

NEWSLETTER

The Workboat Association Newsletter

Thanks to This month's sponsor, UK P&I Club



Title picture - All of our Members and Guests gathered together for the WA AGM Dinner.

Welcome to our members who have joined since Seawork 2025...

- CE Marine LTD
- B&K Experience Generosity LTD
- North Star Shipping
- Lochnell Oysters & Algae Farm
- Seafield Navigation LTD
- Braeside Marine LTD
- Nauticworx.com B.V.
- Port of Mostyn
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Bibby Marine Finance LTD
- The USV Group
- Manor Marine
- Iron Fist Cranes UK
- Pembrokeshire Boat Charters
- Yamaha Motor Europe - Branch UK
- Shearwater Marine Services
- RINA UK Limited

AGM Recap

This month, we held our AGM at Oulton Hall. Thank you to all attendees for their participation and positive feedback on the informative talks.

Day 1 featured a Golf Day with Marcus Ling of Windcat winning the trophy, followed by our inaugural informal dinner. Day 2 included a Training Workgroup and the AGM, along with "Get Set for Workboats 2050" and talks from sponsors and guests. The evening dinner featured a presentation by Chris Lemons, who survived 40 minutes without oxygen in the North Sea. Day 3 concluded with Safety and Technical Workgroups, networking, and a presentation on making hydrogen.

At the AGM we also said goodbye to some key contributors to the organisation. And we would again like to say thank you to Danielle Metcalfe, Gareth Bonner and Matthew Winney

Special thanks to our sponsors: UK P&I Club, Damen, Siemens Financial Services, Green Marine (UK) Ltd, Charity & Taylor, and Channing Lucas & Partners Ltd.

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**CLICK HERE TO
WATCH OUR
AGM RECAP**

THE WA, BTA & UKPMA Joint Gog Rope Document Release

The Workboat Association are proud to have collaborated with industry partners to deliver this guidance document. Detailing clear and practical recommendations that will help safeguard crews and improve future operational standards across the conventional towage sector. This guidance reflects a shared industry commitment to reducing risk, raising awareness, and ensuring that industry has access to shared best practice, irrelevant of commercial relation. Safety is at the foundation of nearly every decision made afloat, and this document plays an important part in providing the knowledge to help those decisions be made effectively.

Click [HERE](#) to have a read of the document.

ITS 2026 Gothenburg Press Releases

The 28th International Tug & Salvage Convention (ITS 2026) will take place on 19–21 May 2026 in Gothenburg, Sweden, bringing together global leaders in tug, towage, and salvage. The event features technical presentations, an industry exhibition, and the prestigious ITS Awards celebrating innovation and excellence across the sector.

To Read Event News Click [HERE](#)

Funding Opportunities

New and ongoing funding streams are available to support innovation, sustainability, and growth across the UK's maritime industry. These opportunities aim to help businesses and organisations develop cleaner technologies, strengthen skills, and enhance competitiveness within the sector.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more.

Marine Safety Alerts - Line of Fire

Line of fire injuries occur when a person is struck by moving objects or hazardous energy, and they remain the leading cause of lost time injuries among IMCA marine contractor Members in 2024, accounting for 52% of cases. This month, the Marine Working Group highlights key tools and resources to help reduce these incidents, including Learning Event Bulletins, Safety Alerts, and dedicated Line of Fire and Hands and Fingers safety portals. They also promote the Assist & Assure program, which supports proactive risk identification and safer work execution. For more information or to join the Marine Working Group, contact marine@safertogogether.com.au.



ITS 2026
GOTHENBURG

In association with
CATERPILLAR

The 28th International
Tug & Salvage
Convention,
Exhibition & Awards

19-21 May 2026 | Gothenburg, Sweden

Supporting organisation

wa
The Workboat Association

Book your conference
ticket here!

**EARLY BOOKING RATE
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

24 Peaks Challenge 2026

Ready to embrace an epic challenge in 2026 for a good cause?

Push your limits in support of seafarers and their families who man our ships on July 5-6. The 24 Peaks Challenge is The Seafarers' Charity's flagship fundraising event. Hosted for nearly 20 years, at the UNESCO World Heritage site of England's Lake District, they are inviting teams from all sectors of the maritime industry to elevate seafarers' safety and welfare. There are three route options, Bronze (7 Peaks), Silver (21 Peaks) or Gold (24 Peaks), catering for all endurance levels.

Sign up as a team [HERE](#)

For further information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Temi Binitie at Temi.Binitie@theseafarerscharity.org



24 Peaks Challenge
4–5 July 2026

Rise to the challenge
Raise vital funds
Own the 24 Peaks

2 days, 33 miles, 13,000 ft ascent
(7 and 21 Peaks options also available)

the seafarers' charity

24 PEAKS CHALLENGE

To find out more and register, please scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/24peaks2026

What did the Budget ever do for us?

In short: This year's Budget did not deliver anything specifically for small commercial vessels, but it set the stage for indirect benefits via ports and "green infrastructure" investments. The challenge will be ensuring the small vessel industry is not overlooked in its implementation.

Yesterday's UK Budget (26 November 2025) offered limited measures for maritime. But indirectly it did include port investment zones, energy transition incentives, and operational cost pressures.

