

CAPTAIN'S LOG

Fox gets away

FEWER and fewer maritime industry denizens can tell first-hand tales about the way it used to be back in the early 1960s, when the power of personality was greater than today.

One such personality is Dan Fox. Worldwide giant Inchcape Shipping Services hosted a party last week at Manhattan's Waldorf Hotel to celebrate the retirement of this consummate maritime industry professional with a superb dinner and drinks in the famed Empire Room.

Fox's career began as telex operator with a Greek shipowner when President John Kennedy was still in office. He has risen steadily through the ranks and retired as commercial VP in Inchcape's New York/New Jersey office.

His blend of people skills and business knowledge came shining through as he addressed the gathering, which was attended by dozens of clients and a high-level delegation from Inchcape (in town for a management conference).

Inchcape's CEO Claus Hyldager and its worldwide commercial director Rodney Lunn paid tribute to Fox's skills in handling a demanding group of customers in a rapidly changing business environment.

And the many present and former clients from the big liner companies, tanker and drybulk operators, seemed to agree, giving Fox a standing ovation.

The number of people who turned out on what was the coldest night of the winter told its own story about the regard in which Fox was held. He is leaving the cold behind, retiring to a community in the more temperate climates of North Carolina.

But he is not leaving shipping behind. He will be living "very near to the big ports down there", he told his guests. Inchcape may have officially said goodbye to Fox, but no doubt it has not seen the last of him yet.

The Panama Canal will be too EXPENSIVE



Four industry organisations have expressed concern about the toll increases proposed by the Panama Canal Authority. The **International Chamber of Shipping** – backed by **Bimco**,

Intertanko and **Intercargo** – noted that official proposals originally estimated jumps of 3.5% per year over two decades, but the actual proposals are 26-34% over the first three years.

The Panama Canal will be too CHEAP



California will lose much of its advantage over Panama in 2015 because the canal's lower costs after its expansion plan is completed

will outweigh the longer delivery time to the US East Coast. Analyst Andrew Penfold, director of Ocean Shipping Consultants, told

the **Trans-Pacific Maritime** conference that "the wind is beginning to change for Californian ports".

A tough act to follow

ROBIN Middleton (pictured on the right) steps down in April as the UK secretary of state's representative (SOSREP) for marine salvage and intervention and there are no obvious replacement candidates for a job he has made his own.

Middleton's contribution to the salvage sector has been so greatly appreciated that he was awarded what looked like an Oscar in a diving suit at the International Salvage Union's Associate Members' Day in London last week.

ISU president Hans van Rooij said the SOSREP system "works as we would like it to be all over the world" and revealed that the executive committee has appointed Middleton its first honorary member.

As befits all Oscar winners, Middleton thanked the salvors for allowing him "into the company of people I used to hero-worship ... that's all I ever needed."



However, he stopped short of thanking his mother and wife.

The search is now on for a successor. Måns Jacobsson (seen on the left), former director of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, was also honoured at the event.

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