

# LEADING EDGE



PROPELLER CLUB LIVERPOOL

PROPELLER  
· CLUB ·  
LIVERPOOL

Winter 2021



Photo: Al Disley

## FIRST THURSDAYS WELCOME BACK

The best in maritime networking bounces back!

## PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

Find out who is taking over our local meetings

## THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

Our ABBA night in words and pictures, and dance moves

## ALL HEADING TO ANFIELD

The great and good went to the Mersey Maritime Awards

## RED ENSIGN DAY CELEBRATED

See the gang keeping the red flag flying high

## MV DERBYSHIRE AWARD

New recognition for the best in maritime safety

## KVH GOES DUTCH IN HOLLAND

Sue and Anneley headed over the North Sea...find out why

## PLOTTING A NEW COURSE

Making sure your Club is fit for the future



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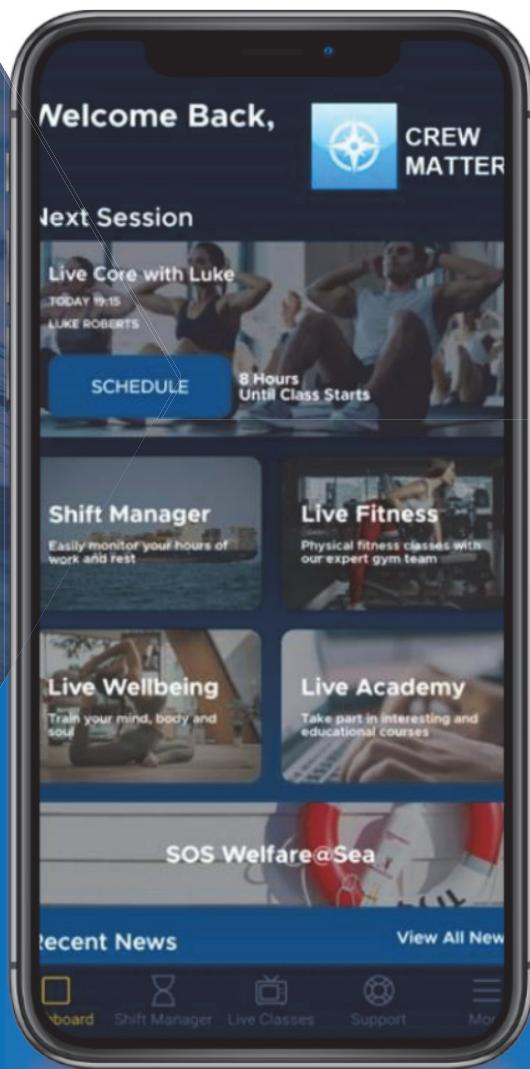
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maritime shipping's  
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Isle of Man  
Ship Registry



# WELCOME FROM WHITTLE

It has been quite a year, well two really - but amazingly they have seemed to fly by. How we can already be approaching Christmas is beyond me, but there we go.

We have managed to have a great summer, lots of First Thursdays and even a gala dinner to put the glad rags on and to enjoy each other's company...and that of ABBA!

To see you all again, to see you enjoying yourselves, networking and doing business has been a joy. It is what the club is all about, and it feels like we have moved forward and come such a long way from the dark days of lockdowns and Zoom calls.

Without wanting to get too excited or presumptuous as COVID has a habit of making fools of us all, but it seems likely (fingers tightly crossed), that 2022 will see the return of our lunches, a special summer event...and maybe even the Marine Challenge Cup.

We'll chat to many of you over the coming couple of months, and would really value your feedback and views on what we should be doing in the year ahead.

It just remains for me to thank you all, as ever for your amazing support. Hope you can make First Thursday and the Hostelry Tour, but even more importantly that you have a fantastic Christmas and a super successful New Year.

*Adam*

President, Propeller Club Liverpool



PROPELLER  
• CLUB •  
LIVERPOOL

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 networking, and First Thursday evenings, golf days, events and lunches - and all we have to offer. There is so much going on, and we want you to be part of it.

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



# FIRST THURSDAYS... ARE BACK

There is nothing like the feeling of seeing so many Propellerists all gathered having a great time. Thankfully as we have hit the ground running when it comes to networking, we have been able to welcome you back to Baby E, and back into the groove.

Thanks to sponsorship from Corporate members and supporters, including Lloyd's Register, Isle of Man Registry and MIRIS International, we have been able to provide food, drink and the usual wonderful bon homme.

People have been hankering to get back together, and it has been so important we were able to provide that as soon as safe and legal to do so. With the proviso that people are also sensible, apply common sense...and not just a little hand sanitizer.

While there is no getting away from the tough times we have been through, it has also felt so natural to get back together. To chat about work, to win business, but more than that, just to catch up to talk about whatever comes to mind, all in a warm, friendly and conducive atmosphere.

If you read this before December 2nd 2021... then lucky you, you can come along to the Christmas First Thursday. If you are late, then fear not the Hostelry Tour is still up for grabs. Failing that, we hope to be getting back into our stride again now in 2022...and as such won't be gathering in January! So, we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Thursday 3rd February 2022.



# FLYING THE FLAG



Fly the Red Ensign is an annual campaign, proudly run by The Seafarers' Charity, to honour the brave men and women who kept the UK afloat during both World Wars and celebrate our dependence on modern-day merchant seafarers who are responsible for more than 90% of the UK's imports.

Propeller Club Liverpool was pleased and proud to fly the flag at First Thursday, to remind everyone of the importance of our merchant fleet and shipping in general. As you can tell by the faces above, this was a solemn task. Though they all cheered up a bit later...which is nice.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a tragic impact on Merchant Navy communities, and many continue to need urgent support. Merchant Navy Day serves to highlight the sacrifices of the often forgotten and invisible Merchant Navy community and is used to help maritime charities raise vital funds to help respond to the increased need for support.

Across the UK many events were held, with all funds raised will going towards the Merchant Navy Fund, which is administered by The Seafarers' Charity and supported by the MNWB.



# THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC



Mamma Mia, can you hear the drums, Fernando? With us all having been locked down, there was no chance to be a Dancing Queen, but with people clamouring for events and it being all Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!

I Have a Dream, and I'm willing to Take a Chance. So When All is Said and Done, the Winner Takes It All as I will be looking to lay all your love on me. Though I will (of course) be asking Does your Mother Know.

