

Welfare Watch



Welcome back to our newsletter!

Welcome to the latest edition of *Welfare Watch*.

One thing that has stood out to me over recent months is the extraordinary commitment shown by people across the maritime welfare community.

That commitment runs throughout this edition. We marked Merchant Navy Day, launched our new guide to help seafarers understand their rights and celebrated outstanding service across the sector.

We also followed MNWB Chair Andrew Cassels as he completed an impressive 208-mile cycle ride over two days in support of the Sailors' Children's Society, welcomed Hollie Harbinson into her new role and highlighted the important work of Safer Waves.

Another highlight was our bi-annual Port Welfare Conference, which brought together chaplains, volunteers, centre managers, charity leaders and Port Welfare Committee representatives from across the UK. The photograph of everyone gathered together perfectly captures the spirit of collaboration at the heart of the event and the wider maritime welfare community.

The conference gave colleagues an opportunity to share ideas, strengthen partnerships and focus on practical ways to improve support for seafarers. It was a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we work together.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to launch several exciting projects and partnerships this autumn, including new initiatives focused on seafarers' health and wellbeing. We will also continue championing the vital welfare services provided by our members across the UK and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of MNWB and the invaluable work of our members.

I hope you enjoy the read.

Stuart Rivers
MNWB Chief Executive

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Sector unites at Port Welfare Conference



Chaplains, volunteers, centre managers, CEOs and Port Welfare Committee representatives from across the UK came to the Royal Maritime Hotel over two days this month for our bi-annual Port Welfare Conference.

Delegates explored key issues including seafarer health and wellbeing, port welfare accreditation and future priorities for the sector. The conference provided an

opportunity to share best practice, strengthen partnerships and celebrate the impact being made across the maritime welfare community.

Among the highlights was the announcement of an exciting new partnership with Prostate Cancer UK, due to launch this autumn, which aims to improve seafarers' health and wellbeing.

The event provided a powerful reminder of the dedication, expertise and collaboration that underpin welfare support for seafarers across the UK.

View the photos from the event in our online gallery below.

[View the photos](#)

Chair completes epic charity cycle ride



MNWB Chair Andrew Cassels pedalled an incredible 208 miles in just two days as part of the gruelling Bridge2Bridge Challenge in support of the Sailors' Children's Society (SCS).

Riding from the Dartford Crossing to the Humber Bridge, Andrew and fellow riders battled the elements and covered hundreds of miles to help raise vital funds for the children and families of seafarers and fishers facing hardship.

The challenge has so far raised an outstanding £40,000, with Andrew personally contributing more than £3,000 thanks to the generosity of supporters.

There's still time to support Andrew's challenge and help SCS - who are a member of MNWB - continue its vital work with seafaring children and families facing hardship.

Make a donation today.

[Support Andrew](#)

Respects paid on Merchant Navy Day

MNWB marked Merchant Navy Day by attending commemorative events in Gibraltar, Southampton and London, joining the maritime community in honouring the men and women of the Merchant Navy.

The events paid tribute to the service and sacrifice of former seafarers while recognising the vital contribution today's merchant mariners make to global trade, economic prosperity and everyday life.

It was a fitting opportunity to reflect on the proud history of the Merchant Navy and celebrate its continuing importance.



Maritime champions receive award



Longstanding Tyne Port Welfare Committee member Laurence Gaynor was named among the recipients of this year's Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service.

Recognised as the highest medal of honour in the UK maritime sector, the Merchant Navy Medal celebrates individuals who have gone above and beyond in their service to the Merchant Navy and wider maritime community.

Laurence was one of eleven recipients recognised this year for their outstanding dedication and contribution.

Stuart Rivers, Chief Executive of MNWB, said:

"Many congratulations to Laurence and all of this year's recipients of the Merchant Navy Medal. Each year we see the very best of the UK's maritime community recognised for their service, and this year is no different."

The recipients will be presented their medals at the Merchant Navy Medal ceremony later this year.

[Read the story](#)

New pocket guide for seafarers

MNWB has published a new guide to help seafarers better understand their rights at sea.

Launched on World Maritime Day, *Everything You Need to Know But Were Frightened to Ask!* provides a clear and practical explanation of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006, often described as the seafarers' bill of rights.

The 52-page guide covers key topics including employment conditions, wages, accommodation, medical care, welfare support and repatriation.

[Read the press release here](#)



[Download the guide](#)

Staff Spotlight: Hollie starts new role

We're pleased to announce that Hollie Harbinson has recently been promoted from Executive Assistant to Business Support Manager.

Talking of the appointment, MNWB Chief Executive Stuart Rivers said:

"Since joining the Board, Hollie has shown that she's incredibly adaptable and able to turn her hand to many new areas - including getting the most from AI. Among other things, in her new role Hollie will use her skills to help us focus on our strategic priorities for the next five years."



Member Feature: New training programme to help seafarers who have suffered sexual abuse at sea



A new national training programme designed to help welfare responders support seafarers affected by sexual violence and harassment is set to be rolled out across the UK, thanks to funding from MNWB and The TK Foundation.

Delivered by Safer Waves, the specialist training will equip ship visitors, welfare staff and volunteers with the skills and confidence to respond appropriately when a seafarer discloses abuse.

The programme will initially be delivered through MNWB's network of Port Welfare Committees and the National Seafarers' Welfare Board in Gibraltar.

The initiative aims to strengthen safeguarding, improve support pathways and help create a safer maritime sector for all.

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