

Welcome to our June 2025 newsletter!

What an eventful May we have had!

We had a wonderful SOMWS seminar and dinner, with incredible participation from MWS, Underwriters, Risk Engineers, Brokers and Lawyers. It was a very well-organized event, thanks to everyone who helped to turn the evening into a wonderful experience for the guests. Special thanks to our sponsors again,



Our Sponsors of the 2025 SOMWS Seminar and Dinner

With your help we can host events like this, helping to promote understanding between stakeholders for their individual challenges, raise awareness and find solutions.



Also in this month's newsletter, please let me bring one issue to your attention that was raised by our screening committee. Going through recent applications it has become clear that in some cases sponsors are signing off on applications where there is a clear lack of detail or evidence available to qualify for membership in some categories. Whilst we do not expect the sponsors to run through a screening process themselves, we expect more diligence in validating an individual's application. On the one hand this provides important feedback to the candidate, for example to increase the level of detail in a certain part of the application, but on the other it serves as something like a pre-screening filter, to not overburden the screening committee. Our head of screening, David Ballands, has shared his concerns and proposed solution in the article at the end of the newsletter. Please have a read, thanks!



Ekkehard Stade
Chair of the Board of Directors
askthechair@somws.org



MEMBERSHIP STATUS UPDATE

New members approved by the board - April 2025

| Membership Number | Name | Category |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 0759 | Stephen Robson | W |
| 0823 | Arunam Pillai | Р |
| 0825 | Kerolus Mankaryous | W |
| 0832 | Peter van der Meulen | R |
| A0537 | Johannes Swinkels | Associate |
| A0713 | Farid Teguh Prasetiawan | Associate |
| A0796 | Qin Guolong | Associate |
| A0829 | Mohamed Ismail MK | Associate |
| A0843 | Oleksiy Lisichenko | Associate |
| A0849 | Neil Villavicencio | Associate |
| A0851 | Andrew Clark | Associate |

Membership Base By Region

| Region | Full Members | Associate Members |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Africa | 9 | 9 |
| Asia | 141 | 43 |
| Australasia | 8 | 1 |
| Europe | 151 | 105 |
| Middle East | 37 | 27 |
| North America | 44 | 6 |
| South America | 17 | 4 |



Membership Base By Category

| Category | Number of members |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Oil & Gas Projects (P) | 306 members |
| Rigs (R) | 119 members |
| Renewables (W) | 87 members |
| Cargo (C) | 274 members |
| Associate | 195 members |



ANNUAL SOMWS SEMINAR AND DINNER



The group of guests

The evening was attended by close to 110 guests. The majority were MWS surveyors with many different areas of focus, expertise and experience levels. The feedback we received from this category was heartwarming. The majority felt the evening was a great opportunity to learn, exchange opinions and network. Similar feedback was received on the back of the event by the other stakeholders of the industry.

Personally, I felt that everyone was engaged, there was not a quiet moment throughout the whole evening, and it was heartwarming to see the lively discussions and debate especially during the dinner, where discussions were going on between table neighbours and opposites and further. This made for quite a noisy environment, but it felt great to be part of such an engaged crowd. I take part in many different events with several stakeholders of the maritime industry, but I must say the level of engagement during our seminar was not even closely matched in any of the others.

But let's look a little closer into the details of the event. Following a reception, we had our 2025 AGM. Several important updates have been communicated, all of which are detailed in the AGM papers which were circulated to the membership earlier. Amongst them is the announcement of a new director on the board of the society. Mr Pham Tuan Anh joins as by unanimous vote of the Board as of this month. He replaces Ian Stewart who, due to a change in profession has offered to step down from his position.





Annual General Meeting

We have also introduced a few new rules last year, details of which have been communicated.

The AGM really was a formality, and the main focus lies elsewhere. We had a very inspirational headline speaker in Chris Lemons. I am certain that there were more than just one in the audience getting very emotional about some of the contents of his presentation. The risks involved in what we have in an offshore day job was never better illustrated than through the sequence of events which unfolded and then being told by a survivor.