The Name of the Game is that people have put out an SOS, and so long as we get enough Money, Money, Money, then there will be no Waterloo, just a great time.

I Still Have Faith in You, so look into my Angeleyes and be a Super Trouper, and let's make it happen and you can be One

of Us. Which let's face it, Knowing Me, Knowing You what could possibly go wrong, so put down the Chicken Tikka and get ready for the night of your lives!

It was to this stirring rallying call that the faithful gathered at Bluecoat in Liverpool to have a wonderful evening of fun and frivolity, letting our collective hair down to enjoy good times with great company.

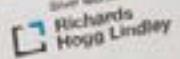
We had around 90 Propellerists, guests and friends come along, and there was much dancing and fun to be had.

Thank you to all who attended - now we just have to plan which band tribute act we get for next year's gala dinner. Any suggestions?





With thanks to  
tonight's sponsors





# WINNER, WINNER AND CHICKEN DINNER



The Gala Dinner also came with some very important business...we announced the winners of our 2021 Propeller Club Liverpool Awards. As you can see on the pic to the left, there was much excitement as Sue, Anneley and Adam did the honours. If the hosts are this giddy, imagine what it must have felt like for everyone else!!!

Every year the Propellerist Board sits down and begins to think of who the most worthy and wonderful people and companies are for our awards. We ponder those who have supported us, whose engagement, encouragement and investment of time and energy have made a difference.

This year - we had awards in three categories, Propellerist of the Year, Corporate Supporter of the Year and Maritime Ambassador.

We were thrilled to be able to present our awards to people who make a real difference, and are the epitome of what it means to be part of a network that brings so much good to the community.

First up was Mike Williams of Lloyd's Register. Mike was recognised for the constant support he gives personally, and also in bringing along so many LR colleagues and contacts to events. Yes, the Birra Moretti bill goes through the roof, but that is a small price to pay for all the wonderful people who are brought along.

Mike does so much to support our work, he is a constant source of support and advice too - and it is through this kind of engagement that we are able to ensure that we make membership something worth having.

Congratulations Mike, and thank you!





You possibly can't tell because of the rabbit in headlights stunned expression, but Gareth Gilbert of Stone Marine was blown away with happiness to receive the award for "Corporate Supporter of the Year" - up on stage with Fran Johnson MD and Julie Hughes, Service Support Manager.

Stone Marine not only sponsored the Gala Dinner, but they have been a vitally important part of our emergence from COVID. The team have come along to our events, encouraged and supported us, but also brought colleagues and clients along too. They have shared the wonder of Propellerering with their friends, and that has helped us grow and flourish even in the worst of times.

Which brings us to Kate Birmingham of Fort Recruitment fame...Kate was also named Propellerist of the Year. She has been such a ray of light to us all. Kate helps out at First Thursdays, she is such a positive and wonderful part of all that we do, and we are so grateful for her infectious enthusiasm and boundless energy. Propeller Club Liverpool would not be the same without Kate, and so we felt that worthy of recognition.





Which just leaves the "Maritime Ambassador of the Year" award... which we are thrilled to say was won by Mike Williams of MIRIS International.

Mike, as any of you who regularly attend our events, has been a longtime part of the Propeller Club Liverpool. It is not about time though, the award is about achievement. His company, MIRIS International, is first and foremost one of the leading providers of maritime security globally.

They were at the forefront of protecting seafarers from piracy, and their offering has evolved to take in all kinds of risks. However, it has been COVID that has been the latest challenge to stare down and rise up to.

The city of Liverpool was chosen to be at the forefront of efforts to test our way out of lockdown, and it was MIRIS that stepped up to provide the management, experience and fortitude to make it all happen.

So, with high-viz jackets emblazoned with their logo, hundreds of MIRIS staff began the process of testing, testing and testing. They slowly but surely helped stem the tide of the pandemic in our city. Thanks to them, their efforts and Mike's amazing force of personality, they began to overcome...which meant we could all benefit.

It wasn't solely about the general public and populace, Mike's efforts also played a major role in bringing cruise ships back to Liverpool. The MIRIS testing regime was credited with being a major reason why our cruise terminal sprang back to life, and we were able to welcome so many wonderful ships back to our river.

So, Mike...thank you for all you do, and for being such a guiding light to us all. You are our Maritime Ambassador for the year, but you make a constant difference to all of us. Congratulations and the award and recognition are richly deserved.



MIRIS  
INTERNATIONAL



# LONDON CALLED...

# WE ANSWERED!

London International Shipping Week, the week-long premier global shipping and maritime event was held during the week of September 13-17, 2021. Thankfully the hopeful and optimistic were able to gather in London and meet in person.

As anyone who has met Sean Moloney would expect, the organisers, were always heralding LISW21 as the "must attend" event of 2021, and with up to 250 industry functions and unique networking opportunities, it really did deliver.

As usual, Propeller Club Liverpool had hoped to host an event alongside our fellow club in London. Alas, this couldn't happen. However, we were thrilled to be invited to events hosted by a range of Propellerists. Of all of the gatherings, it was Brookes Bell's Expo which really wowed the crowds.

The Expo, led by our own Adam Whittle and with a supporting cast of maritime experts from across the company, they

provided an amazing array of chances to engage with their tech and expertise. From testing fuel samples, through to VR navigation tools and metal under microscopes. This was a showcase which won unanimous praise, and hopefully lots of work for the company too.

It was great to meet so many old friends and new faces and to see the incredible array of industry tools and solutions in which Brookes Bell is leading the way.

We hope to get back to normal for LISW 2023...so let's get planning now! See you there!



# ALL TOGETHER AGAIN FOR THE MERSEY MARITIME AWARDS

The great and the good gathered at Anfield to see the latest Mersey Maritime Awards handed out

Now in their seventh year, the theme for the latest Mersey Maritime Industry Awards (MMIAs) was 'Building Back Better', and they certainly achieved that. A fantastic evening at Liverpool FC's Anfield Stadium was a fitting celebration of the resilience, innovation and vibrancy of our maritime and logistics industry during the most significant pandemic of the last century.

Almost 500 guests assembled from hundreds of companies from across Liverpool city region's £4bn maritime sector. Held at the end of London International Shipping Week 2021, the awards, for the first time, included two national categories for Apprentice of the Year and Apprentice Employer of the Year, in partnership with Maritime UK.

