

# LEADING EDGE

PROPELLER  
• CLUB •  
LIVERPOOL

PROPELLER CLUB LIVERPOOL



Autumn 2019



## HANDING OVER THE PC REINS

Welcoming our new President, Adam Whittle of Brookes Bell

## FIRST THURSDAY TURNS TEN

Time flies when you are having such maritime fun...

## LIFE THROUGH A NIKON LENS

See the world like Al Disley does...you'll be amazed!

## MARINE CHALLENGE FOOTBALL CUP

Can you guess who won the second ever competition?

## CONGRATULATIONS TO LIVERPOOL

The Seafarers Centre triumphs globally in welfare awards

## BIG THANK YOU TO LONDON

We look back on London International Shipping Week

## SIGN UP NOW TO OUR CASINO NIGHT

Dress to impress and raise funds for maritime charities

## MEET OUR AWARD WINNERS

We gave our latest awards out, and read who the winners are

# Be greener, cut costs, save time with Inkjet printers\*



Up to  
**96%**  
Less energy



Up to  
**99%**  
Less waste



Up to  
**98%**  
Less user  
intervention



Up to  
**3.5**  
Times faster

Check your printer power usage and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: [sharplesgroup.com/inkjet](https://sharplesgroup.com/inkjet)

\*Compared to standard laser printers



**EPSON**  
EXCEED YOUR VISION



# STEP INTO AUTUMN WITH THE PROPELLERISTS

**Propeller Club Liverpool, the place to meet maritime professionals, to engage with the local shipping industry and to support maritime charities.**

Autumn, the crisp bite of freshly chilled air. The mornings getting darker, and the feeling of questioning your alarm clock because it cannot surely be time to wake up. However, it is.. and we are kicking off our busiest time of the year. Our First Thursday networking event in September was perhaps one of the best attended we have hosted, and we are about to launch a series of new events.

We have had an amazingly busy year thus far, and from appointing a new President in Adam Whittle of Brookes Bell, through to our quiz and football, There has been something for everyone, We even hosted a members evening at Chester Races. Though the less said about that the better....given how slow some of our horses seemed to be.

It all goes to show that we are pushing forward with a busy schedule of wonderful new events, and this is because of the support of our members. So please do get involved. We need you! If you have any questions, comments or would like to help out please give us a shout.

The eagle eyed amongst you will have seen our new logo - and the feedback from members has been very positive indeed, So out with the old, and in with the new is the thinking. We thank Jude Kuma a wonderful graphic designer, and one of the team at KVH Industries for his amazing work in producing this. Thanks, Jude!

We hope you enjoy this latest issue of Leading Edge, where we will bring you up to date with the maritime goings on in and around Liverpool. If you have any stories you would like to submit for future editions, or for our website - please do get in touch. AND BOOK YOUR CASINO TICKET NOW!!!!!!

PROPELLER CLUB LIVERPOOL  
propellerclubliverpool@gmail.com  
www.propellerclub.co.uk  
@propellerists

# HANDING OVER THE REINS

**Propeller Club Liverpool has a new President. Adam Whittle of Brookes Bell has taken over the role from Steven Jones. Here Steven looks back on his two years in office, and Adam looks ahead.**

**JONES:** It has been the most incredible honour to serve my two years as Propeller Club Liverpool President. To be a part of the club is great, but to have been afforded the privilege of serving from the front, well that is something else all together.

The reason for the pride is not about me personally, it stems from the incredible things the Propeller Club Liverpool does. We have acted as a conduit to bring people together, to help forge relationships, to help companies to win business, and for people to have opportunities. The Propeller Club Liverpool people are amazing, and the team who do so much to make everything look effortless, well they are the real power behind all of this.

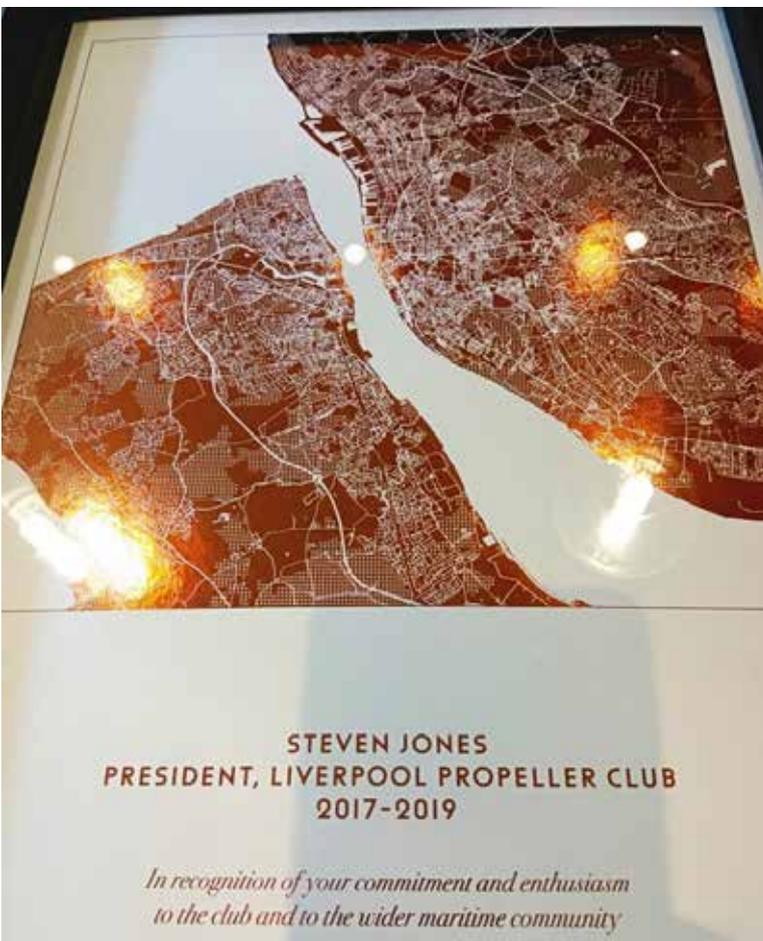
I also feel pride for the city and region, and the Propeller Club reflects the vibrancy, the energy and passion of our maritime past, the solidity of our present, and the wonderful future. This is a future which depends on talent, on skill, contacts and experience. It is my strong feeling that the Club is a vital pillar of ensuring the maritime industry goes from strength to strength. So thank you to all who support us, and who have made my two years at the helm such a pleasure.