- Industrial Strategy Zones & Port Investment
 - New Industrial Strategy Zones in Wales and Scotland, plus co-investment in Northern Ireland, include port and logistics infrastructure.
 - This could mean improved facilities and funding streams for harbour upgrades, which directly benefit workboat operators through better access, maintenance, and energy supply points.
- Energy Transition & Decarbonisation
 - The Budget reaffirmed commitments to green growth and local energy investment. While not vessel-specific, this aligns with ongoing support for electrification and alternative fuels.
 - Small Commercial Vessels may be able to benefit from grants or tax relief tied to clean energy adoption, especially if linked to port-based battery swap or hydrogen bunkering schemes.
- Operational Costs & Taxation
 - Negatively: Rising corporation tax and reduced financial allowances could squeeze margins for small businesses further.
 - Fuel duty remained unchanged and no new relief was offered for marine gas oil or biofuels

Vision for a new Maritime Innovation Hub for Scotland

Scottish Enterprise is running a feasibility study for a potential Scottish Maritime Innovation Hub and is seeking input from maritime sector stakeholders.

The hub would support the maritime sector and wider supply chains in adopting new technologies, connecting industry, academia, logistics and technology to drive trade, safety, sustainability and innovation.

Your views are needed to help shape the best model. Please review the attached Scottish Maritime Innovation Hub overview, click [HERE](#) and complete the short survey which closes 7 November.

Feedback will help assess innovation needs, expected value, management models, and key challenges. Please also feel free to share the survey within your network.

Results will be published, with further events later this year. For survey access issues, contact niels.van.kouwen@haskoning.com.

UKMPA News Release - Interactive Poster Supporting New SOLAS V/23 Pilot Transfer Compliance

UKMPA supports the new SOLAS V/23 requirements, strengthening global standards for safe pilot transfer. All vessels are urged to review pilot ladder arrangements and ensure full compliance.

Read the Press Release [HERE](#)

Vessels Contracting Training Day - 8th December

This is the last call for members to sign up to our Vessel contracting training day.

This year features a one-day legal training by Stephenson Harwood LLP, focusing on time and bareboat charterparties in the Small Commercial Vessel sector, providing practical legal insights for members.

The More members that attend the event the less you will have to pay. We aim for the cost to be less than £200 per person that attends.

WHERE: Stephenson Harwood LLP, 1 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 7SH.

WHEN: Monday 8th December, Starting at 9.30am and finishing around 5.30pm.

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the event.

Sync up your Calendars

Don't forget to get your calendars synced up for all of our latest events and workgroup meetings.

Click [HERE](#) To View and Sync your Calendar.

New MCA Guidance: The Port Marine and Facilities Safety Code

The Port Marine and Facilities Safety Code is applicable to both Statutory Harbour Authorities and to other marine facilities which may not have statutory powers and duties.

The Code is endorsed by the UK Government, devolved administrations and representatives from across the maritime sector and while the Code is not mandatory, these bodies have a strong expectation that anyone who manages ports and other marine facilities will incorporate the relevant requirements of the Code into their safety management and other systems.

The following information provides the PMSC compliance requirements for the period 2026- 2028. Every three years the Duty Holder of Statutory Harbour Authorities (SHAs), private ports, and other marine facilities is requested to make a declaration to the MCA confirming their organisation's PMSC compliance.

See here: [MIN 641 \(M\) Amendment 1 Navigation: ports and marine facilities safety code compliance submission for 2026-2028](#)

Workgroup Corner

We are excited to launch this segment of our newsletter to keep everyone informed about the latest happenings within our Workgroups. These groups were established to unite industry professionals to discuss various aspects of the maritime sector, focusing on Training, Technical, and Safety elements.

Recently, all our Workgroups convened during the AGM. The recording and minutes of each meeting will be accessible on WA On Demand in the coming weeks. We will send out an email notification once they are ready for viewing, so please keep an eye out for that.

We Would like to say thank you to Shaun Mansbridge for his time as Co-Chair of the Safety workgroup, his input has been invaluable.

The Training Workgroup is currently seeking a new focus area. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please reach out to Chris.Floyd@scottishseafarms.com and/or sgutherless@outlook.com

Want to Spread the Word

You could be the next Feature Friday or the Get To Know in the newsletter. It could be even simpler - like a photo to feature on the front page. If you have anything that you think will be of interest to our members and your colleagues - please let us know by sending an email to h.johnson@workboatassociation.org

Get to Know...

We don't have a Get to Know this month. But if there are any new members willing to partake please send an email to h.johnson@workboatassociation.org

WhatsApp Community

If you would like to join the WA's WhatsApp community please send an email to Lys - l.johnson@workboatassociation.org including your mobile number and an invite will be sent to your phone. The community has separate groups for all your workgroups and subgroups - if you would like invites to these as well please let Lys know.

Glover Safety Poster

The Safety Workgroup recently hosted a presentation by the team from Traffi. We have gathered the insights shared by them and compiled it into an informative poster.



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DOWNLOAD

News from our Stakeholders

- Click [HERE](#) for the PSS Newsletter
- Click [HERE](#) for the MSA Newsletter
- Click [HERE](#) for the IMCA Newsletter
- Click [HERE](#) for the IIMS News Bulletin
- Click [HERE](#) for the Seafarers' Charity Newsletter
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