All the winners were selected using a combination of a panel of maritime sector experts and an online vote of the wider maritime industry across the UK.

The full list of MMIAs winners is as follows:

Business of the Year – Expleo Group  
Employer of the Year – PD Ports  
Engineering Company of the Year – Walker Engineering (NW)  
Environmental Impact Award – Royal HaskoningDHV  
Innovation Award – Bibby Marine  
International Trade Award – Hill Dickinson  
MUK Apprentice Employer of the Year Award – Royal Navy  
MUK Apprentice of the Year Award – Alexandra Cartmell, BAE Systems  
Maritime 2050 Award – Artemis Technologies  
Maritime Ambassador – Royal Navy  
Maritime Professional Services Award sponsored by Fort Recruitment – Meet & Potato  
Micro Business of the Year sponsored by Brookes Bell – Real Sphere Eco World  
Positive Impact Award sponsored by OPS Wind – Merseyside Adventure Sailing Trust  
SME of the Year – Stone Marine Shipcare







# CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SEAFARERS

Liverpool Seafarers Centre (LSC) is launching its Christmas 2021 appeal as it opens the doors of its centres in Crosby and Eastham for the first time since the Covid pandemic struck in March last year.

LSC chief executive John Wilson says the charity is aiming to give gifts to more than 1,000 seafarers visiting Merseyside ports during the festive period.

The gifts will be distributed to ships calling at Merseyside ports during Christmas as well as ships docking earlier in December which will be at sea during the festive holiday.

LSC is also planning to stage its annual seafarer Christmas Eve Mass in the chapel at its Crosby headquarters. It will be the first Mass for more than 18 months celebrated by the ecumenical charity.

He urged donors to give new gifts and "give generously" to the men and women who have kept Britain supplied during the pandemic, often enduring extended contracts over eight months as they struggled to return home because of travel restrictions.

The Centre has appealed for new electrical items such as PlayStations, laptops, iPhones and headphones as well as warm new clothes, books, DVDs, toiletries, chocolate and puzzles.

He said: "Seafarers are still at the front line of Covid. Shore leave is often not allowed, or seafarers are afraid to leave the ship for risk of catching Covid.

"Vaccine availability is patchy and even when it is offered the paperwork showing they have received the vaccine is not always accepted around the world."

"We urge supporters of seafarers to give generously this year, seafarer centres like ours are often the main form of support offered to seafarers doing their job around the world."

For further information on LSC's work and to donate gifts Tel: 0300 800 8085 visit: 20 Crosby Road South, Liverpool, Merseyside L22 1RQ Email: admin@Liverpoolseafarerscentre.org

# OUR LOCAL PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Port Welfare Committees (PWCs), Port Welfare Board (PWB) and Seafarers' Welfare Board (SWB) are an essential and integral part of the Board's work. The contribution made by members allows the Board to better understand the issues that affect seafarers locally, nationally and internationally.



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

Fifteen PWCs cover the entire coastline of the United Kingdom and each committee comprises representatives from organisations concerned with the welfare of seafarer's visiting the ports and the local seafaring community.

The North West Port Welfare Committee currently has 33 members who represent a wide range of maritime agencies and societies involved with seafarers' welfare. Propeller Club Liverpool is a proud member, and this allows us to spread the word about the wider maritime community into the group, and to ensure that the companies are also better informed about the seafarer welfare initiatives in and around the region.

The Port Welfare Committee provides a forum where Members can meet regularly, share to information and best practice. As well as providing mutual support and the opportunity to network with colleagues from across the maritime sector, PWC Meetings also provide an opportunity to brief members on national policies and issues that may be relevant to visiting or resident seafarers and their families.

The North West Port Welfare Committee meets three times per year. Meetings are rotated and hosted by Member organisations at venues across the area. We are also incredibly pleased and proud to announce that our very own Sue Henney has been voted in as Chairperson of the NW Committee - the only female to hold the post in the country.

We wish Sue every success and are certain that she will bring much of her infectious enthusiasm and passion to the role. She takes over from John Wilson who has passed on the Chair.

Sue's first formal task was to hand a certificate of thanks to Richard Graham, who was stepping down from the Committee after many years of amazing support to seafarers.



# LET'S DO SOMETHING A BIT

## NAUTI>>>>>>>>>>



We've been pondering what we can do to put a little life back into our events and goings-on. One suggestion has been to host some smaller scale lunches throughout the year...perhaps once a Quarter.

The idea would be to keep the numbers very limited, perhaps even only 15 people. To have them at one of our fine local members' Clubs, whether The Athenaeum or The Artists Club - and to have a speaker.

We'd love to know what you think. Is this something that could be of interest on say a Friday afternoon? We're just looking to gauge interest, and if there seems to be energy, hunger and desire then we will look to sort it out. With the first one likely to be in mid-February 2022.

We haven't forgotten our larger-scale lunches, which took a bit of a COVID break. We're just in the planning phase currently, but with April 2022 pencilled in. Once more, we are hopeful of having the Britannia Maritime Aid project to come along and talk about how the whole scheme is coming along and whether we will likely see an amazing red, white and blue vessel becoming reality any time soon.

So, let us know what you think about the intimate regular lunch proposal - it will be up to you, our dear Propellerists to decide whether it comes to fruition or not. Email Sue Henney [propellerclubliverpool@gmail.com](mailto:propellerclubliverpool@gmail.com) to share your views and have your say.



# HELPING GIRLS TO FIND MARITIME CAREERS

A Maritime Roadshow for Girls in STEM has been launched by Maritime UK and the 1851 Trust.

1851 has hosted several events for girls in STEM and recently they rocked up in Liverpool. This was a chance for women in maritime to inspire the next generation of female scientists and mathematicians about what they can achieve within their own careers.

The event had sessions of Speed Networking, an activity that helps connect girls with female role models working in STEM industries.

Amongst the female leaders and inspirational maritime figures taking part were our own Anneley Pickles of KVH and Anastasia Hurst of Tapiit Live.

They were on hand to provide girls with guidance, things to consider and uplifting messages that women can have amazing maritime careers.

Anneley said, "It was such a pleasure to meet so many young girls who can already see a path for them in maritime. To be able to help them focus their skills and to plot the best route for their interests was a great honour, and a lot of fun too".





HILL DICKINSON



# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Propeller Club Liverpool is blessed in many ways - obviously being in the world's most wonderful maritime city is a start, and having such a loyal bunch of members.

