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THE STANDARD CLUB REPORTS STEADY RESULT FOR 2018/19

Strong investment returns, reserve releases and acquired assets underpin result

'A'-rated marine liability insurer, The Standard Club, has delivered a steady result for 2018/19. The club ended the year in robust financial health, with a strong balance sheet, improved risk profile and solid financial rating.

The club's investment portfolio performed well, achieving growth of 2.2% in difficult investment markets. The club also benefited from The Strike Club joining the Standard group on 1 February 2019, which brought an additional \$19 million of reserves.

Gains from the investment portfolio and The Strike Club offset a loss on The Standard Syndicate, following the decision to place the syndicate into run-off in October 2018.

Reserve releases on prior years have allowed the club to achieve an underlying combined ratio for the financial year of 100%.

Overall, free reserves reduced by 5.9% to \$435m. This is ahead of the position at the start of the 2017/18 policy year and means the club is well capitalised, with free reserves well in excess of regulatory and rating agency capital requirements.

Insured tonnage fell by 3% to 155mgt as a result of the club's focus on only insuring high quality operators. It declined to renew members which were unable to meet the club's expectations for first-class operating standards, or those which were not prepared to pay premiums that reflected their risk to the club.

Over the year the volume and value of claims increased significantly, marking the end of a prolonged benign claims market. There are also signs that insurance and reinsurance rates are beginning to harden, which is likely to feed through into future insurance premiums.

Jeremy Grose, Chief Executive, The Standard Club said:

"The Standard Club is in excellent financial health after what has been an eventful year. We have achieved some notable successes, including The Strike Club joining The Standard Club and reaching an agreement with Chinese insurer Ping An, to provide mutual and fixed premium P&I cover to Chinese shipowners. Other initiatives were less successful, and it was disappointing to pull out of underwriting at Lloyd's due to very tough underwriting conditions.

"We have also seen the end of the long benign claims market and it seems probable that claims, and as a result insurance and reinsurance premiums, will move upwards over the course of the year.



“The Standard Club has entered the 2019/20 underwriting year in a very strong position. We will work together with the members to ensure the club continues to deliver excellent value P&I insurance cover, financial security and market leading standards of service.”

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Note to Editors

About The Standard Club www.standard-club.com

The Standard Club is a mutual insurance association and member of the International Group of P&I clubs, owned by its shipowner members and controlled by a board of directors drawn from the membership. The club has been insuring shipowners, operators and charterers for their liabilities to third parties for over 100 years and insures about 10% of the world fleet. The Standard Club insures 155m gt of shipping and the active insurance companies have an S&P A rating. The club is managed by Charles Taylor plc group companies.

About Charles Taylor plc www.ctplc.com

Charles Taylor plc is a global provider of insurance-related technical services and solutions dedicated to enabling the global insurance market to do its business fundamentally better.

We have been providing insurance-related professional services and technological solutions since 1884. Today, we employ around 3,100 staff in around 120 locations spread across 30 countries in Europe, the Americas, Asia Pacific, the Middle East and Africa.

We are distinctive in our market in that our professional services and technological solutions support every stage of the insurance lifecycle and every aspect of the insurance operating model. For the Property & Casualty (P&C) insurance market, we handle all major commercial lines, along with the more technical areas of personal lines; we do so similarly for the life and health insurance markets.

The clients we support range from insurers – including corporates, mutuals, captives, MGAs, Lloyd's syndicates and reinsurers – to brokers, distributors and corporate insureds.

Our market-leading breadth of services and solutions, world-class technical expertise, extensive global presence and 100% focus on insurance means we can manage and resolve virtually any insurance-related matter, wherever and whenever it occurs.