

Mersey Maritime Face to Face meeting 8th January 2019.

The first F2F meeting of 2019 was organised by Mersey Maritime and commenced at 0800 hours on Tuesday 8th January with nearly seventy attendees, which included our Chairman. Following the traditional tea, coffee and bacon and sausage 'butties' two representative, Dick Walsh and John Garland, of Isle of Man Maritime gave us their presentation.

The Isle of Man Maritime comprises of three sectors, Shipping, Super Yachts and the general maritime cluster of the island. 2 percent of the Island's working population is employed within the marine sector.

Their Shipping Registry has just been awarded the accolade for being the Best Shipping Registry 2019. They have 70 'blue' chip clients who operate 412 ships and 123 Super yachts which equates to nearly 17.2 million tonnes, putting them 14th in world, one place above the UK Register. This apparently makes an interesting prospective when the Red Ensign group of registries meet under the chairmanship of the MCA!

When trying to keep the IOM registry ahead of the pack, Dick explained some of the initiatives they are focusing on and are in the process of implementing. Such as electronic Official Logbooks and Oil Record Books and the issuance of digital Certificates with electronically recognised signatures.

Finally he described their part in the recent abandonment, recovery and final disposal of the Bibby Line bulk carrier Cheshire under the management of V-Ships. The cargo of fertilizer overheated, causing great volumes of toxic fumes to be released following hatch covers been blown. The crew were airlifted to safety by the Spanish air-sea rescue services, the pilots and winch men receiving recently bravery awards from their government.

A really interesting presentation which was appreciated by those attending the meeting.