

Staff spotlight



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Rupert Banks has been working at The Standard Club since 2010. He recently moved to Singapore to take up the role of Regional Claims Director.

What was your first job in the industry?

I started out as a solicitor and P&I club correspondent in Australia. I then joined The Standard Club as a claims executive in the offshore division.

What was it that interested you in P&I?

I was attracted by the importance of shipping as well as the international character of the maritime industry. Ships make the world go round, whether it be in terms of international trade or in exploiting and developing marine and offshore resources. P&I clubs play an integral part in that, ensuring that shipowners and charterers are protected against the significant liabilities that can arise from the operation of ships, so that they can trade.

What is your current job and how does it differ from your first job in the industry?

I am currently Regional Claims Director for Standard Asia. The main difference from my first job is that I have a much closer relationship with members. I am also now lucky enough to manage a team.

What is the most important thing a club can do for its members?

Find solutions for them. Clubs ultimately exist for their members and finding innovative ways in which to better protect and support the membership is fundamental, whether that be in handling a claim, providing advice or in offering an extended range of covers.

What is the highlight of your career?

There are several. However, one that sticks out in my mind is having the opportunity to work as a supernumerary on board a general cargo ship engaged in the coastal trade around Papua New Guinea. This enabled me to experience first-hand the issues and challenges that members and their crews face on a daily basis.

How do you think the industry has changed since you started working in it?

The regulatory environment, in both shipping and insurance, has changed considerably. In addition, the difficult economic conditions faced by most sectors of the shipping industry in recent years have resulted in a greater focus by both members and the club on finding better ways to resolve claims in a more cost-effective and efficient manner.