More than that, we are also so fortunate to be supported by a number of companies who make so many of the things we do possible.

They sponsor, support, they put their hands in their pockets and dig deep to make the Club all it can be. Without that level of commitment and input, it would not be possible to keep the Propeller Club going as we do.

So we wanted to thank you all so much for everything you do for us - and for our fellow Propellerists.

It has been a tough time for businesses, but the support for the Club has remained as steadfast as ever.

So, whether it is gala dinners, lunches or even our sports events, it is the corporate supporters that make everything possible...we just have to make it wonderful - with a little help from all of you.

Thank you to every single one of our Corporates - and we look forward to celebrating soon with a special event just for you...email Sue to find out more, or watch your inbox!







# AWARDING MARITIME SAFETY

A new award recognising the importance of innovations, technology and developments in maritime safety has been announced, and is open to companies, individuals and organisations in the North West region.

The North West region has been long renowned for its maritime and shipping history, now the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society is seeking to reward and recognise those who are making a difference today, with a new award named after the MV Derbyshire.

For the first time in its long history, The Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society are seeking nominations from companies, organisations or individuals in the local region who have made an important contribution to maritime safety. They want to hear from you if you feel you have developed a product, invention, initiative or service which makes life safer for those at sea.

The new award is named after the MV Derbyshire, a Liverpool ship that was tragically lost on 9 September 1980 during Typhoon Orchid, south of Japan. She is the largest British ship ever to have been lost at sea, and all 42 crew members and two of their wives were killed in the sinking. The families of those lost fought a long fight for justice, battling for a formal investigation and to clear the names of the deceased from blame.

Over the years, the focus of the MV Derbyshire families has spread to wider issues of maritime standards and safety. Seeking to ensure that no more innocent lives are lost at sea. The MV Derbyshire Award reflects that focus and serves as a fitting memorial to those lost on the Derbyshire, but also a positive means of encouraging and recognising important contributions to the safety of life at sea.

To make a nomination or for more details, please email [secretary@liverpoolshipwreckandhumanesoc.org](mailto:secretary@liverpoolshipwreckandhumanesoc.org)





# KVH GOES DOUBLE DUTCH

It hasn't been easy for companies to promote their wares overseas of late, but thanks to a brief window of opportunity, our good friends at KVH were able to head to Holland and tell the world just how wonderful their domes are...sat comm domes, that is.

At two separate events, Anneley Pickles and Sue Henney were on hand to guide shipowners to the sensible choice when it comes to their satellite communications, KVH.

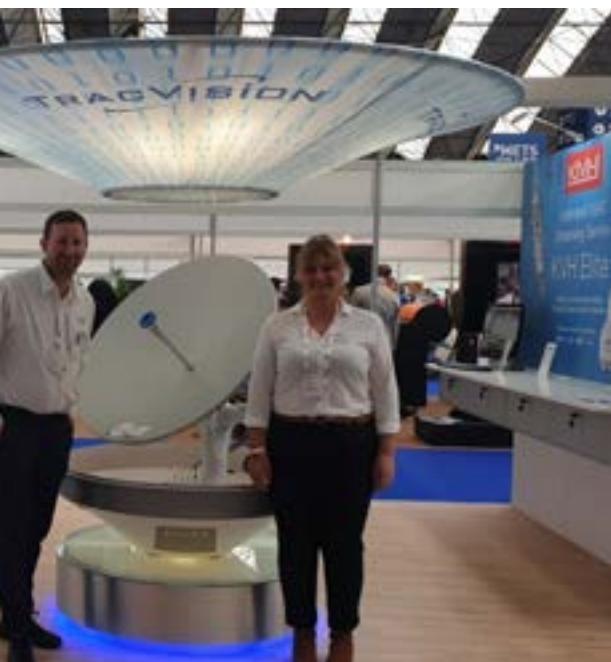
Anneley was at the Europort Exhibition in Rotterdam. Europort 2021 saw the long-awaited reuniting of the shipping and offshore industries in Rotterdam, with participants offering a resounding endorsement for the return of in-person maritime events.

Overwhelmingly positive feedback from exhibitors and visitors after Europort 2021 demonstrated how keenly the maritime industries have been awaiting the resumption of in-person events. Hosted by Rotterdam Maritime Capital, some 800 maritime companies from 43 countries participated at Rotterdam Ahoy November 2-5 to welcome almost 20,000 high-quality visitors from 79 countries worldwide.

"This was such a needed boost for the maritime industry. A chance for us to meet, greet and show just what our kit can do," said Anneley Pickles.

While just a week later, Sue Henney was in the Dutch capital Amsterdam, at the METSTRADE Show which is the world's largest trade exhibition of marine equipment, materials and systems. It claims to be the only truly international B2B exhibition for the marine leisure industry and have served as a platform for innovation, market developments and networking since our launch in 1988. In addition to the overall leisure marine industry, the show caters for three specialist sectors, namely Superyachts, Marinas and Yards and Construction materials.

Both shows were a huge success, and it is to be hoped that if Europe can get past the latest COVID wave, then it augurs well for NORSHIPPING and Posidonia in 2022.





# THE LEGENDARY HOSTELRY TOUR RETURNS

Tis almost the season to be jolly, fa la la la laaaaaaa, la la la laaaaaaa...know what I mean laaaaaaaaa.

If you think Christmas couldn't get any more Scouse, then you haven't been on our Festive Hostely Tour yet. So, as we head into the festive season, we will be heading off once more around the upper reaches of our fine city, and partaking in some maritime-themed hostelleries for Christmas.

We gather in The Caledonia (22 Caledonia St, Liverpool L7 7DX) from 1500 on Friday 17th December, and then move promptly and precisely...well as precisely as the egg nog will allow us.

Amazingly, this is the 8th iteration, obviously, the 7th only happened in our hearts and minds. Anyway, let's look forward. In proper years before we've had so much fun, meeting up with Propellerists who join the throng at various points on our route.

The tour takes in The Caledonia, Casa, The Philharmonic, The Fly in Loaf, Ye Olde Cracke, The Pilgrim...before officially ending in The Grapes. However, it is not unknown for the group to follow Sue's Pied Piping down into big town, and the glory and wonder that lies beyond Berry Street.

Our ghosts of Presidents past and present, Adam Whittle, Steven Jones and Jim Bellew, can regale you with the maritime history and heritage of these long-established and most venerable of institutions, so will happily tell you more as we do our talking while we're walking.