Adam Whittle is an excellent person to take on the role, and he will make a huge success of his Presidency. I stand by to support and to assist in any way possible. Adam, you have the conn.

**WHITTLE:** I am hugely excited about becoming Propeller Club Liverpool President, a role which I look forward to throwing myself into with vigour and passion,

The Propeller Club is an increasingly important part of all our professional lives, but is also about friendships too. So, it is my hope that we can grow each of these facets in parallel. That our events continue to bring people together, and that we facilitate business, while also focusing positive attention on our region.

The team works so hard to make sure that membership has real value, and I am grateful to all who do so much to make the amazing events such as success. So, I look forward to the two years ahead, and know we can make the Club thrive into the future.





COME AND  
JOIN US  
TODAY...

The Propeller Club Liverpool is your readymade maritime network in the region. We welcome all who work in shipping, or who have a passion for promoting it.

Membership links you to an amazing group of professionals - not just in Liverpool, but the world over. So join us today - it costs just £45 per year, and you will help us to deliver even more for the maritime community locally.

Enjoy our First Thursday evenings, golf days, events and lunches. There is so much going on, and we want you to be part of it. We need your support...

<http://propellerclub.co.uk/joining/>



**PROPELLER**  
• CLUB •  
LIVERPOOL



# FIRST THURSDAYS TEN YEARS AND COUNTING...

First Thursday which is the real lifeblood of the club. These regular maritime networking events were the genesis of the Propeller Club in the city, and they remain a most vital and integral part of what we do.

It is Ten Years..A DECADE..since we had our first, erm, First Thursday. 8 people shuffled uncertainly into McGuffies and the maritime networking magic happened. Thank to everyone who has attended over the years, and we look forward to many more to come.

We are so proud to welcome our members, supporters and maritime friends to the events, and we are increasingly getting a steady flow of new guests into the city. They have heard about what we are doing, and want to sample the atmosphere for themselves.

Please do come along to the events, bring your colleagues, friends, clients and those who you think would enjoy mixing with maritime professionals. It is all about people, we exist to bring good people together to achieve great things.





We have so much to be thankful for - and every month when we get to see old friends and new visitors alike, it makes us realise how lucky we are to live in such a great city and to work in such an amazing industry.

So thank you to all who come along - and we look forward to seeing you at the next event. We must also thank our regular venue, Baby E on Dale Street and the corner of Temple Street. It's not just our home, but a wonderful coffee bar - so pop in even when it's not First Thursday! Tell them you are a Propellerist, they may give you a treat or look at you strangely - either way could be fun! See you soon.



In the last few months we have been sponsored by MIRIS International, Bibby Marine, Liverpool John Moores University Maritime SuperSkills, Brookes Bell, and Offshore Painting Services, in the coming months we will see many more local companies and organisations supporting the networking which is so important to our city. We look forward to seeing you there, see [www.propellerclub.co.uk](http://www.propellerclub.co.uk) or Twitter @propellerists for details.

**Our wonderful resident photographer, Al Disley shares his view on the magic of the Mersey, and the loveliness of Liverpool.**

If, like me, you were raised in this great maritime county of Merseyside, you may be forgiven for taking it all for granted, I know I did for over 40 years of my life. Being raised in the Penny Lane community of Liverpool and attending John Lennon's secondary school, only to leave and do some gardening work at Strawberry Fields, you can "imagine" other things formed my thinking of what Merseyside was all about.

My life in Merseyside began in December 1968, and I was raised in the cosmopolitan area of Mossley Hill, with no view of the River Mersey; everything was The Beatles, football and, for me, a fascination for the railway to which sat 3 houses away from our house. Through so much of my early life and career, something was always missing and the answer came with every ship or tug that entered the Vittoria Dock on Birkenhead East float, I was bitten, and quietly smitten by the maritime bug.

I eventually found photography and Birkenhead's dock system became my practice ground to master my then hobby, starting with entry level cameras and building up to enthusiast level, the docks were awash with remnants of the past, old railway lines, points levers and telephones mounted in boxes on the walls of the warehouses so train drivers could communicate with the signal men,

Collapsed wooden swing bridges once used by the dockers to get from one side of Vittoria Dock to the other spanning the gap between Vittoria Dock to the East Float, from my work station, as you watched the ships navigate through, you would question how something so big could get through, but close up, the gap was wide, I learned soon after that that very gap was the location of the Birkenhead Dock disaster.

