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**Chair Report**  
to the  
**Annual General Meeting**  
of the  
**Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors**  
**19 June 2019**

The Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors was incorporated in 2017 and formally launched at an event in the Lloyd's Old Library on 4 October 2018. In the nine months since that time our membership has grown to a total 143 individual surveyors split across all four categories of membership; Oil& Gas Projects, Rigs, Renewables and Cargo. The numbers per category are as follows:

Oil& Gas Projects	127 members
Rigs	62 members
Renewables	29 members
Cargo	102 members

It is interesting to note that very few members have gained accreditation for all four categories and I believe this supports the creation of these distinctions and recognises the uniqueness of the experience in each category.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the following companies that have supported the creation of SOMWS and enabled us to reach this point in our history; Braemar, DNVGL, Global Maritime, LOC, Matthews Daniel and the representatives of the Joint Rig Committee with support from the LMA. Without their support we would not be where we are today.

SOMWS has enhanced its relationship with the Joint Rig Committee with the formation of a Working Group which is providing a touchstone between the two organisations to ensure the accreditation of our members meet the needs of the Lloyd's underwriting community thus ensuring that SOMWS remains an effective professional body.

Until recently much of the focus of the board has been on the creation of the society and the accreditation of new members. It was identified earlier in the year that a bottleneck had formed in the screening process and the review of applications was taking far longer than we had hoped. We



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have successfully eased the backlog in membership applications with the expansion of the screening committee and hope to be on top of applications by the end of this month. Whilst the screening of new members remains a priority, SOMWS is currently working on the following initiatives to bring further value to our members:

- **Associate Membership**  
In recognising not everyone who is joining or has recently joined the profession has the requisite experience to gain full membership, we are creating an Associate membership level. This will provide a framework for an individual, hopefully with the support by an existing member, to gain full membership.
- **Industry Liaison Committees**  
We are looking to establish local committees, probably based in London, Houston and Singapore, to forge links between SOMWS, Operators and Contractors. This will be with the aim to present the aims of SOMWS and open two-way communication with other stakeholders in the respective industries.
- **Underwriter Workshops**  
We are planning to hold several workshops with underwriters. These will be attended by a few SOMWS members and key underwriters, taking the form of presentations and case studies. These will be used to highlight some of the challenges experienced by warranty surveyors in the current market whilst increasing the visibility of the society to underwriters.
- **Annual Conference**  
Whilst still in the early stages of planning we shall hold the first of which I hope will become an Annual SOMWS Conference in the first half of 2020. We shall be looking for member input to set the agenda and support the event in due course.

Further details of the above initiatives will be shared on the website and via email circulars as plans are finalised.

When SOMWS was founded we drew upon the companies that provided the initial support to release senior members of staff to be directors of the society. SOMWS is a society of individual surveyors and not a trade association of the companies that employ them. Over the next twelve months I wish to open the board of directors up to new members who will be proposed from the whole membership for election to the board. There will be more news on this process later in the year.

In closing I feel we have made a great start in the formation of the society and great deal of progress has been made. I wish to thank everyone for their contribution so far, but as you can see we have some interesting opportunities ahead and we should all be looking forward to the next twelve months as SOMWS continues to grow.

Peter Baggaley

SOMWS - Chair