

Awards

Quality is the key among awards contenders

With the Lloyd's List Maritime Excellence Awards just over a month away, Lloyd's List Editor **Julian Bray** (right) explains how this year's nominations reflect the growing stature of the event



ENTRIES for the Lloyd's List Maritime Excellence Awards 2003 underline the growth of the scheme from its inception as the Salute to Youth and Training. But, more than size, the nominations now being assessed by a distinguished panel of judges demonstrate that quality is the real driving force behind the industry's leading edge.

Marking the cream of operational and training standards, the awards have attracted glowing testimonials for household names and lesser-known companies or individuals united in their efforts to improve both performance and reputation.

The spotlight falls on them on Wednesday, February 12, when 350 guests will cruise the River Thames to see the champions of maritime theory and practice crowned at a gala dinner in the inspiring setting of the Painted Hall at the former Royal Naval College in Greenwich. Details of some of those nominated are given below.

Lloyd's List Ship Ownership and Operation Awards – Excellence in passenger shipping

Among candidates to succeed present holder George F Pouli des of Festival Cruises, market leader **Carnival Cruise Lines** celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2002 by commissioning its second Spirit-class vessel, **Carnival Pride**, and taking delivery of **Carnival Conquest** from Fincantieri.

Carnival's Genoa subsidiary **Costa Crociere** is nominated as operator of Europe's most modern cruise fleet – at present eight ships with capacity for 11,000 guests – with three new ships due in service by the end of 2004 for a total of 19,000 berths.

Norwegian Cruise Line, which christened **Norwegian Dawn** in December, is in contention for innovations typified by its Freestyle Cruising programme allowing guests to dine when, where and with whom they choose.

Aida Cruises is another contender after capturing a younger generation of cruise customers in the German speaking market with purpose-designed “club ships”.

Excellence in bulk-tanker shipping

Financial performance and consistent modernization despite difficult markets mark **Teekay Shipping's** claim for the award now held by Tankers International – underlined in December by the \$800m acquisition of Navion, which cemented its rank as the world's premier shuttle tanker operator and biggest tanker operator by number of ships.

BP Shipping, the oil major's tanker arm, is nominated for its huge newbuilding programme demonstrating the company's commitment to cleaner, safer seas, while **Bergesen** of Norway is also a contender for its expanding role in the transport of gas as one of the cleaner fuels of the future.

Excellence in liner shipping

Rivals to succeed Hapag-Lloyd for the TT Club-sponsored award feature some of the sector's major participants, with nominations including **Maersk Sealand** for its tailor-made operational and customer care solutions and **CP Ships** for a highly flexible management and marketing strategy which is consolidating financial community support following the company's bumpy flotation in late 2001.

Other contenders include **Mediterranean Shipping Company**, reflecting its investment in 15 post-panamax 6,650 teu ships, and **CMA CGM** following its joint venture with P&O Ports in the French container terminal sector and the takeover of Andrew Weir's shortsea services.

Alongside such mega-contenders, **Geest North Sea Line** the Rotterdam short sea operator, is cited for its innovative role in promoting a modal shift from road to sea, notably through the development of a 45 ft container matching the pallet capacity of 13.6 m road trailers.

In December, the company announced that from 2004 its Rotterdam-British east coast service will feature two new 804 teu ships, the biggest on the trade, which have been designed around the 45 ft concept in what is believed to be an industry first.

Excellence in shipmanagement

Lloyd's Register is sponsoring the award at present held by Piet Cremers of Anglo Eastern Ship Management. In a notable double, Hong Kong's **Fleet Management** is cited both as a company and in an individual nomination for managing director **K S Rajvanshy**.



Judges in the ship ownership-operation category are International Maritime Industries Forum chairman Jim Davis, Bimco president Michael Everard, IMO secretary-general William O'Neil and Lloyd's List editor Julian Bray.

IMO secretary-general William O'Neil pictured at last year's awards ceremony. This year he is a judge in the Ship Ownership-Operation category.

