

NEWS

LOF arbitration panel finally finalised

The newly-constituted panel of Lloyd's Open Form arbitrators, announced by Karen Bizon, Controller of Agencies, Lloyd's Agency on November 13th, almost immediately lost one of its most experienced first-instance arbitrators, when Michael Howard QC resigned.

Changes to the LOF arbitration arrangements were announced in May last year, and applications were invited from admiralty barristers for a position on the new panel.

Howard was quickly replaced by Elizabeth Blackburn QC, who joins Timothy Brenton QC, Simon Kverndal QC, Lionel Persey QC and Jeremy Russell QC. The Lord Chief Justice has made the Honourable Mr Justice Teare available to sit as the LOF appeal arbitrator until December this year, when the



Timothy Brenton QC



Simon Kverndal QC



Jeremy Russell QC



Lionel Persey QC



Elizabeth Blackburn QC

position will be reviewed.

Teare was the LOF appeal arbitrator until his elevation to the Commercial Court, where he now sits as a judge. He brings extensive experience of LOF matters. Kverndal was a member of the previous panel and Russell has also been a member of the LOF Panel. Blackburn, Brenton and Percy all have extensive experience of acting as Counsel in LOF Arbitrations.

Ms Bizon said: "Lloyd's received a number of very high quality applications for the limited number of positions available and those applications have been considered in

accordance with the procedures set out in the 'invitation to apply'. As part of that process Lloyd's took soundings from the International Salvage Union, the International Union of Marine Insurers, the International Chamber of Shipping, the International Group of P&I Clubs, the Joint Hull/Cargo committees and the Admiralty Solicitors Group.

"The selection panel, of which I am a member, took very careful consideration of the feedback received."

New name in salvage

A new company has been set up to provide all maritime services and marine contracting in the field of ocean towage, heavy transport and salvage.

ALP Maritime Services BV, in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, was founded by four former senior staff members of Fairmount Marine BV. They are: Paul Mulder, managing director – Commercial and Marketing; Capt Leo Leusink, managing director – Fleet and Operations; Arjen de Geus, managing director – Finance and HR and Caroline Steenberg – office and support manager.

ALP's worldwide services include commercial and operational support in ocean towage operations and with the transportation of heavy and over-sized cargoes (floating and non-floating). The company can commit to projects as an operator to provide package deal solutions, based on independent advice for the optimal means of towage and transport. ALP also serves as a Dutch and worldwide agent/representative office for companies in the ocean towage, offshore installation and heavy transport market.

Efficiency improving

Genoa-based classification society RINA has rationalised its organisational structure in order to improve efficiency.

In future all RINA-branded operations will be carried out through a new company, RINA Services Sp A. The holding company RINA Sp A will provide staff services and strategic direction and control all non-RINA-branded services. The reorganisation follows the approval by the board of directors of the holding company, RINA Sp A, of the 2009-2011 Strategic Plan.



Michael Howard QC – appointed then resigned.

Refloat was pollution-free

T&T Bisso has refloats a bulk carrier which ran aground near Gwadar Port in Pakistan carrying 50,000 tons of urea fertilizer.

Led by salvage master V Seva, the salvage team included a naval architect and dive team, along with the 51m, 130 tonne bollard pull anchor-handling/towing tug *Britoil 60*, which belongs to Britoil Offshore Services.



The 190m bulk carrier was refloats during high tide without lightering bunkers or cargo. It was delivered to its owners without damage to the environment.

Asian answer for OSD projects

IJmuiden-based Offshore Ship Designers (OSD) has strengthened its global network by opening a design office in Singapore.

The office will provide a local liaison point for customers building ships in Asia which were designed in the Dutch and UK offices of OSD, and also provide a local solution for design projects for companies based in Singapore.

"We already have a successful design and newbuilding supervision office in Shanghai," explained Michiel Wijmuller, managing director of OSD. "But as Singapore is rapidly strengthening as a hub for offshore activities, it is important for us to have a company there."

"Our group is currently overseeing 10 offshore vessels built to our designs in Asia and we are getting an increasing amount of enquiries from offshore vessel and tug operators across Asia. Singapore is a good place to handle that business from, and we expect to grow design capacity there as

a complement to our main design offices in the UK, Holland and China.

"Asian owners value the independence and efficiency we bring to the design process, and we want to be close to them to provide what they want."

Experienced marine engineer Andy Robson has been appointed managing director of Offshore Ship Designers (Singapore) Pte Ltd (OSD-Singapore) and will manage the office in Singapore. Following a career as an engine builder, including a period at sea and as senior engineer with a large consultancy firm, he was engineering manager for Devonport Yachts before he joined OSD-IMT, and became principal marine engineer for the OSD group.



Andy Robson, MD of OSD Singapore.