If you've been to our previous Tours, then you know the score – if you haven't, then don't miss out again.

All should be self-explanatory, but if you have any questions then please do email [propellerclubliverpool@gmail.com](mailto:propellerclubliverpool@gmail.com) and we shall endeavour to assist.



# BIRKENHEAD GETS A DAS BOOT UP THE BACKSIDE

The regeneration of Birkenhead has taken another step forward recently with the announcement that Wirral Council has been awarded £19.6m from the Government's Levelling Up Fund.

The funding will be used to transform the waterfront at Woodside, supporting projects aimed at creating a thriving visitor destination and making significant improvements to transport infrastructure.

This latest announcement is another major milestone in the multi-million-pound regeneration plans for Wirral and will help unlock the potential of Woodside at the heart of the Left Bank.

As part of this new vision, Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram is ready to appoint designers for an all-new Mersey Ferries landing stage. The current landing stage has come to the end of its natural life and a replacement is needed.

The new landing stage will help maintain cross-river services running from Woodside as part of the long-term vision for the ferries.

There is also Big Heritage news, as an investment will be made to refresh the historic U-Boat Story attraction, located next to the terminal building.

As the operators of the award-winning Western Approaches HQ museum in Liverpool, which brings to life the crucial Battle of the Atlantic, the organisation are seen as the ideal partner for the new arrangement. Dean Paton, chief executive of Big Heritage, added: "We are incredibly excited to become the new custodians of U-534. We hope to enhance the visitor experience in the same way we have at Western Approaches and can now contextualise the impact of U-Boat warfare alongside the achievements of those who nullified their threat."

"From the genius of the Wrens of Western Approaches to the superhuman efforts of the shipbuilders at Cammell Laird – we will ensure their stories are told. We see this as the first stage in creating a new cross-river heritage experience of international significance."

Find out more <https://bigheritage.co.uk/the-u-boat-story/>

# PROPELLER CLUB FOR THE FUTURE...

COVID has meant many things, but for us it has been an opportunity to reassess, rethink and reinvoke Propeller Club Liverpool



There have been many big decisions that have been taken over the 8 years or so of Propeller Club Liverpool's existence. Not least was the decision to create the Club, building on the legacy of First Thursdays which had been started by Anneley and her company Shiptalk, so many years ago.

It was felt back then that the enthusiasm and engagement of so many of you deserved something more, and we looked to wrap a more professional, engaged and formal structure around our activities. That was when prompted by Jim Bellew's experiences in America and London, we decided The International Propeller Club of the United States was the route for us.

We duly completed all the paperwork and jumped through the hoops, and were granted membership. There was real pride in receiving our Charter, and of being welcomed to the fold. Alas, that didn't last long and it was soon felt that their US-centric approach, and the fact they wanted far more in payment than we could bear, meant that it was time to spread our wings as an independent club.

So, we did - we have set our own path for the past three years. What we did inherit though was a structure, with a "President" role as a figurehead, and

some semblance of a committee doing the heavy lifting. While that may have got us to where we are today, it is felt that to be relevant into the future that we need to rethink and reassess how we manage the Club, how we engage with members and how we embrace more younger maritime professionals into the fold.

The message from many of the younger professionals we have spoken to is that the old structures, of many clubs, not just ours, do not really appeal. They don't like the dynamics, they are uncomfortable with the formality and the titles do not resonate or have relevance for them.

Which has meant something of a rethink for the Club. Instead of the more traditional approach, we have decided that a new structure with a management board and with member Ambassadors is the path that will allow us to get all the things done from an organisational and administrative perspective, but with sufficient engagement, support and figureheads to be able to promote and push Propeller Club Liverpool forward.

We have been so lucky, particularly through COVID lockdowns and the subsequent reopening, that a number of members have really rolled their sleeves up and helped us to keep moving forward.

We are looking to reward and recognise these champions and will make them our first cohort of Ambassadors.

This will then allow us to maintain the working structure, with Sue Henney as Port Secretary, Anneley Pickles as Membership and Treasurer, Adam Whittle leading our ongoing governance requirements and Steven Jones on Comms and Leading Edge...and yes, Twitter!

So, we will be retiring the office of President, and making the Club more inclusive, more embracing and welcoming to those members who want to be a closer part of the structure, but who do not feel willing or able to give over too much time.

We hope you like the idea, and that you may also consider getting involved and perhaps becoming a Propeller Club Liverpool ambassador. We cannot exist or excel without your support and input, so we really hope this makes a structure which can deliver for us all long into the future.

Email us to share your thoughts and to get involved in your Club  
[propellerclubliverpool@gmail.com](mailto:propellerclubliverpool@gmail.com)



# A SITE FOR SORE EYES...

Our resident photographer in chief Al Disley has taken himself online and has finally got a website! So, you know the drill...get on it, book him for your event, have him come to your office to make you all look hotter than the sun, and even more importantly BUY ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS in the form of his wonderful framed photos.

Al lives for his art. Whether it is helping tipsy Propellerists to look upright and alright, or working with school kids to help them learn how to become a photographer, he puts so much into everything he does.

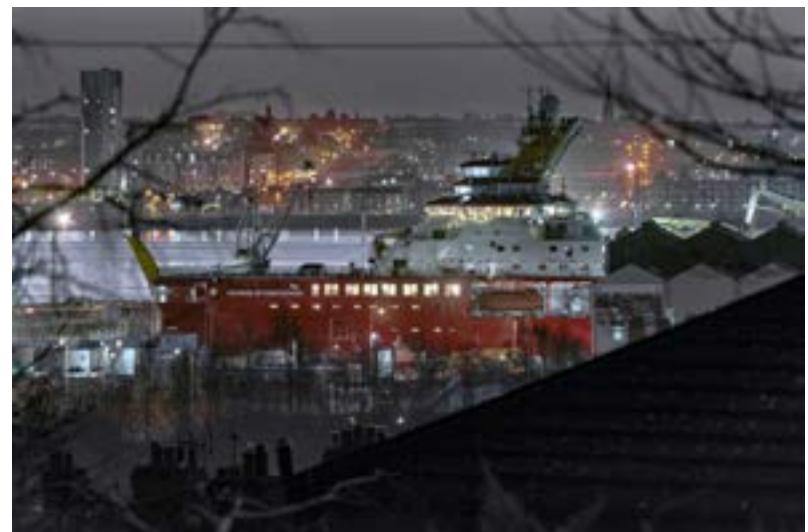
We thank him for his continued support and enthusiasm. We hope that one day that may mean he uses more filters to make us look even better. Though he is a proper pro and doesn't want to sully our lovely cheeks with artificial colours and fakery, he sees the beauty inside us all. Or summat like that.