I think stories like Chris's put our engagement as MWS in a very important place and further illustrate that we are not just looking after valuable assets and the critical construction activities to put them in place, but more importantly also the safety of the personnel involved in those activities. I am sure to everyone in the audience it was a great opportunity to meet Chris and ask questions about his extraordinary story during the networking drinks and the dinner.





Chris Lemons keynote

We then moved on to a panel discussion, facilitated by our Vice Chair, Vishal Sharma. The topics he and his fellow panellists discussed were all immediate challenges to the MWS service offering, its value and sustained business model. They ranged from challenges through contract conditions, timing of appointment, change of MWS during a project's execution, through to remuneration and reward. The issues raised illustrated the level of risk our service is exposed to. The discussed solutions ranged from standard contracts for MWS, change of appointment model towards a direct to market service of MWS, standard rates etc. It would have been too much to expect a solid conclusion on these issues from the panel, but a clear message was that something must be done and that SOMWS must be the driver for this. The different points of view of the stakeholders provided significant food for thought and a good starting point for efforts going forward.













Panel Discussions

After the panel discussions we moved on to a drinks reception, with one formal activity associated with it: the annual awards ceremony.

I remember it was a particularly close decision by the Jury this year. This highlights that we have a wealth of experience in the industry (lifetime achievement) and also a lot of dedication, proactivity and motivation to go the extra mile by our members on the ground.

The lifetime achievement award was awarded to Ernest Wee, who is a figurehead in the industry and, not only in Asia. Congratulations again, Ernest!





Chris Lemons presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to Ernest Wee

The Len Messenger award 2025 was won by Plamen Dimkin. Plamen is not only recognized through his constant efforts to improve the MWS value and reputation but also through several engagements with official bodies to raise awareness of MWS activities. Well done Plamen!





Plamen Dimkin receives the 2025 Len Messenger award

And as this was not just a seminar, we also had a very nice dinner to round the evening off. The most notable thing for me during the dinner was the noise. That was a good thing I thought. It made conversations with your neighbour let alone opposites challenging, but it also highlighted that everyone was engaged in lively discussions, people were leaning across tables, changing seats and forming groups. Chris and I both observed this and were impressed with the way people actively interacted.











For any of you who attended, I am looking forward to receiving any feedback on the event. As we have experienced, after the seminar the planning for the next year's event practically starts just about now. Please send your feedback to either info@somws.org or askthechair@somws.org, Thank you. And also, a big thank you to our secretariat, Alison Cooper and Richard Frost, who supported the organizing of the event!





Richard Frost, SOMWS secretariat ringing the Britannia Bell



SPONSORING AND SCREENING OF MEMBER APPLICATIONS BY DAVID BALLANDS, HEAD OF SCREENING

Sponsoring SOMWS Full Member Applications

In recent months, the Society has been receiving some applications from prospective members who, whilst they may have good experience with marine and offshore matters (eg: DP, STS loading, ship surveys, OIMs, P&I, H&M, design engineering etc), do not have the necessary experience as an actual MWS approving operations in the field, which is required for full membership. Whilst the candidates themselves should be aware of these requirements, which can be found on the SOMWS website:



https://www.somws.org/full-member-apply/

So should SOMWS members who agree to act as sponsors for the candidates. Therefore, if you are approached to sponsor a candidate, please ensure that you refamiliarize yourself with the minimum requirements for membership and give the candidate's background, experience and application the appropriate level of scrutiny before signing off as their sponsor, to ensure that their application meets the minimum requirements for SOMWS membership. If, in your opinion, their application falls short, or they have misunderstood the requirements, please point out these issues to them so that they can revise their application accordingly. Please keep in mind that a key part of the application process is for candidates to demonstrate their experience / involvement as a MWS with marine operations requiring the signing of a Certificate of Approval, and that they should demonstrate an appropriate depth and breadth of experience in their chosen category or categories.

We are a society of Marine Warranty Surveyors, and as with any other professional body, a certain level of competency and experience in our stated profession is expected of candidates applying for Full Membership of the Society. This needs to be demonstrated in the application process and as existing SOMWS members we have an obligation to both the candidate and the Society to give appropriate scrutiny to their applications before signing off.