On March 6th 1909, 14 workers or navies were killed and 3 injured



# LIFE THROUGH A NIKON LENS

Our Al, you can rely on him to capture the vibrancy of our meetings and events - we salute him!

constructing Vittoria Dock, A temporary dam collapsed causing thousands of tons of water to enter into their working space below, the cause is speculative as the Government refused to hold a public enquiry despite the local outpouring of grief.

So very quickly I am learning the tragic side to this industry. Tragedy is and always will have its place in industry unfortunately as of the story of the SS Denham, the wreck of a steam powered pilot boat off the Wallasey coast, built in 1941 she struck a mine off Wallasey in 1946 with the loss of 8 men (number not confirmed) an one survivor, I recently went out to view Denham on a very low tide and she sits there in all her glory, a sight to behold really and my thoughts were aimed at what was a mine doing there in peacetime one year after the end of WW2, immediately on land to this location was Wallasey's Gun site, a gun battery set up to protect Merseyside from enemy ships, my assumption was that the mine was left un-cleared after the war which is heart

renderingly tragic but made more tragic as her bow is facing towards Liverpool and I could only think that she was powering her way home after a long shift on the water. Visiting Denham is a long wet walk, but choose a very low tide with the promise of a great Sunset and maximise on what this monument has to offer you for an experience to remember. When you are sitting or observing the wreck of SS Denham, you will be hypnotised not just by the serenity of





being next to the wreck but also by a multitude of massive wind turbines that form the backdrop. When Denham met her demise, at that time any talk of wind farms or renewable energy of any topic would have been laughable but here we see what has become of our maritime landscape in the 73 years since the ship was lost. A topic in maritime unlike the others in the past,

I won't be taking for granted, as a passionate environmentalist, I am drawn to the potential that one day wind farms, solar panels and tidal power will one day dominate the way in which we produce our energy, it has to happen, and I am totally encouraged that here on Merseyside we are tapping into the renewable energy industries, with Burbo Bank recently expanded with some of the highest and most powerful turbines around and realistic talk of a Mersey Barrage to capture the might of the Mersey and convert it into carbon free energy,

I would say Merseyside has had positive investments to carry us forward for many decades and to provide jobs for many generations to come. But what of our derelict and now empty docklands? With all our trade now arriving sail-less and in big metal boxes to be contained in one corner of our massive dock system assisted there by

the five massive red Cranes which have transformed our maritime landscape to which we have become to love, we are after so many years of promises and spectacular speculative models now allowed to look forward to seeing these hives of activity rise up again as homes and offices and hopefully some leisure space with a marina aspect, both sides of our beloved River Mersey will be transformed and made fit for purpose for our future generations and will allow Merseyside to continue screaming from the rooftops of how proud we are to be fortunate enough to come from such a fabulous and diverse community as well as compete with other areas.

Many would argue over what started R evolution, what was the source of inspiration, who had the vision to light the fuse that would explode into this Phoenix rising?

For me it was way back in the mid 80`s, and I never thought it would happen, but one day they sent a Tory called "Tarzan". But that is another story for another First Thursday.

Al Disley provides amazing photographic services, and works with Propeller Club Liverpool and many of our members as well. To employ him to boost your image and brand, email him for a quote or to find out more email him at: [alundisleyimages@gmail.com](mailto:alundisleyimages@gmail.com)



**RIGHT PEOPLE. RIGHT SKILLS. RIGHT TIME.**

## OUR INDUSTRIES

Fort Recruitment operate in various industries;  
here are some sectors to which we supply candidates



MARITIME



OIL & GAS



CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING



COMMERCIAL



POWER



UTILITY



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Trusted to deliver the right people

Please call Ian Buckley, Managing Consultant to discuss how  
we can help add value to your organisation

**+44 (0) 151 287 5721**

**ian@fortrecruitment.co.uk**

**www.fortrecruitment.co.uk**



# CONGRATULATIONS

# LIVERPOOL

# SEAFARERS CENTRE

The Liverpool Seafarers Centre (LSC) has been crowned the world's best seafarer centre at the ISWAN Awards ceremony held as part of London International Shipping Week 2019.

Organised by the International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN), the awards give seafarers the chance to say thank you to the companies, organizations and individuals who have provided them with the highest quality welfare services and facilities. For the first time in the awards' history, seafarers this year judged the shortlisted entries and decided the winners as well as making the initial nominations.

LSC, based in Crosby and Eastham on the Wirral, was singled out by the International Seafarers' Welfare Awards due to the exceptional care it offers

visiting seafarers and their families. LSC finished top ahead of seafarer centers in America in Houston and Philadelphia as well as Sydney Australia and Tauranga, New Zealand.

LSC is a partnership between the Catholic Apostleship of the Sea (Liverpool) and the Anglican Mersey Mission to Seafarers. Its history dates back to the 19th century.

Feedback from judges and those who use the center described it as a "home from home" staffed by the friendliest volunteers who go above and beyond and expect nothing in return. The Seafarer Centre of the Year is voted for by seafarers, 50,000 of whom use the center's services in Liverpool and along the River Mersey every year. This includes providing emotional support, including offering a clinical psychologist, for those

where life has become too difficult to handle in normal talks. It also offers practical assistance such as access to WIFI, money exchange and a physical base on land for crew members whose vessels have docked in the city.