As you know, his main business undertakings are within the maritime industry covering many maritime social events and capturing people working within the industry in areas such as port side operations and product handling and storage, the images he captures are mostly used for marketing purposes along with being used for leaflets or online magazines.

Aside from the maritime industry work, he also enjoys capturing special family occasions such as weddings, birthdays and special anniversaries and also undertakes property photography for developers and small businesses alike.

Anyway - please do check out the site and continue to give him all the support he deserves.

<https://www.aldisleyimages.co.uk/>





Our very own Steven Jones, who heads up the Seafarers Happiness Index for the Mission to Seafarers, has been doing the online rounds lately. Discussing the challenges facing seafarers and the feedback from crew globally.

As part of the Lloyd's Register and ImarEST Special Interest Group, Steven recently reported on the findings of the latest survey of seafarers and the challenges facing them.

The verdict is that things are steadyng a little as we seem to be edging out of COVID - but that there are massive hurdles still to be overcome. Issues such as connectivity and the cost of online access are one area that is still causing much frustration for those at sea. Also, the problems of accessing vaccinations and then having the actual fact they have been vaccinated recognised.

Steven then jumped (virtually) over the Atlantic, and was on hand to talk to the American Institute of Marine Underwriters about the accidents and claims which arise through crew related issues. He hammered home the message that we currently have too few people onboard many ships, and they have so much work to do that they are overwhelmed, exhausted and making mistakes.

You can learn more about this work and support the efforts by visiting [happyatsea.org](http://happyatsea.org)

# TALKING ABOUT CREW WELFARE

## Webinar Presenters



**Steven Jones**  
Founder and Lead  
Seafarers Happiness Index  
Mission to Seafarers



**Leanne O'Loughlin**  
Regional Director Americas  
(UKP&I, UKDC, Fairlead Group)  
Thomas Miller



**Danielle Centeno**  
Vice President of Loss Prevention  
and Survey Compliance  
American P&I Club



# WELCOME TO ISLE OF MAN REGISTRY

## OUR LATEST SUPPORTER

We are thrilled to welcome The Isle of Man Ship Registry to Propeller Club Liverpool as our latest corporate supporter.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to welcome one of the world's leading registers of ships and superyachts to our Club. The Isle of Man Registry is a British register providing the very best in service to its valued clients; it is the flag of choice for owners looking for quality and partnership from a Flag Administration.

Based in offices in Douglas, Isle of Man, the register is run by a team of professionals dedicated to providing the very best in service. Backed by sophisticated electronic systems, the register can process ships quickly and efficiently to suit all time zones and has online systems to smooth the processes for clients. An ISO 9001 and 14000 certified organisation, the Ship Registry operates efficiently and consistently to exceed the standards expected of a modern Flag State.

With its in-house technical expertise, the register provides advice and regulatory oversight for the ships and yachts on the register, in a pragmatic and commercially sensitive manner. This partnership working and service culture is what attracts clients to register more of their ships in the Isle of Man. Our portfolio of clients includes many of the world's blue-chip ship owners and prestigious superyachts.

With 24/7 response and a growing network of surveyors in key locations, the Ship Registry provides a swift response to allow owners and managers to keep their ships operating in a competitive global industry. Backed by a Government that strongly supports the maritime sector, the Registry is operated on a cost-neutral platform, allowing its fee structure to be extremely competitive.

The Isle of Man really does offer high quality and superb service at a low cost and has built its reputation as one of the world's leading registers on three key principles:

The long history of political and financial stability on the Isle of Man and OECD "white-listed" jurisdiction makes it beneficial to register ships on the Isle of Man. The Isle of Man Ship Registry accepts almost all vessel types, including merchant ships, offshore vessels and private and commercial yachts.

Fast, professional service at low cost makes the Isle of Man an ideal choice for ship and yacht registration. In addition, the Isle of Man offers the full range of professional maritime services to assist with the registration, ownership and management of vessels and crew.

Find out more at <https://www.iomshipregistry.com/>

# MISSION SHOWS "WECARE" FOR SEAFARERS



The Mission to Seafarers does an amazing job supporting the crews which keep our world turning. In these terrible times, the stresses and strains upon seafarers are pushing many toward breaking point. A new initiative looks to ease these woes...

The Mission has launched its new e-learning modules as an extension to its WeCare programme. In response to the added pressures on seafarers during COVID-19, the two face-to-face programmes are being moved online to provide for greater accessibility.

WeCare was launched by The Mission to Seafarers in January 2019. The goal of this ambitious new initiative was to address an issue at the very heart of seafarers' mental health and wellbeing: relationships and emotions. Both courses are designed to help seafarers cope with concerns from home, which might lead to potential safety issues at sea. Produced by qualified professionals specifically for seafarers, the Mission believes this course is like no other.

In response to the 2020 pandemic, which has impacted seafarers in many ways, including onboard quarantines and severely restricted crew changes, The Mission recognised the programme needed to adapt.

The health of seafarers at sea and at home has been impacted like never before and due to restrictions for face-to-face interactions, ship visits or group workshops, WeCare transitioned to e-learning.

Thanks to the support of Platinum Sponsors – the UK P&I Club, the TK Foundation, and Bronze sponsor Prime Tanker & Gas Management, the WeCare e-learning programme has been rolling out to seafarers throughout the year.

Both flagship courses, Social Wellbeing and Financial Wellbeing will blend multimedia content with reflective learning exercises to engage seafarers. Each course is one hour and is complemented by wellbeing videos, weblinks and downloads to use onboard.

The Revd Canon Andrew Wright, Secretary-General, The Mission to Seafarers, commented: "I am delighted to announce the launch of The Mission to Seafarers' new WeCare e-learning modules. This new initiative is a solution to some of the main challenges seafarers are experiencing today. In creating these modules, we have run multiple focus groups and spent many hours interviewing and learning from seafarers themselves, so we know that these courses reflect issues that matter to them."

