

UK P&I CLUB



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125 YEARS NEW

# HELLAS HIGHLIGHTS

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UK P&I AND  
UKDC ARE  
MANAGED  
BY **THOMAS  
MILLER**

# UK CLUBS' FLAGS FLY AT THE SECOND GREEK-BRITISH FORUM

**The UK Clubs' flags were once again hoisted amidst a patriotic array of Union Jacks at the British Ambassador's residence in Kolonaki at the second Greek-British Shipping Forum on 17th June, 2013 at which Thomas Miller Hellas' Nick Milner gave a presentation on "Casualty Response: a Club perspective".**

The Forum is intentionally organised biannually so as not to clash with Posidonia. Held at the beautifully-preserved house of the late Greek statesman Eleftherios Venizelos the event was particularly well-received prompting organiser and Chief Executive of Maritime London, Doug Barrow to comment, "the feedback we have received has been very positive ... The Embassy were very pleased, as was our Shipping Minister".

The opening address was given by Mr John Kittmer, the British Ambassador in Greece, who welcomed more than 150 delegates from the Greek Shipping community to the Residence which has been in British hands since 1936.

In a marked upgrade from the 2011 Forum, this year's event was attended by Stephen Hammond MP, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport / UK Shipping Minister. In his address, Mr Hammond declared his ambition to help foster closer ties between these two traditionally strong maritime nations during his tenure. More than just an iconic gesture, Mr Hammond's visit allowed bilateral talks to take place during the course of the day with the Greek Shipping Minister, Mr Konstantinos Kousouroulis, who also gave an address filled with constructive sentiment.

From the Clubs' perspective, the event was an opportunity to stand side by side with other British businesses involved in shipping and to showcase one of our core functions - casualty response. Nick stressed the importance of advance preparation and how the P&I Club incorporates vetting of Members' Casualty Response Plans in its innovative claims risk profiling process as one way of assisting. He also explained the role the Club plays, alongside the Member, in drawing together the personnel and resources required to pave the way for an emergency situation to be stabilised. After all, the Club does far more than simply pay claims. There is a great deal of coordination and decision-making necessary to keep loss of life, injury, disruption and property or environmental damage to a minimum. Much is also done at individual Club and IG levels to ensure that the appropriate bodies and organisations are ready to pull together when a casualty situation occurs. The Club has formidable experience of dealing with casualties and is on hand to offer advice and assistance to the Membership round the clock.

The audience also heard presentations from the London Stock Exchange, UK Ship Register, The Baltic Exchange, Clyde & Co, Lloyds Register, Norton Rose Fulbright, ICAP, Control Risks and Navigate Response on diverse subjects such as cyber-hacking, LPG/LNG market analysis, IPO's and how Social Media can affect your business.



# BROKER RECEPTION

## HELLENIC CHAMBER OF SHIPPING & UNION OF GREEK SHIPOWNERS' DINNER



On 20th May, 2013 the UK P&I and UK Defence Clubs were one of the sponsors of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping and Union of Greek Shipowners' dinner. The event was to raise funds for nautical education in Greece as well as improving nautical expertise in Greece. Several of the Thomas Miller (Hellas) Ltd. staff hosted a table at the event which was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Athens.



**On the evening of Thursday 16th May 2013, for the fourth year in succession, brokers in the Greek marine insurance community joined staff from Thomas Miller (Hellas) Ltd. and colleagues from Thomas Miller P&I and Defence in London for drinks and a buffet supper.**

A new venue was chosen this year - Plan B on Syngrou Avenue and to liven things up there was entertainment from the Manolo Vega Jazz Band. As the weather on the evening proved to be poor, Plan B was a good alternative to the more exposed Piraeus Sailing Club which had been used previously.

During a brief break from the entertainment Thomas Miller P&I Chief Executive Officer, Hugo

Wynn-Williams, thanked the brokers for their support during what had proved to be a very successful Greek renewal. Hugo also commented on the positive financial, claims and other developments in the UK P&I and Defence Clubs.

