home looking after my children.

**2000: THOMAS BARTHEL**



I was working for Hamburg Süd when I took up the scholarship in 2000. In 2002, I became the Manager of the Marine Placing Department of Döhle in Hamburg. I am now a senior executive with Windsor Partners Ltd, who are insurance brokers in Hamburg.

**2001: KATHARINA RIVETT (née MALKOWSKY)**



Prior to undertaking the Robin Travis scholarship in 2001, I worked for Pandi Services J&K Brons in Bremen. On completion of my scholarship, as I was enjoying my life in London, I decided to remain here and took up employment with Thomas Miller. I am currently at home with my children.



**2003: CHRISTIANE RAMBOW**



Christiane worked as a Chartering Assistant in the Chartering Department of Bernhard Schulte in Hamburg before she took up the Robin Travis scholarship in 2003.

**2004: WIEBKE HARKE (née HECKT)**



I was an apprentice at Hamburg Süd from 1997 until I joined their Insurance Department in 2000. After completing the Robin Travis scholarship in 2004, I returned to Hamburg Süd where I am now the Manager of Insurance & Management Systems - Team Lead P&I Dept. with responsibilities for the supervision of the P&I Claims Dept. Projects (mainly bills of lading, charterparties, service contract, staff training related)

**2005: FALK FISCHER**



I was working with Claas W. Brons in Bremen when I was offered the Robin Travis scholarship in 2005. After three years with COLI Schifffahrt & Transport and CPC Consolidated Pool Carriers, I joined Harren & Partner as an in-house legal counsel in 2008. I am now Director of Harren Partnership Management in Hamburg. I have been a Member of the Board of the German Arbitration Association (GMAA) since 2010.



**2010: MICHAEL WIEGEMANN**



When I became the 2010 Robin Travis scholar, I was working for Hamburg Süd dealing with P&I and hull and machinery insurance and claims work. I am now in the underwriting and placing team of the insurance broker Leonhardt & Blumberg in Hamburg, where I deal with the full range of marine risks for clients in Germany.

**2011: YIK SHING YAN**



I was the 2011 Robin Travis scholar, when I was a broker in the Placing Department of Döhle in Hamburg. Now I am the Division Head of Administration and together with my colleagues in charge of the day to day business of placing. In the current shipping market, the requirements are changing steadily.

**2012: TABEA VOGELSANG**



I am the present Robin Travis scholar, now more than halfway through my time in London. After studying shipping and chartering at university in Bremen, I undertook an internship with Hamburg Süd in Australia. In June 2011, I joined Sunship Schiffahrtskontor KG in Emden as Assistant to the Managing Director responsible for P&I insurance, financial matters as well as future projects.



**Heinz Kuehl** who was a close friend of Robin Travis helped to establish the scholarship in Robin's name.



Taking over the role from his father, **Thomas Kuehl** has been fully involved in the selection process for the scholarship.



**John McPhail, Susanne Murphy and Kim Vernau** have been the Thomas Miller Robin Travis scholarship organisers.

# Lunch Attendees

## **Robin Travis Scholars:**

Ulf Bertheau, Werner Gerds, Moritz Mittelbach, Ulrike Baum, Christina Guntermann, Falk Fischer, Wiebke Harke, Michael Wiegemann, Yik Shing Yan and Tabea Vogelsang

## **Thomas Miller:**

Hugo Wynn-Williams, John McPhail, Phil Clacy, Jason Riley, Alison McClure, Tiffany Phillips-Patel, Ursula Elsdon and Dorothea Jilli

## **Pandi Services J&K Brons, Bremen:**

Thomas Kuehl



**Falk Fischer, Moritz Mittelbach, Wiebke Harke,  
Michael Wiegemann and Luke Readman**  
Germany July 2011





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