

Welfare Watch

LISW25 PANEL: MARITIME CHARITY PARTNERS SUPPORTING SHIPPING



**CAPTAIN KUBA
SZYMANSKI**
Headline Speaker



**CAPTAIN SIR IAN
MCNAUGHT**
Event Host



LOLA FADINA
Guest Speaker

PANELLISTS

CAROLINE JUPE

STUART RIVERS

NIKOS
MARMATSOURIS

LAURENCE BRADY

15TH SEPTEMBER

10.00 AM - 11.00 AM

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNERS



SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK TICKETS



Welcome back to our newsletter!

Welcome to the sixth edition of Welfare Watch!

Each month, I'm proud to share the latest updates from the Merchant Navy Welfare Board — celebrating achievements, recognising milestones, and highlighting the vital work of our members across the maritime sector.

With London International Shipping Week looming, we are excited to be a huge part of this year's event as an official charity partner, hosting a joint panel discussion;

Serving a Purpose – the vital role of maritime charities for the shipping industry

This event will bring together LISW25's four chosen charity partners: the International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF), Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MNWB), Project Connect, and the Sir Thomas Lipton Foundation. We are honoured to have our President, Captain Sir Ian McNaught, hosting the discussion, with Captain Kuba Szymanski as our headline speaker and Lola Fadina joining as guest speaker.

We are nearly at full capacity so to avoid disappointment book your tickets today.

I'm also delighted to share that our Deputy Chief Executive, Sharon Coveney, has been awarded the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service. Sharon is one of 12 British seafarers recognised on Merchant Navy Day for going above and beyond in their service to the maritime community.

September is also a time of reflection, as we remember and pay our respects to those who have lost their lives serving at sea, ensuring vital trade continues to flow in and out of our country.

Looking ahead, we're reopening the MNWB Annual Awards, with a dedicated celebration planned for early next year. We are also pleased to welcome a new member to our team, further strengthening our work to support seafarers.

Finally, it is with sadness that I share the news of the passing of our former Trustee and Chair, Peter McEwen. Peter's commitment and leadership left a lasting impact on the Board and the wider maritime welfare community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

Wishing you all the very best for the month ahead, and I look forward to seeing many of you at Shipping Week.

Stuart Rivers
MNWB Chief Executive

LAST CHANCE to book tickets for LISW25 event



Tickets for this year's charity partners' flagship panel discussion at London International Shipping Week (LISW25) are going fast.

Internationally-recognised mariner Captain Kuba Szymanski, who is the Secretary General of InterManager, will deliver the keynote speech at Serving a Purpose – the vital role of maritime charities for the shipping industry.

Lola Fadina, Director of Maritime at Department for Transport, will also be delivering a speech at this must-attend event, which takes place on Monday, September 15th from 10am to 11am at Norton Rose Fulbright (ground floor Design Lab).

This year's four chosen LISW25 charity partners - *The International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF)*, *Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MNWB)*, *Project Connect* and *the Sir Thomas Lipton Foundation* – will take to the stage for a powerful panel discussion that explores their vital role in keeping the shipping industry moving.

We are nearly at full capacity so to avoid missing out book your tickets today.

[Book tickets](#)

Medal honour for Deputy CEO



Our Deputy Chief Executive, Sharon Coveney, has been named a recipient of the prestigious Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service.

Commenting on receiving the highest medal of honour within the maritime sector for services to safety and welfare, **Sharon said:**

Sharon Coveney is among 12 British seafarers who have been unveiled as recipients of the award on Merchant Navy Day for going above and beyond the call of duty.

“I feel truly honoured to accept my nomination for the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service. Having begun my own career at sea and later working to support some of the most vulnerable in our communities, I have always carried with me a deep respect for the resilience and sacrifice of seafarers.”

[Learn More](#)

MNWB Annual Award nominations reopen



Nominations for MNWB Annual Awards have reopened until the end of November.

This extension gives more individuals the chance to be recognised for their exceptional service to seafarers and fishers across the sector. The awards will be presented at a standalone event at the start of 2026.

If there is anyone that you wish to nominate for the MNWB Annual Awards, click on the “find out more” button down below.

[Find Out More](#)

Merchant Navy Day Remembrance



September 3rd marked Merchant Navy Day - a day to remember and honour those who lost their lives at sea, and those who continue to keep major supply lines open.

Across the week, services were held nationwide for Merchant Navy Day to honour past and present seafarers.

Our team members attended ceremonies in Southampton, Gibraltar and London, where wreaths were laid on behalf of the MNWB by Deputy CEO Sharon Coveney, Chair Captain Andrew Cassels and Ambassador Neil Atkinson.

Remembering Peter McEwen



We are deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of Peter McEwen MNM, who died peacefully on Saturday 6th September at the age of 78, surrounded by his family.

Peter was elected an MNWB trustee in 1985, serving as Chair from 1994–2000 and remaining a trustee until 2004, before chairing the Seafarers Hospital Society (SHS) from 2010–2022. A champion of seafarers' welfare and a valued supporter of colleagues, his leadership and contributions will leave a lasting impact on both the MNWB and the SHS.

The thoughts of everyone at MNWB are with Peter's family and friends at this difficult time.

Rest in peace, Peter.

Seafarer Support is here to help



**Are you a serving or
retired UK Seafarer?**


0800 121 4765

Seafarer Support is a free confidential telephone and online referral service helping to support serving and former UK seafarers' and their families.

If you need advice or help with:

- ➔ Accommodation
- ➔ Training
- ➔ Support
- ➔ Health & Finance

[Find out more](#)

Member Feature

In each newsletter, we will be promoting our members in this section. If you want to share anything you have been up to, please don't hesitate to reach out and we can feature you.



The Guild of Benevolence of the IMarEST recently hosted "Unrest at Sea" in Westminster, highlighting seafarers' mental health challenges and fostering dialogue with the IMO, EU, and UK Government.

In February 2026, they will launch a dedicated mental health grant providing counselling support to marine engineers and their families, ensuring timely, practical assistance for those who serve at sea.

[More information](#)

Staff Spotlight - another new signing revealed



We are delighted that Nick Curtis has joined MNWB as Digital Marketing Officer, bringing his creativity and marketing expertise to support MNWB and its 47 members.

Nick previously worked as a Digital Communications Officer with County Football Associations and recently earned a BA in Digital Marketing from the University of Portsmouth.

With expertise in video and graphics creation, he will use his skills to enhance promotion of MNWB and its members.

[Meet the team](#)

Dates for your diary!



15th September

LISW25 charity panel discussion



15-19th September

LISW25 (only begins on 15th)



25th September

World Maritime Day



8th October

Annual National Service for Seafarers

[DONATE TO MNWB TODAY](#)



[View email in browser](#)

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)