The event again proved to be a well attended opportunity for our broker friends to share in our improving fortunes and mix socially with the full Greek service team.

## NEW RECRUITS FOR THOMAS MILLER (HELLAS) LTD

**We are pleased to advise that on Monday 17th June, 2013 two new recruits joined our Greek office.**

**Ms. Efcharis Rocanas** joined as a Trainee P&I/Defence Claims Executive. Before joining us Haris spent short periods with another local Club and some local law firms. In her free time Haris enjoys cooking, designing jewellery, running, yoga and water-sports.

**Ms. Eleni Nomikou** also joined as a Trainee Claims Executive. Eleni has previously spent a few months in our London office and she has worked for a local law firm in Piraeus. Eleni will be focusing primarily on Personal Injury claims and will initially be working with our people claims syndicate in London before transferring to Greece. In her spare time Eleni enjoys ballet dancing, cinema and reading.

We are sure that you will have the opportunity to meet both Haris and Eleni in due course.



# THE BIG ROW OR IN OUR CASE THE BIG PADDLE

On the afternoon of 11th September, 2013 a team from Thomas Miller (Hellas) Ltd, "FORKY's RACERS", had some fun, dragon boat racing, with a serious intent - to raise funds for a ship, the CHAUNCEY MAPLES, that is being renovated to bring essential healthcare to remote villages around Lake Malawi.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries on earth. 75% of the population live in poverty and there are only 250 doctors for 15 million people.



Whilst the main event, The BIG ROW, was taking place in Spitalfields Market, London where nearly 100 teams, each of 10 individuals, were taking to rowing machines with the challenge being for each crew member to row 1,000 meters. Instead, in Greece, off Agios Kosmas, we took to the sea in a dragon boat accompanied by three other teams, the HOLMAN-NAUTS (Holman Fenwick Willan), BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL (Hill Dickinson) and a mixed team called SYNERGY. The SYNERGY team was mainly made of crew members from Tsavloris, Hill Dickinson and the American Club.

The event consisted of the teams having some practice sessions followed by two time trials each. The winner would be the team with the fastest time over the course.

During the practise session FORKY's RACERS found that they were able to go faster astern than ahead and during their first time trial had some navigational trouble and ended up doing a tour of Flivos Bay before crossing the finish line in a time of more than two minutes. However, the session did prove useful for training purposes partly due to the fact that the boat had taken on quite some water and the crew were able to experience free surface effect first hand and also when Marinella Makarona stood up, wishing to move because she was getting wet, thus raising the boat's centre of gravity above the metacentre. Despite being briefly unstable it fortunately remained afloat. Following a de-brief and analysis of what went wrong on the first run the main issues seemed to centre around the fact that the boat had nine people steering and only one person rowing. There were also too many managers onboard. Still there was always the possibility of taking the prize for the most improved team over the two rounds and so FORKY's RACERS reorganised.

This was not a time for namby-pamby tweaking, wholesale changes were required and so one of the Deputy Managers was promoted to Manager, the number of steerers was reduced by one and the total number of rowers was increased to two.

After each team had completed two time trials they retired to the Agios Kosmas beach to, watch the sun go down, partake of some liquid refreshment and for the prize giving ceremony.

#### There were a number of prizes:

**1. The "Hammer" prize** (actually a large inflatable hammer) went to Dimitri Vassos of the HOLMAN-NAUTS. In rowing terms a hammer is a rower known more for his or her powerful pulling than their technical rowing proficiency.

**2. This was a combined prize for the crew man or crew woman who had the most air strokes and the longest recovery period.** In rowing terms an "air stroke" is taking a stroke without the blade having been placed in the water. The "recovery" on the other hand is the non-work phase of the stroke from "releasing" the blade from the water to the "catch" - or putting the blade in the water. Air strokes and a long recovery period keep stress on the heart to a minimum. There was a lot of competition for this prize but it eventually went to Van Nomikos of FORKY's RACERS.

