



# Focus

## Celebrating achievements; driving change

“ We need greater effort still on the whole repatriation challenge and more leadership from the sector. ”

As many regions of the world continue to struggle with restrictions on travel imposed because of the impact of Covid-19, The Nautical Institute continues to support and promote the work being done to vaccinate seafarers. These vaccinations are a key enabler for mariners to be able to travel and we acknowledge all those countries that have worked hard to introduce a vaccination programme for visiting vessels.

Domestic governments can take the lead as well as part of their recognition of seafarers as key workers. Most recently in this regard, I learned that Sri Lanka is implementing a directive for its mariners to have high priority for vaccinations. We hope the programme goes well and that such opportunities can also be afforded to visiting vessels.

There remain many challenges and although some countries are providing vaccinations, that does not mean they are permitting flights and repatriation. Vaccinations alone are not enough. We need greater effort still on the whole repatriation challenge and more leadership from the sector.

### Change and development

In the United Kingdom we have recently hosted London International Shipping Week which provided the opportunity to showcase our sector and the critical work you all undertake. There is a lot of ongoing talk about digitalisation, autonomous vessels and fuels for the future as we address the decarbonisation imperatives. I am sure there will be more on this latter point later in the year following COP26 (2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference) to be held in Glasgow.

Likely to be of more immediate interest is the progress being made with the S100 development by the UK Hydrographic Office. This work will lead to a step-change in capability of ECDIS systems and will be introduced with requirements for S-Mode capability in ECDIS systems in the coming years. We have seen from a recent report from the MAIB and DMAIB (UK and Danish Accident Investigation Branches) reports that ECDIS is still not being used as effectively as it could be,

leading to poor navigational decisions and groundings. It is shameful that improvements in technology are let down by combinations of poor system design, lack of operator training and competence.

### Recognising achievement

It has also been a month of awards in the UK including the Merchant Navy Medal recognising meritorious service within our community. The awards may be from the UK but they recognise important service on a global scale and we are delighted that three Nautical Institute Fellows, Gordon Foot, Stephen Gobbi and John L David were worthy recipients in the latest announcements.

Our senior members also featured strongly in the recent awards of Chartered Master Mariner status, now open to nominations from around the world. I was delighted to see members from Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Brazil among those recognised for their commitment and contribution to the maritime community.

The Nautical Institute works with the Honourable Company of Master Mariners on the Chartership scheme which recognises professional eminence in the sector.

If you would like further details then please get in touch here: [chartership@nautinst.org](mailto:chartership@nautinst.org)

We are also keen to support those at the beginning of their journey as Master. With this in mind, we are delighted to announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for The Nautical Institute Command Diploma scheme, open to those serving as Chief Officer or Master, thanks to a generous donation from The Nautical Institute Foundation (NIF). See page 9 for more information and a link to apply.

Your work in Branches remains really important to us. It helps us deliver and share our technical expertise on a global scale but also provides a showcase for membership of the NI. Thank you for the work that is undertaken by our brilliant volunteers.

I would like to give a special mention this month to our Southern Africa Branch, which recently celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a succession of events held over a three day period. Congratulations and best wishes for the next 10.



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