"By providing educational courses in social and financial wellbeing, WeCare has already reached more than 6,000 seafarers and their families. We are deeply grateful for the support the UK P&I Club, the TK Foundation and Prime Tanker & Gas Management which has made this project possible and look forward to seeing the ongoing benefits of our new digital offering."

The WeCare e-learning programme is available as a stand-alone product or through the Ocean Technologies Group platform. To find out more visit: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/wecare>



# LJMU STUDENT TRIUMPHS IN MARITIME MASTERS

Maritime UK's "Maritime Masters" programme is strengthening links between the UK industry and academia. The programme promotes academic excellence amongst students and their universities, whilst providing valuable research to support the maritime sector's work.

With this incredibly important and significant initiative helping shape engagement between academia and industry, it was especially pleasing for us locally to hear that the 4th winner of the Maritime Masters programme is Badr Moutik of Liverpool John Moores University.

Students are given the opportunity to adopt research topics suggested by industry, work closely with industry representatives and network with other students, academics and professionals from across the maritime sector through events and engagement throughout the year. The programme culminates each year in a high-level Finalist Reception, where finalist students selected by each of the participating universities, present their research to an audience of industry representatives and one was voted the winner.

The University courses chosen represent a broad overview of UK academic abilities and a range of maritime disciplines, from maritime law and environmental studies to engineering, naval architecture and maritime economics. Research projects forming part of the Maritime Masters programme will be concerned with the contemporary issues of the UK maritime sector and its position within the global maritime environment.

Any student enrolled on the participating university's selected course is eligible to participate in the programme and at programme events. Student finalists are chosen through

an internal process at their respective universities, but the programme aims to benefit the wider student cohort.

The Maritime Masters programme, with research topics cutting across the sector, further cements cooperation. The programme also brings industry and academia closer together, reflecting the increasingly collaborative relationship, not least in the development of the maritime sector deal.

Robin Mortimer, Maritime UK's Vice-Chair, attended the event and awarded Moutik with the prize for his research on Carbon Negative Shipping for 2030: Develop a concept for a containership energy system that is carbon negative: Combination of Carbon Capture Technology and e-methanol.

The other topics presented by the finalists included:

- A feasibility study on LGN bunkering at UK ports
- Optimising the economics of short sea shipping through decarbonisation
- How revolutionising existing biofouling technology can reduce emissions
- Autonomous vessels: collisions and cyber risk insurance
- Experimental investigation of the damage tolerance of Natural Fibre Hybrid Composites
- How machine learning can prevent unmanned surface vessel collisions
- Forecasting Chinese iron ore imports using AIS

Throughout the year maritime businesses have supported students with their research. The Maritime Masters programme is sponsored by Royal HaksoningDHV, Clarksons Platou and the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers.



# BIBBY MARINE: LEADING THE GREEN REVOLUTION

One of our corporate supporters, Bibby Marine Services (Bibby) has been loudly leading the industry charge toward decarbonisation. With a new vessel, innovation awards and a clear and unequivocal commitment to net-zero, they are showing us all how to make a positive difference.

Their WaveMaster Zero C Research and Development Project is supported by a grant from MarRI-UK, a collaborative innovation vehicle for the UK industry and academia to jointly tackle innovation and technology challenges.

The company has stated that zero-carbon is the only way forward, and will make an enormous contribution to solving the climate emergency we face. As part of these vital efforts, Bibby will utilise the design of its fleet of Bibby WaveMaster Walk-to-Work Service Operation Vessels (SOVs) as a foundation for new work, developments and research.

Using the WaveMaster hull design as a basis, five alternative fuel concepts will be designed: biofuel, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, and battery power. Each concept will be scrutinised from technical, environmental, economic and legislative perspectives, with each fuel assessed to develop a roadmap for successful implementation, Bibby said.

The Bibby-led project also includes ORE Catapult, Peel Group, Lloyd's Register, Ricardo, Damen Shipyards, Square 5, and EFC Energy Solutions. The project is expected to benefit both the offshore energy and SOV market, which are the vessels of choice for accessing far offshore wind turbines. Bibby's bespoke-designed WaveMaster vessels are themselves the result of an extensive research and

development programme. It is also hoped that the project will act as a stepping-stone to scale up to larger vessels.

As well as pioneering work and research, Bibby Marine is also a signatory of "The Call to Action for Shipping Decarbonization", urging world leaders to take action to align shipping with the Paris Agreement temperature goal.

The Call to Action for Shipping Decarbonization has been developed by a multi-stakeholder taskforce convened by the Getting to Zero Coalition – a partnership between the Global Maritime Forum, the World Economic Forum and Friends of Ocean Action.

The Call to Action demonstrates that there is broad industry support for the decarbonization of shipping and shows the many actions and commitments that are already being made by companies while specifying what is needed from Governments to fully decarbonize the sector by 2050.

Specifically, signatories call on governments to:

- Commit to decarbonizing international shipping by 2050
- Support industrial-scale zero-emission shipping projects through national action
- Deliver policy measures that will make zero-emission shipping the default choice by 2030

With such leading companies showing the way forward, it is to be hoped that shipping can indeed step up and deliver on the promises of COP26, and the needs of the planet.

Find out more at: <https://www.bibbymarine.com/>



# MAKING CODEFARERS

**Captain Stu Nicholls has shared his thoughts on the future of technology in shipping, which is clearly bright, but despite this many feel that they are left in the shade. Sadly, all too often it is seafarers who feel that the promise of maritime informatics is leaving them behind. So what does the future of AI mean for those who go down to the sea in ships?**

There are approximately 1.4 million seafarers in the world, I say approximately because it is likely there will be a few less even by the time you finish reading this article. Sadly, it seems that seafaring is not all it once was.

As a proud ship's Captain myself it gives me no pleasure at all to say that. All the indications are that the impact of COVID has meant that crews are stuck onboard ships for far too long, and the old notions of shore leave have long since vanished.

The problem is that people and technology are always ideal bedfellows. Humans are a bit of a stumbling block in the digital transformation that companies are making. People are not as predictable as machines, and so they become seen as a weakness in the data gathering models.

So, for seafarers, the issues are particularly acute. The current job seems beset with all kinds of problems, and the future career options seem to consist of being replaced by a sensor and remote connectivity. This is not the stuff of good careers planning.

## ALL AT SEA

The fact that seafarers are struggling to see where they fit into a future at sea is a huge potential problem, and it is one that the industry needs to nip in the bud...fast.