**3. The best "Legal Argument" prize** went to Patrick Hawkins of BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL who, relying on the DYDIMI, wanted to set off his team's over performance on the first leg from its underperformance on the second leg. The prize, a kid's plastic pirate set, was gratefully accepted on Patrick's behalf by his secretary.

**The championship**, however, was a close run thing with only 12 seconds separating the four teams when their best times were taken into account. In fourth place was **BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL** with 1 minute and 30 seconds. In third place was **FORKY's RACERS** with 1 minute and 27 seconds whilst the **HOLMAN-NAUTS** were second with 1 minute and 22 seconds. Despite an attempt by some of the other teams to distract the Tsavloris guys, by pretending to be in distress, the CHAUNCEY MAPLES Agios Kosmas Dragon Boat Racing Champions for 2013 were **SYNERGY** with a time of 1 minute and 18 seconds. The winning trophy was presented in style by the lovely Ms. Lydia Eleni Zachariou. The celebrations went on long in to the evening.

Quite some thanks are in order. To the crew captains for getting their teams together. To Hill Dickinson and Holman Fenwick Willan for their support. To the ENOA Sailing Club for allowing us to use their facilities and to Alexandra Couvadelli for negotiating with the sailing club. To the trainers from the Club who also steered the boat during the trials. Thanks also to the time keeper, our own Cedric Chatteley. One might have hoped that with Cedric Chatteley doing the time keeping that FORKY's RACERS might have been further up the finishing order but Cedric was scrupulously fair. Finally, thanks to all the crews for taking part and to all those who made donations.



# A VERY FASHIONABLE GO-KART EVENT

Whoever says you can't have fun while you work... is lying! After a day at the office, all participants underwent a mini-metamorphosis, making the shift from "serious adults" to race-gear-wearing, banter-throwing rally drivers. No use in denying it, there's photographic evidence submitted in support of the above.

Special mention must be made of several ladies' and gentlemen's attire. Marinella Makarona stood out in her bright pink and white top, matched with black and pink sporty-chic sneakers. The other ladies looked spectacular in casual-chic sportswear, some sporting the all time classic 'blue jeans look' and others opting for the slick 'all in black outfit'. They would have been a true distraction for the male drivers, had there been a mixed race! Pity that time and our large numbers didn't allow for it. From our gentlemen, Costas Zoidis totally dedicated himself to looking the part. He looked like a cross between a cowboy and a Greek version of Tom Cruise from Days of Thunder. Nick Milner also made a fabulous appearance sporting a salmon shirt. He later reported that he chose the flamboyant colour purely for visibility reasons - believe what you will! The other gentlemen chose to go for hip casual looks, sporting trendy t-shirts, polos and denim shirts.

While some chose to race, others erred on the side of caution and mingled whilst enjoying refreshments and light snacks. Sirs, you know who you are, consider yourselves formally challenged to participate in the next Thomas Miller race!

Irrespective of what the invitees chose to do, the recently resurfaced and lengthened Speedforce track offered a great setting for both racers and spectators. Speedforce paid special tribute to the UK P&I Club by placing blue and yellow tires, the Club's colours, alongside the piste.

We all shared an adrenaline rush when the aforementioned rally drivers performed their dirty race tactics. The women's races in particular turned out to be quite competitive as the ladies truly went for the gold. The increased number of female participants barely stepped on their brakes, regularly bumped into one another and were derailed more than once or twice. The men's race was more 'by the book', but spectators gasped in awe at the many skilful overtakings.

Now on to the specifics! Tasteful trophies, hand-picked by Anna Lagos, were given out in order to properly honour the victors. Without further ado, this year's Kart Race MVPs:

**The Thomas Miller (Hellas) Ltd Karting Challenge Cup** went to our very own Costas Zoidis followed by Michael Kougellis from Metrostar Management and Costas Antonopoulos from Cyprus Maritime. At the end of the awards ceremony, the victors basked in their glory as they performed a champagne shower on all spectators.