The nominations from seafarers noted the center's early opening and late finish and their "fantastic and friendly" staff who always extend a warm welcome. One seafarer said: "We really need seafarers centers like Liverpool Seafarers Centre all around the world." Another said: "Our ships regularly visit Liverpool. The seafarers center is the best I have come across, and the volunteers are some of the friendliest I have met. Having seen many centers around the world, very few match the warmth and welcome of Liverpool's." Find out more by visiting <http://liverpoolseafarerscentre.org/>



John Boston not pictured actual size...



# PROPELLERISTS

# QUIZ 2019

TAUPE

Can you type through gritted teeth? Guess probably not...but that said, here goes. Well done to KVH once again, as they held onto their crown as Propellerist Quizzing Champions! Yay, Whooooop, etc.

The team of brainiacs triumphed once more against some very tough competition in our annual quiz which took place earlier this summer.

We had the biggest turn out yet, and with teams from LR, Brookes Bell, Cresta

Travel, MIRIS, KVH:2, as well as many, many more - the event was a great success and raised funds for Seafarers UK.

This time round we moved venue to Baby E, and we must thank them for their hospitality and amazing food and drink. The chilli was amazing!

There was a charity raffle too - and some absolutely amazing prizes which were so generously given by our members. Thank you all so much.

Alas there was a slight hiccup when it came to the tickets as someone didn't know their taupe from their elbow...but that aside it was a superb event, so much fun and we will be doing it all again soon.

There is even talk of a dedicated music quiz this December, so let us know if you fancy it.

A massive thank you to all who attended, those who donated, and of course to the brain cells sacrificed during the event.



MARITIME • CORPORATE • PRIVATE • RESIDENTIAL • EVENTS • CYBER • SURVEILLANCE

### **MIRIS International – Security Risk Management Services**

MIRIS International provides bespoke security solutions to meet your shipping, corporate and personal requirements both in the UK and overseas. Our risk management consultants deliver a range of services from threat assessment, journey management and close protection, through to securing yachts and tankers, property, vehicles, and private aircrafts.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Comprehensive risk assessments are at the core of our services including but not limited to, reviewing the pattern of your business and personal interests, considering possible threats and potential dangers, to allow us to deliver a clear and logical proposal. This sets out practical security solutions which complement your business or lifestyle. We will consider your area of interest, meeting schedules, entertainment and travel plans, property and assets, against key security and threat considerations, such as political stability, local demographics and cultural aspects. Your security plan is tailored to your particular requirements, ensuring a discrete security presence whilst remaining sensitive to your business commitments or normality of daily life.

#### **Executive Protection**

We work closely with your organisation to scope and consider the most appropriate combination of security personnel, supporting equipment, infrastructure and operating procedures. Whether that be yachts transiting High Risk Areas, travelling to unfamiliar countries for meetings and conferences, working on projects in challenging environments, or requiring day to day close protection and driver services, our teams provide a discrete, low profile and vigilant service to meet your specific requirements.

#### **Personal and Family Protection**

MIRIS's experienced personal and family protection officers work closely with you and your family to understand your routines, commitments and travel plans, and to provide you with personal and effective security services which allow you to enjoy your activities and time together. Our services are extremely flexible, allowing us to respond to changes of plans, new requirements and any particular concerns.

#### **Our Protection Officers**

MIRIS Protection Officers are former members of British Special Forces and UK specialist units, with the highest professional and personal standards. Discretion, integrity, honesty and above all, trust are paramount. Our male and female officers seamlessly integrate into your routines, understanding the need for flexibility whilst providing you with the confidence that you are being supported by experienced, capable and reliable team members.

#### **Contact Us**

MIRIS Security Risk Management (SRM) Services provide you with peace of mind for your business commitments, yourself, your family, and your property. Other sensitive areas of SRM can be discussed during our initial meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact our Managing Director, Michael Williams, to arrange a confidential appointment to discuss your requirements.

**Michael Williams**  
Managing Director

E: [mike.williams@miris-int.com](mailto:mike.williams@miris-int.com)

T: +44 (0) 151 345 5775  
M: + 44 (0) 7525 033 003

[www.miris.int.com](http://www.miris.int.com)