Lloyd's List Training Awards – excellence in commitment to training and education

The bid to emulate 2001 winner Mercantile Shipping Company as best supporter of maritime industry training promises to be one of the fiercest contests in the 2003 scheme.

Entries for the Germanischer Lloyd-sponsored award include Russian software specialist **Transas Eurasia** for simulation systems supplied to Finland's Meriturva Seafarer Educational Centre.



The Royal Naval College at Greenwich will host this year's glittering ceremony in the splendour of its Painted Hall.

The complex opened in October as one of several large-scale projects to repay former Soviet Union debt to European countries through high technology transfer.

British Maritime Technology, a leading engineering and technology consultancy, is nominated for a wealth of training programmes including work placements for school students, university bursaries and in-house professional development.

Container carrier **Evergreen** is cited for its Seafarer Training Centre, established in 1999 and recognized as one of the finest of its kind and now open to other companies, as well as for extending training facilities beyond Taiwan to Vietnam and the Philippines.

The **Shetland Islands Council marine operations department** earns support after instigating a far-reaching professional seafarer development programme for its inter-island ferry service, which until 1992 was crewed by largely unqualified personnel.

Individual contenders include **John Pritchett**, *safety instructor at the Hanseatic Marine Training School*, Cyprus, for his pilot role in computerizing teaching materials, **Patrick Hollis**, *hotel services director at P&O Ferries*, for the "Taking service forward" programme tackling staff recruitment and retention issues, **Jonathan Morley**, *honorary secretary of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects' London branch*, for work supporting professional development and **Capt Kenneth Barnett**, *founder-principal of the Vanuatu Maritime College*, for services to maritime training and job creation.

Excellence in the provision of training and education

Patrick Hollis and **Jonathan Morley** are also nominated as best training providers, an award last won by South Tyneside College in Britain.

They face competition from **Capt Orlando Allard**, *head of the Panama Canal training organization*, who has overseen the training of several hundred Panamanian towboat masters and pilots to replace the US work-force, and **Julian Parker**, *secretary of the Nautical Institute*, for his work in creating and implementing the **Nautical Campus**, an online education and career development resource.

Further contenders include the **Laird Foundation**, an education and enterprise facility established four years ago and now recognized by government as one of only two British centers of vocational excellence in marine engineering.

Det Norske Veritas and **Strathclyde University** are nominated for the provision of a British Ministry of Defence ship safety management course which has attracted delegates from navies worldwide.

Quality Maritime Services of Athens is also in contention for its Maritime Training Centre founded in 1997, which among other personnel has trained more than 1,200 officers for Celebrity Cruises.

Technological excellence in training

The award for systems and equipment which enable or enhance training and education was last awarded to Hongsberg Maritime Ship Systems.

Among present candidates, the **Panama Canal's Capt Allard** is further nominated for advocating and overseeing implementation of in-house simulator capability.

There is also another nomination for **British Maritime Technology**, in this instance for its **Saris search and rescue information system** which is used internationally not only as an operational tool but also as a training aid.

Seagull AS of Norway is cited for its **Onboard Training Library**, which not only boasts more than 80 titles but also features a unique pro-gress and assessment monitoring tool.

Globe Wireless, a leading US communications provider, is nominated for a **multi-lingual training CD** distributed with every new installation to provide easy to follow instructions for onboard user reference. **MGI International** of Canada is a further candidate with its **Dynamic Learning Portal**, which provides web-based technical, operational and regulatory training.

Training award judges are chaired by Julian Parker and also include Bimco's Michael Everard as well as Trevor Blakeley, chief executive of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, David Dearsley, secretary of the International Shipping Federation, Brian Orrell, Numast general secretary, Alan Phillips, director of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Keith Read, director general of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology and Len Tyler, chairman of the International Association of Maritime Universities.

Also at stake are the Lloyd's List-Nautical Institute Shipmaster of the Year Award, sponsored by Rio Tinto, and the US Coastguard Amver-assisted rescue at sea awards for 2001 and 2002.