Without the insight, instincts and rationale that seafarers have, then any journey into autonomy, and a bright digital future will be less than the sum of its parts.

Today we find that young people are being attracted to careers

at sea, but as soon as they start training and are exposed to the industry, then they suddenly begin to question what their possible role can be.

We all talk of technology, and of all the wonder that will bring, but without really focusing on how important people are in that process. We need to change the debate, and focus on what the future of ships, the supply chain and ports, logistics, etc, etc will look like AND of where people will be in that. So what can people do, be and drive forward in a shipping industry driven by data, sensors, maritime informatics, digitalisation and AI? What is the real role of humans with the machines?

## CODED MESSAGES

The answer is that the machines still need people, but they just need slightly different people than we had before. There is a need to ensure good data, to ensure that reliable information exists across the entire supply chain, and the challenge of digitalisation is about harnessing and acting as a force multiplier for all that companies do.

People play a hugely important part in that, they really do make the difference. They provide the checks and balances, the logic where a machine may run amok, they are the soul of the decision-making process. We forget or sideline the human side of this technological revolution at our peril.

So that is where the seafarers of today come in, as they do have a bright future — it just may not be as easy to see at the moment as it should be. These are the people who have experience, they understand what the actual process of shipping is. They have seen the weather, the effect of rolling, the impact of all that it is to go to sea.

Seafarers, far from being past their sell-by date, are more important than ever. Just in a slightly different way. What they need is a chance to switch up their skills and knowledge. To become the seafarer of the future they need to become a "codefarer".

## A NEW KIND OF ROLE

Ok, so “codefarer” isn’t perhaps the best name for it, but bear with me. Let’s explore a little more about what skills people need to really ensure that shipping still has the benefit of the human view, but with the lessons being learned and shared digitally.

There is already a breed of seafarers who are very highly attuned to this kind of work. These are the Dynamic Positioning Operators, the DPOs, who act as almost guardians between the vessel and the computers which operate it.

They sense the movements, the patterns and the way in which the vessel will likely act, and they are managing the process. Monitoring all that goes on, and being part of the cyber seascape, a kind of shipboard cyborg.

Such seafarers know of the sensors, the processes, even the mathematics of the Kalman Filter as the computers seek to understand what the sea and wind are doing. These people are intuitively entwined with the ship and system, and if we can harness that kind of maritime learning and knowledge than it will be vital for the industry.

## TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

So, while there is a massively important role for heritage skills, the seafarers' bushcraft if you like — knowing the stars, understanding a Sextant and appreciating that if you look out a window you can see things of interest and importance. Beyond the basic building blocks of these maritime skills, what else should the seafarers of today be learning to ensure they are fit for the future?

**Let's talk coding.** To really engage with seafarers and develop their future skills we need to:

**Define coding for crews** — Coding is just the instructions making a computer do something through step-by-step

commands. The goal with this code is for the computer to carry out what it's being told in order to reach a specific outcome. So seafarers need to understand what the computer is told, as that is what the ship will do!

**Talk about coding languages** — There are specific ways coding communicates, and that's the primary task of the coding language to give instructions to a computer. Different languages take many forms and functions, and we can start to make seafarers understand them.

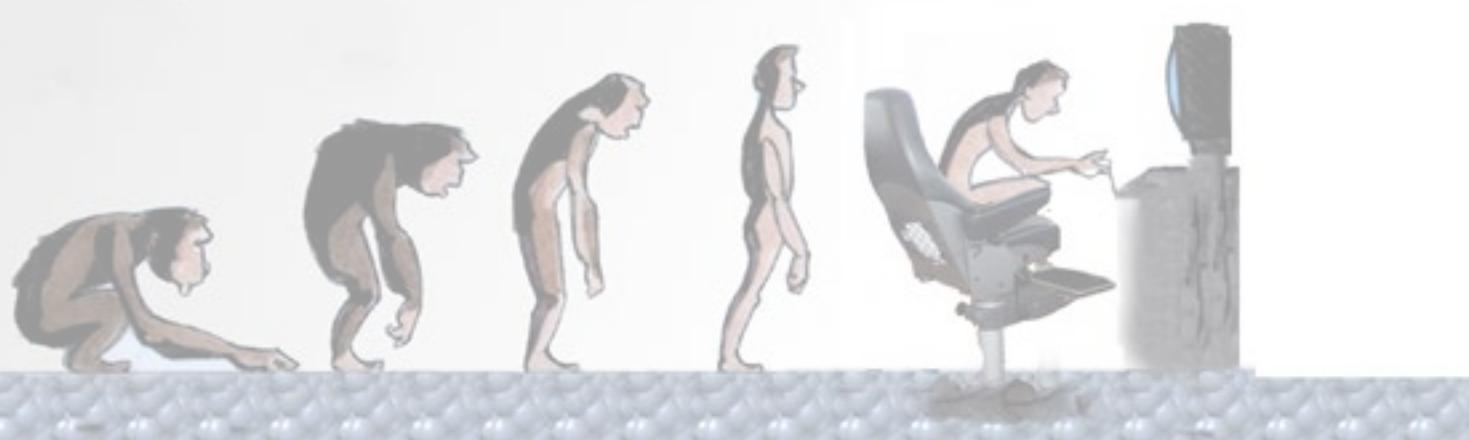
Get seafarers engaged with coding — If officers could be told of the logic of the decisions vessels will make, then they can sense check them. It is vital that there is transparency in decision making, and of the instructions that key equipment onboard is receiving. This will help when/if we do get a fully autonomous global fleet.

**Let's Embrace Coding** — The professional bodies have a really important role here, and we need to get seafarers talking about coding. Learning and teaching through conversation are key and will take some of the mystique away.

**Move into coding** — When people understand the importance of coding, they understand the language and the effect it has on their everyday life, then it is time to roll the sleeves up and start with some foundational tasks. <https://www.codecademy.com/> is a great place to start, and lots of different tutorials. Note to self: Perhaps we should design some ship specific ones... IFTT...If this happens, then we ***will have the careers of the future.***

With these skills and this knowledge, suddenly time at sea now even makes sense for the future. By ensuring that seafarers can see a path forward then we will continue to see the young people and talent our industry needs.

**Read more of Captain Stu's thoughts at <https://captainstu.medium.com/>**





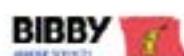
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