

Standard Bulletin

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Word from the Editor

We sometimes take it for granted that we live in a time when so much information is readily available. If knowledge is the accumulation of information, wisdom is knowing how to apply the information to make good decisions.

As the new editor of the *Standard Bulletin*, I will strive to bring you news and issues that are interesting, informative, that also guide good decision-making.

In this regard, each of the next seven editions of the *Standard Bulletin* will centre on one key P&I risk. This first edition will highlight cargo issues, following an analysis of claims data which revealed that cargo claims accounted for about half of the total number of claims received by the club between 2009 and 2014.

Niccole Lian's article on flat racks and indemnity provisions illustrates that one size does not, in fact, fit all. Contracts of carriage need to be reviewed periodically to ensure that the terms truly reflect changes over time in the practices and operations of the member.

Giorgio de Rosa offers his views on the new BIMCO Fumigation Clause which was launched in September.

Laura Atherton takes another look

at the obligations of owners and charterers to provide timely notice of claims to protect the time bar pursuant to the Inter-Club New York Produce Exchange Agreement, more familiarly known as the ICA.

Akshat Arora demystifies paper shortage claims in bulk cargo and offers some practical advice to prevent such occurrences, especially when discharge involves notoriously difficult ports.

This edition also looks in on the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe, which raises specific issues for shipowners. *Reuters*, quoting the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR, reported that a record 218,394 migrants entered Europe by sea in October 2015, which is roughly the same number as during the whole of 2014¹. Italian lawyers, Enrico Vergani and Chiara Falasco, provide their thoughts in a joint article which discusses the exposure to cargo claims that is faced by food carrier vessels from the presence of refugees on board ships.

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Our spotlight feature in this bulletin introduces Kate Butlin, Hull Underwriter from The Standard Syndicate.

We also highlight The Standard Club-sponsored debate on the future of London as the global shipping service centre at the London International Shipping Week in September. The debate featured luminaries

including the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and the newly elected President of the Singapore Shipping Association, Esben Poulsson.

I thank the authors for their contribution. Last but not least, as this is the last edition for 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



¹ *October's migrant, refugee flow to Europe roughly matched the whole of 2014, The Star Online*, accessed on 13 November 2015