



## **BIMCO CHIEF DOCUMENTARY AFFAIRS OFFICER LECTURES AT IMLI**

Mr. Grant Hunter (BIMCO Chief Documentary Affairs Officer) visited the Institute on 2 December 2011. On this occasion Mr. Hunter delivered a lecture on “BIMCO’s Documentary Work” to the class of 2011/2012.

During his lecture, Mr. Hunter explained that “BIMCO is the world’s principal organization responsible for the development of standard maritime contracts and clauses. The essence of BIMCO’s work is to produce well balanced contracts and clauses that provide clarity, consistency and certainty to the end users through the harmonization of contractual terms and conditions. Many of the contracts produced by BIMCO over the past century have become industry standards, used exclusively in many trades. Examples are the GENCON voyage charter party, the BARECON bareboat charter and the SHIPMAN ship management agreement. The Organization views its documentary work as a cornerstone of its trade facilitation activities and, in many respects, it is the activity for which BIMCO is best known and the one that sets it apart from other maritime trade associations. It is BIMCO’s belief that a consistent approach to the development of shipping documentation helps to minimize the likelihood of charter party and other contractual disputes arising in the first instance.”

Mr Hunter further explained the actual process of developing and publishing a BIMCO standard contract – who was involved, how long did it take and how much did it cost. He ended the presentation with a discussion about the impact of information technology on charter parties and how technology may impact on the way future charter parties and standard contracts are developed and used in the future.

Commenting on his visit to IMLI, Mr Hunter said “It is always a great pleasure to have the opportunity to come to speak to the students at IMLI and tell them about BIMCO and the work we do developing standard contracts for the shipping industry. The students always take a great interest in our work and this year’s Class was no exception. The students all come from a variety of backgrounds and are very experienced in their own fields, so it is always a great experience to talk with them about their own perceptions of the industry”.



*Mr. Grant Hunter meeting students of the Class of 2011/2012*

Mr. Grant Hunter is Chief Documentary Affairs Officer at BIMCO, responsible for the development, revision and promotion of BIMCO's standard contracts and clauses. Recent projects include the development of BIMCO's Standard Shipbuilding Contract, NEWBUILDCON, the revision of the widely used SHIPMAN Standard Shipmanagement Agreement, and the development of two new voyage charter parties – one for the heavy lift sector and one for the chemical tanker parcel trades. He has worked for BIMCO since 1997. Previous careers include five years at sea with the Ben Line and eight years working ashore in the commercial and operations department of P&O Bulk Shipping in London. Mr. Hunter has a Masters Degree in Maritime Policy and Law from the London School of Economics.

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