# THANK YOU LONDON YOU ROCKED



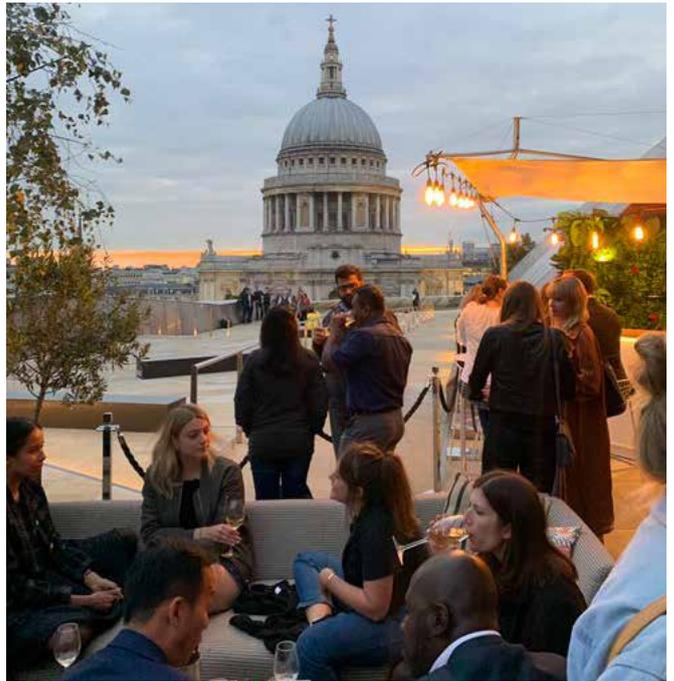
In a Propeller Club Liverpool poll, it was stated that Posidonia is more exhausting than London Shipping Week. After the past 5 days, we do not agree! Wow, London went hard on shipping and it was amazing! Thank you to everyone who played their part.

Many Propellerists attended the recent London International Shipping Week events. We were also hugely proud to host, once again, a joint event with our great friends at Propeller Club London.

The joint Propeller Clubs event was hosted at the Little Ship Club, and a gathering of around 100 people all came along to join the fun, and to be wined and dined in style on the banks of the Thames.

The event also raised awareness and funds for two charities, The Tall Ship Youth Trust (TSYT) and our very own Merseyside Adventure Sailing Trust (MAST).

One of the recipients of the TSYT's training gave an incredibly moving, yet funny speech about the impact of these opportunities to young people who may otherwise lose hope. While our Past President, Steven Jones who spoke on our



behalf stressed the importance of giving young people access to these ships. He added, "Once you have been to sea, you are never the same person on land".

Thank you to all who came, and to London Propeller Club for their amazing support and hospitality too. The week was a great occasion, and to see so many maritime professionals from Liverpool down in the city was brilliant.

# FOOTBALL CAME HOME: MARINE CHALLENGE



Thank you to our sponsors Fort Recruitment, and to the hundred or so players who turned up to make our Marine Challenge football such as success.

There are many things which the Propeller Club Liverpool can be proud of. Perhaps one of the greatest achievements is bringing the local maritime community together. There has been no better illustration of this, than our Marine Challenge Cup. Which is now an annual institution, and which saw its second iteration this summer.

We brought together an amazing 16 teams from a range of companies and

organisations. They descended on Waterloo Rugby club, and on a sunny Sunday went to war.

Congratulations to the Royal Marine Reserve who triumphed this year in the Cup, and James Fisher who won the Shield.

A fantastic day, and we look forward to doing it all again in 2020. So get training and let's win next time!!



## AT THE FIRST BANG IT WILL BE ONE O'CLOCK PRECISELY

The sound of Wirral's historic One O'Clock Gun was recreated for the first time in half a century during an emotional ceremony earlier this year.

More than 100 people watched as a special field gun was fired near Woodside Ferry Village in an event marking 50 years to the day that the original One O'Clock Gun was last fired.

The original gun was used for decades until modern timekeeping equipment made it unnecessary and was last fired on July 18, 1969.



The firing followed a campaign by Propeller Club member Russ Mundy to see the cannon, which used to be fired daily to allow ships chronometers, people and businesses within the port to set their timepieces accurately, fired once again.

Russ, who regularly attends our events and is a great supporter of the Club, is a retired marine surveyor: "We worked at the campaign for two years. It was a labour of love but, consequently it came to fruition, I'm pleased to say.

"I'm ex-merchant navy and ex-Royal Navy reserve and became a marine surveyor, Lloyds agent out of Liverpool so have always been involved with the sea.

"I'm so pleased to hear the One O'Clock Gun go off today and to have met Sylvia, who was last person to fire the gun in 1969; it really is the icing on the cake for me."

Well done Russ - hope the firing brought back many happy memories.



