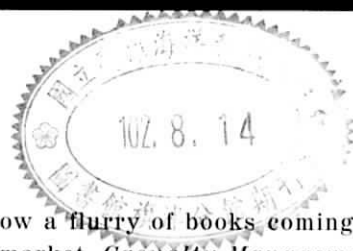


Read all about it!



This was a well known cry of newspaper sellers on street corners in the UK, and perhaps all over the world in various languages, when newspapers were often sold in that way before the days of the internet. The May issue of *Seaways* contains the Annual Report of Council (see pp 4-11) and the audited Annual Accounts (see pp 12-14) which together provide our members and many others with a useful summary of the work of the Institute and its financial affairs. This headline neatly summarises the purpose of the Annual Report, which aims to provide as much information as possible on the work of the Institute over the past year, whilst also being as concise as possible. Ten years ago the Annual Report ran to just three and a half pages. At eight pages, this year's is over twice as long. We hope that members will agree that this is an indication of the increase in work being undertaken by the Institute rather than rampant verbosity. It is certainly intended to provide members with a useful single source of information on the many achievements and continuing strands of work that underpin the value of membership.

If you are not already engaged in membership activities, we hope that this report will inspire you to become so. There are many ways to become engaged and contribute to the Institute which will add value to the receipt of

Seaways and the membership fee you pay. We welcome contributions to *Seaways* (whether articles, letters, conference reports, or news items for the People page) and there are many ways of interacting through the website, where we maintain forums on a wide variety of professional issues. Email correspondence groups are also available and we have a growing presence on internet services such as Facebook and LinkedIn. The information gathered in these ways is then used in much of the Institute's work, including input to the IMO, and ensures that your views are heard in the right places to influence outcomes.

Committee work is another valuable contribution (see pp 22-23) and volunteers to take part in the governance of the Institute or contribute to our work at the IMO are always welcome. Similarly, reading the branch reports (pp 34-35) should show the value of attending these meetings for their professional content, fellowship and networking opportunities. You are assured of a warm welcome from your fellow members.

Institute books

After a quiet time last year in terms of new publications whilst various authors and our publications staff worked hard to write and develop new material, there

is now a flurry of books coming to the market. *Casualty Management Guidelines*, a joint project with the International Salvage Union (ISU), was successfully launched at the ISU's Associates Day (see pp 30-31). *Polar Ice Operations* (April 2012 *Seaways*) will be promoted at the 8th Annual Arctic Ice Forum in Helsinki as this issue goes to print, and *The Work of the Harbour Master* (see pp 24-25) will be published at the International Harbour Masters' Congress in Cork (14-18 May – see p33) as it is a joint project with the International Harbour Masters' Association and European Harbour Masters' Committee.

Collision Avoidance

It has been a while since *Seaways* or MARS reports featured much on this most fundamental aspect of seamanship and yet the proper application of the Rules for the prevention of collisions is never far from members' minds. As competency is a major issue to be addressed under the Strategic Plan 2011-2015, more work on this will be forthcoming in the months ahead but we commend the Captain's Column (see p3) to you and encourage more letters and MARS reports on this subject to seek solutions for the many problems that members are encountering.

Features

Captain's column	3	Pilot safety	21	MARS	17-20
Annual report	4-11	Council members	22-23	Naval column	26-27
Financial statements	12-14	The work of the Harbour Master	24-25	Nautelex	28
AGM	15-16			Conferences	29-30
				Letters, diary	32-33
				NI Log	34-35
				People	36

■ Cover photo: Port of London Authority