

# UK Branch Meeting 2016

The following five motions were tabled at the meeting.

1. Medical equipment on UK ships
2. Relocation of Warsash Maritime Academy
3. Gender specific health and safety at sea
4. Seafaring jobs offshore
5. Proposed MCA fees increases



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## Motions

These motions were adopted and remitted at the UK branch conference 2016.

### Adopted

#### 1. Medical equipment on UK ships

The Fifth UK Branch Conference of Nautilus International in Cardiff on 4th October 2016.

This UK Branch Conference calls for all UK ships to be supplied with resuscitators and defibrillators in addition to carrying specialist enclosed space rescue equipment and provide training in their use.

#### UK Branch Committee motions for Nautilus UK Branch Conference 2016

#### 3. Gender specific health and safety at sea

The Fifth UK Branch Conference of Nautilus International in Cardiff on 4th October 2016.

Recognises that the maritime industry is still a largely male-dominated industry and the increasing

number of UK female officers should not have to face barriers associated with any aspect of health and safety at sea.

Notes that much of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available is still manufactured to traditional specifications meaning it is often the wrong shape for females.

#### Calls for:

- Suppliers of PPE to address the needs of the growing female workforce by designing and supplying PPE that is fit for purpose and designed specifically for female seafarers
- Employers to conduct a thorough analysis and risk assessment of all PPE and emergency equipment in use on-board to ensure that all persons using such equipment are able to do so safely
- Increased recognition from employers of gender specific health and safety issues and the actions that can be taken to mitigate them and, as a result, the creation of a safety culture where nobody is disadvantaged in the workplace.

## 4. Seafaring jobs offshore

The Fifth UK Branch Conference of Nautilus International in Cardiff on 4th October 2016.

### **This Branch conference**

Notes with extreme concern the ongoing and devastating impact the decline in the oil price has had on the employment of seafarers in the UK offshore sector.

The conference notes that oil and gas companies have made large number of redundancies over the past year and hundreds of seafarers' contracts have not been renewed, and this has led to the loss of the high skills needed to operate offshore supply, emergency response and rescue, sub-sea exploration and construction vessels in the North Sea.

Commends the work of the organising department in working to save as many jobs as possible and in resisting the worst of the cuts to members terms and conditions;

Notes also the work done to coordinate efforts with other unions via the Offshore Coordinating Group but is concerned that the current downturn is predicted to last at least until 2017, if not into 2018 and therefore more job losses and cuts may be still to come.

### **Calls for:**

■ the Union to continue its efforts to work with other unions active in the sector nationally, regionally and internationally to enhance support for North Sea seafarers and resist commercial pressures that could erode safety standards, reduce employment and training levels, and impact on hours of work and rest and leave entitlements.

■ Furthermore calls upon the Union to continue to press the Government to adopt measures to protect UK offshore seafaring skills and experience in the offshore sector, to ensure that the UK continental shelf is not exposed to unfair competition and social dumping.

## 5. Proposed MCA fees increases

This conference condemns the mis-judged and mis-timed proposals announced by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency barely a fortnight ago for significant increases in the majority of UK seafarer certification fees.

Conference notes that whilst an average increase of 20% has been put forward for seafarer training and certification charges, some fees will rise by more than fourfold.

Conference further notes that, in contrast, the MCA is proposing reductions in the cost of examination fees for Certificates of Equivalent Competency.

Conference is further concerned at the limited timescale for the consultation on these proposals and is strongly critical of the Agency's failure to provide any justification for reducing the consultation period. Conference additionally regrets the lack of prior consultation, involving direct talks, that was an important feature of the 2005/6 Fees Review and believes that talks should now take place with the social partners as a matter of urgency.

Conference considers that these proposals will result in a marked additional financial burden for many seafarers - and especially those who receive no support from employers towards professional training and certification costs.

Conference further believes that the MCA's proposals run counter to the government's Maritime Growth Study recommendations for increasing UK seafarer employment and training. Similarly, reducing costs for CEC applicants will further fuel the increase in foreign officers who may undercut their UK counterparts.

Conference therefore calls upon Nautilus to use every opportunity to oppose these proposals and to alert politicians to their potentially damaging effects. Conference also calls upon the MCA to defer plans for any increases in seafarer certification fees until a proper impact assessment is conducted and appropriate dialogue with the social partners has been carried out.

## Remitted

### 2. Relocation of Warsash Maritime Academy

The Fifth UK Branch Conference of Nautilus International in Cardiff on 4th October 2016.

This UK Branch Conference opposes the decision of Southampton Solent University to relocate the Warsash Maritime Academy to Southampton City Centre and urges Nautilus International to seek the necessary influential support to protect the future of the Warsash Maritime Academy on its present site, together with its International Maritime Training Reputation and our Merchant Navy heritage.