# OPS

## An Introduction

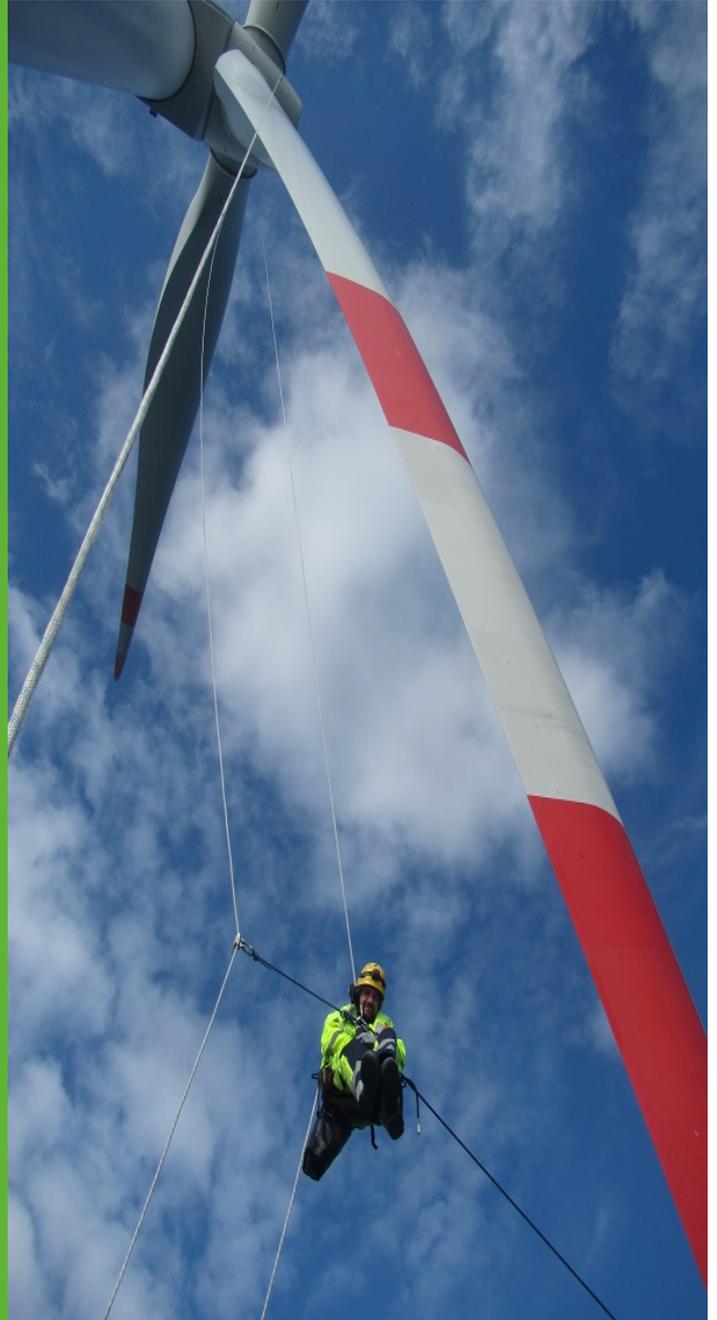
Established in Liverpool in 2010, Offshore Painting Services (OPS) has grown to become a leading provider of composite repairs and corrosion protective solutions to assets, structures and buildings, both on and offshore.

### Why choose us?

- Reputation for quality, backed by an in-house quality assurance system independently accredited to ISO 9001:2015 and 14001:2015
- Successfully delivered more than 150 projects to customers' satisfaction
- OPS Training – a bespoke training centre offering industry-wide vocational training accredited to the leading national and international trade authorities including GWO and IRATA
- Customer-base includes both large blue-chip and niche companies across the globe
- OPS technicians have worked on over 4000 assets across 4 continents with zero lost hour incidents.

The OPS commitment to its customers is one of

**Quality, Safety and Satisfaction**



For more details contact us on [info@ops-wind.co.uk](mailto:info@ops-wind.co.uk) Tel: 0151 521 5929 or visit our websites at [www.offshorepaintingservices.co.uk](http://www.offshorepaintingservices.co.uk) and [www.ops-training.co.uk](http://www.ops-training.co.uk)





# JOIN US FOR OUR FUN CHARITY CASINO NIGHT

Join us on Friday 11th October for a fabulous, black tie casino event, followed by dancing, in the beautiful surroundings of One Fine Day, in support of Mission to Seafarers and Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Fund.

Cost is just £25 per person for all of the following:

- Arrival drink
- Professional, luxury, full size casino tables (Roulette, Blackjack, Poker and Dice/Craps)
- Full size, professional roulette wheels
- Chips, Fun Money
- Up to 3 hours playing time
- Late bites (e.g. fish and chips)
- Disco 'til late

With grateful thanks to our evening's sponsors: Lloyd's Register; Mace Maritime; Stone Marine; Richards Hogg Lindley.

Dress to impress! Bring your partner or friends and let's have a great Liverpool evening, whilst networking with maritime colleagues.

**BOOK NOW:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fun-casino-night-tickets-68075426433>





“If you were leaving school today what job would you want? I would advise anyone to get into logistics – it’s so diverse with plenty of opportunities.”

DEBBIE SIMPKINS  
INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT CONSULTANT  
INXPRESS LIVERPOOL



“What is the most positive change in maritime? More women entering the industry with genuine interest to deliver positive change”

STEPH WHITEHEAD  
KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER  
KVH INDUSTRIES



“What is the next major challenge in shipping?”

1. Gender diversity
  2. Shortage of employees.
- No. 1 could help with No. 2!”

LIN COTTON  
MARITIME CHARITIES CONSULTANT  
LC CONSULTANCY



“What is the one thing that has to change? The speed new initiatives are adopted in Maritime. We have good ideas, let’s just get them out there quicker!”

ANNELEY PICKLES  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER  
KVH INC.



“The next major maritime challenge? Taking policies such as Maritime2050 and interpreting them into meaningful delivery.”

SHULAH JONES  
HEAD OF BUSINESS STRATEGY AND DIRECTOR  
PORT ACADEMY LIVERPOOL



“More money/time and energy needs to be put into seafarer welfare. Happy crew = a more prosperous crew.”

HOLLY SAVAGE  
EUROPEAN MARKETING SPECIALIST  
KVH INDUSTRIES



# OUR MARITIME WOMEN

The maritime industry has many problems, some relate to technicalities... the use of dirty fuel and the like. Or there may be mad dictators threatening destruction and to rip up centuries of global trade.

These are wider macro issues which cannot really be helped - but there are some things which are much closer to home, and which we all in the industry must rally to deal with, One of the most pressing is the ridiculous dearth of

women in maritime. Our industry, which we are proud of, has not been good at supporting women, nor bringing them into the fold.

