

## NI CEO visit - the future of the maritime industry

→ On the evening of 2 July more than 40 members gathered to hear Captain John Lloyd FNI talk about the work of The Nautical Institute and give his views on how the industry is likely to develop in the near future. This was an excellent turnout considering that many members were away over the National Day holiday, and it was encouraging to see a number of cadets and trainees in the audience.

John started with a reminder of his previous visit, which coincided with the riots in Hong Kong, and recalled how the branch managed to stage a successful AGM despite the difficulties.

He described the present state of the industry as 'a world of opportunities and diversity' and pointed out that shipping is fundamental to the success of humanity and is staffed by outstanding individuals. He underlined his belief that the UN Sustainable Development Goals offer new opportunities, and stressed the importance of the work which the NI is now doing with the fishing industry.

We live in a time of rapid change, particularly in areas such as digitalisation and emission controls, which will have a profound impact on future operations, and John emphasised that solutions must be driven by maritime



experts, not technocrats. Realistic solutions with realistic timelines are vital, and the industry is best placed to implement such solutions. As an example, he cited The Nautical Institute's work in developing a new training curriculum for future fuels, which has since been launched.

Asking how technology can be used to enhance safety, John referred to the Ocean

Project, which seeks to optimise equipment use and design to better serve human needs at sea. Sensible use of technology allows us to help each other to make shipping safer. We should be assisted by the technology so that we do not simply have to learn from casualties but have a better chance of preventing them.

For the younger people entering the industry, John discussed the various interesting career pathways which are opening up. He emphasised that, while The Nautical Institute is a global body, the issues can be slightly different in different regions, so the sharing of information by our branch network is vital.

He concluded with a recap of the aims of the NI, and discussed our growing membership numbers and branch network.

This was an upbeat presentation which put people firmly at the centre of things, with technology in a vital supporting role. John's enthusiasm and optimistic prognosis will have inspired our younger members in particular, but even seasoned old sea dogs were delighted to hear so much common sense being spoken. Lively discussions continued over food and drinks well into the evening.

**Alan Loynd FNI**