

SOMWS HISTORY

In the run up to the year end and having seen a significant growth in the number of SOMWS members, it is the right time to provide more insight and update on some of the background to SOMWS but also expand on the actions that we are taking on your behalf.

It is important in the first instance to remind our members why SOMWS was started and to reflect on the key instigator for the foundation of the Society.

Len Messenger, throughout his time in the insurance industry had overseen some of the biggest upstream books in the market. In 2002 Len Messenger, who as Chairman of the Survey and Engineering sub-committee of the Joint Rig Committee reached out to the MWS community challenging us to come together and form an association of Marine Warranty Surveyors. No mean feat given that the companies were constantly jockeying for pole position and market advantage.



Len had forty years of continuous service to the Insurance Markets and was continuously innovating, being responsible for the founding of the JRC Survey and Engineering Sub-Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Energy and Offshore Committee and on the executive committee of the International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI).

During this period Len Messenger had been approached by numerous clients, regarding concerns for the quality of the MWS and the wildly different qualifications observed by both region, scope, and by organization.

Unswerving in his belief that the formation of a representative body would support the delivery of Standards within the Marine Warranty Community, Len in close cooperation with the Engineering Sub Committee engaged the following companies to join the endeavor forming the Marine Warranty Surveyors Panel in 2002. The recommendation and aims of this panel were that MWS Surveyors should work to a minimum set of standards, establish guidelines for communication with underwriters, clarify the role of the MWS, and have an agreed approval criteria for MWS activities and accreditation of individual marine warranty surveyors

These original Founding Companies of the Marine Warranty Surveyors Panel included:

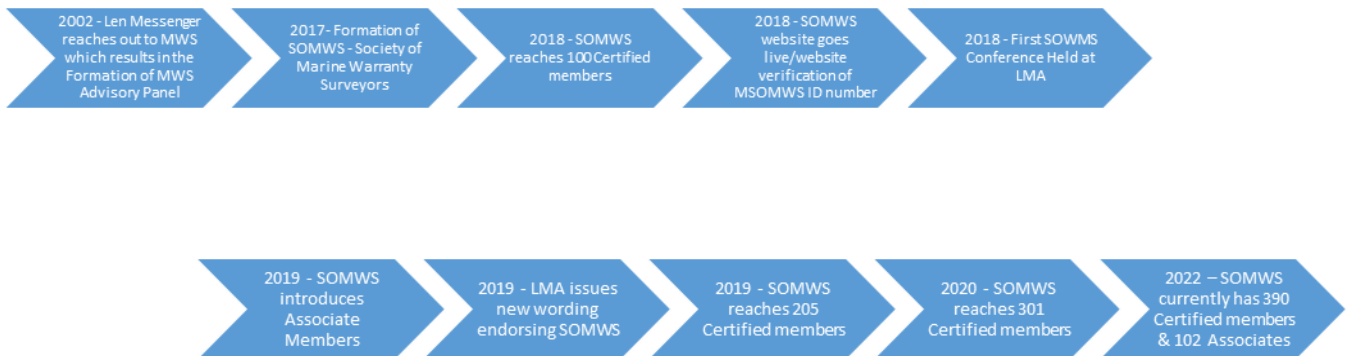
- Braemar Offshore (now part of ABL)
- GL- Noble Denton (now DNV)
- Global Maritime

The Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors, limited by guarantee, company number 11088739, registered in England & Wales

- London Offshore Consultants (now part of ABL)
- MatthewsDaniel (now part of BV)
- Joint Rig Committee

After much debate and a few false starts, SOMWS was officially registered in 2017, and has grown progressively during the past 5 years. Within that period companies have come and gone however, the work that Len placed into forming the Society has continued.

Sadly, Len never came to see the fruition of his efforts as, after a challenging battle with Cancer, he was taken from us in 2016. His legacy does however, live on each day in the standards that you set yourself and the safety and successful delivery of the projects that you work on. This Society aims to uphold his efforts and will support and guide those standards and in representation of the Marine Warranty Surveyor both within the insurance industry and with our clients and the contractors that engage with them.



SOMWS has moved on somewhat and now sits with an impressive 390 members and 102 associates, spanning all continents and being represented in 39 countries. No mean feat in 5 years and I am sure that Len would have enjoyed seeing how SOMWS has grown. Taking the industry with us so that the true professionalism and worth of the MWS is fully recognized is now our next challenge. There is no doubt that the industry is constantly evolving and the MWS is being asked to deliver more in a world where their experience can be unrecognized and undervalued. Following in Len's footsteps the board and the JNRC are working tirelessly to ensure that being part of the SOMWS is something that we can all be proud of.

Captain Stephen Norman, FSOMWS

Chairman

On behalf of the SOMWS Board.