That is changing, and we have signed up to the Women in Maritime Charter, to champion the women we have and to attract even more into our amazing industry.

However, we all have to do more. We have to encourage employers to level the

playing field, to have female speakers and to make sure women feel safe, welcome, rewarded and part of what we are all about. As part of this, we recently ran a series of "Coffee with..." interviews with some of the amazing women in maritime that are our members.

See the full series on our website or read more about the Women in Maritime initiative. [www.propellerclub.co.uk](http://www.propellerclub.co.uk) and <https://www.maritimeuk.org/programmes/women-maritime/>



# OUR MERSEY PARADISE?

There is little disputing that the River Mersey is cleaner now that it has been for many a long year. The old jokes about serving bread and red cabbage with the river water to save time making Scouse have long gone. Thankfully.

However, it has been reported that the waters are still not what they might be. Sadly it seems the Mersey is more polluted with microplastics than any other river in the UK.

After a new study, Greenpeace said it was worse than the "Great Pacific garbage patch". During the study, the River Mersey had the highest concentration of microplastics. A total of 1,271 pieces of plastic ranging from fragments of straws and bottle tops to tiny microbeads - less than 1mm across in size - were caught.

Prof Jamie Woodward, from the School of Geography at the University of Manchester, said Greenpeace's analysis supports its research which showed microplastics in the river bed sediments in the Mersey catchment was "higher than in any other environment".

"This study is a wake-up call for the government," said Fiona Nicholls, from Greenpeace. "We need to see bold new plastic

reduction targets... and aim to at least halve single use plastic production by 2025."

The EA said: "We know there is more to do, which is why we are funding ground-breaking research into how microplastics enter waterways and working with the water industry to find new methods to detect, measure and remove microplastics from wastewater."

It is time to act, and we cannot allow our wonderful river to suffer. So let's all do our bit, pick up when you are at the beach, stop using single use plastics and support clean up campaigns. One such campaign is the #BinForGreenSeas project. Which aims to combat the lack of awareness of improperly disposed litter. The effect that has on our oceans, its marine life and in turn, the food chain. Greenseas want their bin to act as a catalyst for more sustainable behaviour, and the first one was installed in Blackpool recently.

We are in talks with the founder to see whether it may be possible to have similar bins installed on Merseyside. You can learn more about the campaign here [www.greenseas.org](http://www.greenseas.org)



Our dear friends and Propeller Club corporate supporters Videotel were celebrating trouncing the competition recently, as they won the Best Crew Wellbeing Programme at the Safety at Sea Awards held during London International Shipping Week.

The category was for the best standout wellbeing initiative which, in the judges' opinion, has helped protect crew mental health and wellbeing.

Launched during the 5th Annual International Shipowning & Shipmanagement Summit in London last year, the programme was produced in association with the International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN) and comprises a video, facilitator notes, and information booklets from ISWAN on mental health issues at sea.

Due to the critical importance of the topic it was decided that the package would be made available free of charge and it can be downloaded by accessing <https://landing.videotel.com/seafarerwellbeing>

"We are thrilled that this programme has been recognized by an independent panel of judges as an important contribution to help seafarers who may be struggling when at sea, away from family and friends. Mental health issues can effect anyone, but Seafarers face unique working and living conditions that pose additional challenges and require further consideration." said Raal Harris, MD of Videotel.

"I would like to thank my colleagues who made a very insightful and instructive programme with the help of the team at ISWAN and the other organisations that gave their time and energy in support of this worthwhile production."

You can download the award winning programme here: <https://landing.videotel.com/seafarerwellbeing>



# WELL DONE VIDEOTEL



# PROPELLER CLUB LUNCH AND AWARDS

At the latest Propeller Club lunch the agenda was almost as full as the tummies afterwards. We not only had the usual networking (pre- and post-prandial), an amazing speaker, but we had a Presidential hand over, as well as our annual awards.

The awards were given to Maritime Personality of the year, and also Maritime Ambassador. With so many amazing members, friends and colleagues to choose from, then the competition was very tight.

We were incredibly proud to award the Personality award jointly, to both Colin

Kershaw and Dick Welsh. Not only in recognition of all they have done for the Propeller Club and industry, but also as they are now retired from their respective roles in Brookes Bell and the Isle of Man Register. We wanted to show how valued they have been, and the difference they have made to so many of us in the Liverpool maritime community.

The Ambassador Award went to Dr Robyn Pyne of Liverpool John Moores University. Dr Pyne has been an incredible supporter of the Club and has worked to ensure that her students are aware of us and engage too. A worthy winner.

The guests were also treated to a fantastic talk by Captain Simon Mills, the delivery Master for Cammell Lairds. So responsible for launching the Sir David Attenbrough. His talk was absolutely wonderful - though the maritime element of it took second place to the revelation that he had once also been the Tour Manager for Echo and the Bunnymen!!!! People are strange...

Thanks to all who attended, and also to our very generous sponsor Sharples Group who made it all possible. See <https://sharplesgroup.com> for all your document management needs.



# SAYING SO LONG TO DICK WELSH... MAIN MAN FROM MAN

We came very close to being able to give Dick Welsh a proper First Thursday send off, as he heads into a well deserved retirement from the Isle of Man flag.

Alas the weather decided that it wasn't to be, and the steam packet ran out of steam and didn't managed to deliver its packet.