**The Women's Plate** went to the undefeated (for the third year in a row!) F1 rallista Evie Masmata, from Kassian Maritime Navigation. Keeping our promise, the Women's Trophy, henceforth, will be known as "The Thomas Miller - Evie Masmata Cup." The lovely Ilianna Garavela, from Chios Navigation, a first timer to watch-out for in future events, came in as close second. The pretty in pink Marinella Makarona came in third.

**The Men's Plate** went to Eleftherios Makaris, from Efshipping Company, followed by Pantelis Lemos, from Blossom Maritime (even though he raced in a suit!) in second place. Ioannis Laoutaris from Diligent Holdings came in third.

Our invitation promised some other interesting prizes... **In no particular order:**

- The **"Driving as if already on Holiday" Prize** went to Nick Giannos of Maryville
- The **"Needs a Holiday" Prize** went to Pantelis Lemos of Blossom (who raced in his work-clothes)
- The **"Most Room for Improvement" Prize** went to Thalia Amirali of Cyprus Maritime
- The **"Person Most Likely to Have Furry Dice in her Car" Prize** went to Marinella Makarona
- The **"Underwriter's Prize for safest risk"** Award went to Menelaos Pangalos of Chios Navigation

The event made it clear that some of us are skilful speed demons while others, to put it mildly, are not.

The Kart-racing event was followed by a traditional taverna meal, at Tsoalias, in Vari, where we properly refuelled for the next day at the office. The good company, the delicious food and the friendly staff (headed by the taverna's very personable owner, whose characteristic moustache received great admiration) all contributed to it being a great night!





A reception was held at the Benaki Museum on Piraeos St in Athens on 18th September, 2013 to celebrate the UK Defence Club's 125th anniversary. An original choice of venue, the Benaki's open-topped inner courtyard was transformed magnificently for the occasion with pristine lounge furniture, soft lighting and a nightclub-style bar. Fusion canapes circulated on trays whetting the collective appetite and inviting Members to explore a host of culinary treats at the Mediterranean and Oriental food stations.

For those with a cultural bent - we were in a museum after all - an exclusive preview of the photographic exhibition "Hellenic Seas" was displayed throughout the evening in the exhibition hall.

As night descended the spotlight fell upon Michael Pateras, the Club Chairman, to give the keynote speech. In excess of 400 guests, among them numerous Club directors and senior Club Managers, were formally welcomed and told about the early beginnings of the Club as the Newcastle Iron Steamship Freight Demurrage and Defence Association Limited (as it was then known in 1888).

Mr Pateras also referred to a circular issued by the Club in 1957 which made reference to criticisms that had been made by the English Commercial Court about the expense and delays that occur when submitting cases to arbitration and the impact of having two or three arbitrators considering a case. He commented that whilst these points may have been made 56 years ago they could also be said to be as relevant today. The key features of arbitration are generally thought to be that it aims to be a cost effective and quick system of dispute resolution; a largely consensual process involving judgement by one's peers and disputes being resolved by commercial individuals with shipping experience. The relevance of maritime arbitration and how it may need to adapt to meet the requirements of its users is a subject of key importance to the Board of the Club, and the wider industry, and Mr Pateras encouraged his guests to think carefully about this. He said, "The question I have for you this evening, and for you to take away, is whether arbitration still meets those aims. When more and more arbitrations are conducted before QCs or senior barristers, rather than commercial people, does that not of itself suggest that arbitration has become a quasi judicial process?" Over the coming months the Board and the Managers will be canvassing the views of Members and others about the appropriateness of the arbitration process as a forum for dispute resolution. This will be done in a variety of ways including a panel debate to be held in Athens in early December and invitations for this event will be circulated shortly.

The event went on until the small hours of Thursday morning with those departing wishing their Club well for 125 more years and, as a leaving gift, guests were presented with a copy of the UKDC's 125th anniversary book, chronicling the Club's history through some of the key cases that it has been involved in over the years.



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