The focus has been firmly on radar in this issue of *The Navigator*. Here are 10 key aspects to remember about this vital tool.

1. **Reliable radar**
   Radar has earned its place as a tried and tested ‘best friend’ to the navigator due to its reliability and independence from external systems, such as GPS.

2. **Two for the price of one**
   The two primary uses of radar are for collision avoidance and for navigation. Professional navigators need to know how to use radar effectively for both tasks.

3. **Know your tools**
   Modern radar has many sophisticated functions and options. Navigators need to know how to use these tools, their limitations and how to operate without them if need be.

4. **Check, check and check again**
   Never take anything seen on radar at face value. Always crosscheck either visually (look out the window) or with an alternative independent system. Never assume!

5. **Familiarity breeds success**
   Understanding how to use radar requires both training and familiarisation. Regardless of how well you may know radars in general, when you join a new vessel it is essential to familiarise yourself with specific onboard radar units prior to assuming watch.

6. **Keeping in tune**
   Automatic tuning can be useful. However, knowing how and when to use manual tuning should be part of familiarisation. Tuning functions should be checked before assuming each watch.

7. **Target practice**
   Continually monitor different ranges and consider the use of screen offsets in order to detect all possible targets.

8. **Be band aware**
   Know the difference between S and X Band radars. Know which is being displayed and know how to use each strategically to best effect.

9. **Team talk**
   Mentoring – there is not usually one best way to set preferences for a radar display, and the choice of display options changes with navigational circumstances. Discussing these options amongst the bridge team and Pilot can provide an excellent learning experience for all navigators – young and old.

10. **Be alert to advancements**
    Radar technology and performance are advancing. Be alert to these new systems and encourage their application onboard where financially justified.