That said, we hope very much to see Dick again before too long. But as is fitting of such as distiguated career, we should look back as well as forward.

Dick is a Manxman, and was born and raised in the South of the Island and educated at Castle Rushen High School, before pursuing a career as an engineer in the merchant navy. He sailed with T&J Harrisons and Canadian Pacific before coming ashore with the Manx Electricity Authority.

After leaving the Island to further his studies, Dick graduated with a first class degree in Mechanical Engineering and joined Lloyd's Register as a surveyor, where he trained in Liverpool before moving on to Denmark and China to

oversee the building of new ships under construction.

Dick returned home in 1995 to join the Marine Administration's growing ship register as a Marine Surveyor and latterly Principal Surveyor, before becoming its Deputy Director in 2005, and eventually rising to head the Registry.

He has done so much to support the Propeller Club, and we wish him well in retirement, which we suspect will still involve much work and energetic maritime involvement.



# CONGRATULATIONS

## MAST: QUEENS

## AWARD WINNERS



Merseyside Adventure Sailing Trust (MAST), has been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award which a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

MAST enables young people, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, to develop key life skills, such as self-confidence, teamwork, leadership and communication, through the unique and challenging experience of crewing tall ships on the high seas, over the last 10 years.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service recognises outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee and winners are announced annually on 2 June, the anniversary of the Queen's

Coronation. Jim Graves, founder and chair of MAST, which has trained 1,432 young people aboard tall ships, said: "I am deeply honoured to accept this magnificent award on behalf of MAST and everyone involved with the charity.

"This is our tenth anniversary since starting in 2009 and to achieve such national recognition for what MAST does is beyond my wildest dreams. This award is about recognising all the hard work of our volunteers, ambassadors, supporters and the success of our trainees.

MAST's main event is its annual Apprentice Ship Cup, a tall ship regatta, in which competing teams each summer sail in a set of races around the Irish Sea and Western Scotland. The long-term aim is to make Liverpool the tall ship centre for the northern UK and to increase the number

of young people aged 16-30 years taking part.

A Queen's Award for Voluntary Service spokesperson said that each year more voluntary groups apply for the award and there was now a very diverse range of subject areas.

These include volunteers helping mental health sufferers overcome problems through sport, manning cafés and information centres in remote locations and mentoring children with a parent in prison.

The award is hugely significant and prestigious, so we congratulate Jim and all the MAST team for their achievement. Find out more at: <http://www.mastapprenticeshipcup.co.uk/>

# INCREDIBLE SUMMER OF CRUISING



It's been a record breaking summer for Liverpool Cruise Terminal. June and July were the busiest ever as they welcomed 25 different vessels with almost 40,000 international passengers and 20 thousand crew.

Highlights included Celebrity Eclipse, and the return of Royal Princess – Princess Cruises' flagship vessel – and which recently appeared on ITV's 'The Cruise'. The "Royal" was back in the city for the first time since 2015.

The jewel in the crown of the cruise call schedule this summer was the return of Cunard's Queen Elizabeth on 23 July, which also coincided with the 80th anniversary of the launch Cunard's RMS Mauretania II from Cammell Laird in Birkenhead.

These cruise calls were great for the financial health of businesses in the city, with an estimated £2.6 million pouring into the local economy, as visitors were spending in shops, bars and restaurants.

The good news doesn't stop there either, as the go-ahead has been granted for the detailed design of a long-awaited Liverpool cruise terminal.

The 10,000 sq.m terminal will be built on a suspended deck on steel piles in the river, spanning two floors. It will include a baggage hall in the ground floor plus a passenger lounge, cafe and check-in on the first floor.

The plans will see the derelict Princes Jetty on the River Mersey dismantled, with construction of the new terminal taking place on the site. Preparation works for the new facility is expected to start in the new year, which will enable cruise ships carrying up to 3,600 passengers to embark and disembark at Liverpool.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

Port Welfare Committees (PWC's) are an essential and integral part of the seafarer welfare jigsaw around the UK. The PWCs bring together the vitally important people and organisations in an area who can make all the difference to the experiences of seafarers in a port.

The purpose of each Committee is to act as an information, communication and networking channel between local members and the Board.

Fifteen PWC's cover the entire coastline of the United Kingdom whilst a SWB covers the Port of Gibraltar and a PWB covers the Falkland Islands. Each committee comprises of representatives from organisations concerned with the welfare of seafarer's visiting the ports and the local seafaring community.



Each Committee has three general meetings per year, one of which is combined with an AGM. The AGM is an opportunity to confirm membership, explore opportunities for inviting new members and elect, or, re-elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Propeller Club Liverpool is hugely proud to be a member of the North West PWC, and we are able to ensure the voice of the wider maritime community is fed into the debate.

We are also pleased to announce the NW PWC is supporting the October 2019 First Thursday event (Oct 3rd). So please come along and meet the other port welfare players in the area and support their work.



**PROPELLER**  
• CLUB •  
LIVERPOOL

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Propeller Club Liverpool  
C/O KVH Media Group  
One Derby Square,  
Liverpool, L2 9XX  
United Kingdom

propellerclub.co.uk  
propellerclubliverpool@gmail.com  
@propellerists

PROPELLER CLUB LIVERPOOL IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



HILL DICKINSON

