



## SFPC goes to the dogs.....



A very exciting night was had by SFPC the new Limerick Greyhound Stadium Friday 19th November. We enjoyed a delicious meal, placed a few bets (some winners & some losers) and danced until the early hour of the morning.

## RETIREMENTS

### SEAMUS MORONEY

Seamus retired on the 30th of September 2010 after 5 years of service with SFPC as a crane driver in our Foynes facility. Seamus was a dedicated member of the Port Services team whose calm and measured approach to his daily tasks made him a pleasure to work with. We wish him well during his retirement where no doubt he will be working hard on reducing his golf handicap!

### JOHN MONAGHAN

John retired from LCH in October after 8 years of service with LCH. John proved to be a valuable member of the LCH team during the last number of years and his commitment to getting the job done in all conditions was always noteworthy. We wish him well in his retirement.

*Congratulations to  
Brian O'Malley and  
Sinead Nash  
on their recent engagement!*

### MIKE CARMODY

Mike joined SFPC as a crane driver on the 1st of October having previously operated as an independent crane contractor in TRD. Mike brings with him over 20 years of crane driving experience to the crane drivers team and we wish him well in his new appointment. Mike's appointment brings the crane operations in Foynes and TRD under the direct control of SFPC for the first time. This appointment enhances our flexibility to the customer in both facilities and bodes well for the future.



**Harbour Flights test flights and demonstration of Seaplane, Foynes, 19th November 2010**

### Coffee Morning

On 16th September Shannon Foynes Port Company held a coffee morning in aid of Milford Hospice. It was run in conjunction with Bewleys who supplied us with coffee for the day. The catering on the other hand was looked after by the ladies of SFPC who pulled out all the stops and produced a fantastic spread. From rice krispie buns to coffee cake there was something to satisfy any taste! Foynes Yacht club supplied the tables, mugs, spoons, forks and a burco boiler which were a fantastic help to us on the day. It was really well supported by the local port users and people from the village but a special mention must be given to Michael Gallagher from Burkes Shipping Group who made a few phone calls on our behalf which greatly improved the attendance figures!!! The total amount raised for Milford Hospice was €1,120.



**MV Ternholm arriving in Foynes on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

significant portion of our customer base is within the energy and agricultural sectors which are insulated to a degree from the collapse in consumer spending..

As mentioned in previous editions, the Port Company has introduced significant cost reductions and process reorganisations in the recent past enabling us to deliver a more flexible, efficient and competitive service to our customers. Given the increased

competitive environment, in terms of price and service delivery, it is vital that we continue to increase our competitiveness in order to just hold what we have. Furthermore, while the Company has performed well against it peers in recent years there are many other challenges ahead, such as upgrading quay infrastructure projected cost €20m, the funding of pension deficits of €12m together with ongoing debt funding. Therefore, ongoing vigorous cost management is vital if we are to improve our market standing and if we wish to succeed in the aim of fully

utilising the opportunities the Shannon Estuary presents.

While the short term will remain challenging, the medium to long term outlook is very promising for the Company. There are several, privately funded, large scale projects, with a total investment value of in excess of €600m at feasibility stage intending to locate on the Shannon Estuary. Recently, for example, the new €30m AFSC oil terminal at Foynes was commissioned.

This terminal firmly places Foynes on the map as being strategically important in Ireland's future oil distribution sector. With regard to the other projects alluded to, commercial sensitivities prevent me from being prescriptive. However, our policy of working closely with the other agencies such as IDA and Shannon Development, to enable us connect with targeted international investment opportunities should be extremely beneficial in generating future business for the Company. Strangely enough, it is not funding that will deter the realisation of future projects, but the self imposed bureaucratic hurdles of the Irish State, particularly in the areas of foreshore and environmental compliance. SFPC continues to lobby for change in the critical areas.

We had a number of firsts in the last six months. During October the MV "Sibulk Prosperity", with a Gross Tonnage of 33,922 tonnes, arrived at Foynes, becoming the largest bulk vessel to berth there. Also in October we had the first tanker, MV Hellespont Centurion, with a Gross Tonnage of 11,551 tonnes, to service the AFSC Oil Terminal where she was also the largest tanker ever on the West Coast to discharge clean oils. These vessels signify the importance of the port to the region not only as a facilitator of trade, but also as a centre of economic activity and hence employment generation.

Finally, given that this is the last edition before Christmas, I would like to wish all staff and their families a very happy, safe and relaxing Christmas. Furthermore I would like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the Company during the year and as a result you can be proud of its improved performance.

**Best regards to all  
Pat**



## Hugh Conlon

- Born in Cork in 1958
- Married to Mary, two children Ashling & Hugh
- Educated at Ulster University & C.I.T. Cork and graduated as Master Mariner
- Was at sea for 17 years after college with BP Shipping & Dublin Shipping.
- Joined SFPC in 1993 as Assistant Harbour Master.
- Favourite music - Heavy rock, bands such as Led Zeplan & Rory Gallagher
- Favourite book - Lord of the Rings
- Pastimes - Golf, rugby & photography. Hugh is a member of the LADPS (Limerick & District Photographic Society) and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Hugh for providing us with some fantastic photographs for our newsletters. It is very much appreciated.

### SFPC SERVICE UPGRADE

SFPC have now rolled out our annualised hours crane driver system to cover Limerick as well as Foynes giving greater flexibility to the customer and a more efficient business mode for SFPC

### Seapt Ltd. News

Work is ongoing on the development of new Oil Pollution tracking and GIS model. The Web platform is now completed and presently being populated with data. All SEAPT members will be able to access the site from the start of December for testing and confirming that data is correct. It is expected that the model will be live from the start of March 2011.

November was busy for SEAPT with the annual audit report on operations and systems by Braemar Howells. This was followed by two one-day oil pollution response courses held at the Lanterns Hotel and a one day familiarisation course at the equipment store in Foynes. Both courses were successful and well attended, with all present getting their certificates.

We also welcome AFSC as new members to SEAPT. They started operations in October with petroleum cargoes into Foynes. We wish them every success and are delighted to have them as part of the Oil Pollution Response capability in the Shannon Estuary.

## Bulker Becomes Largest Vessel to dock at Foynes

The 61,000 dwt bulker "Sibulk Prosperity" became the largest ship to date to dock at Foynes.

The Panamanian registered vessel carried a cargo from Santo in Brazil. At 200 metres long and a draft of 10.5 metres, the vessel delivered a cargo of 22,000 tonnes and took 3 days to discharge its cargo of animal feed at an hourly rate of 1,100 tonnes. Limerick based ship agents Mullock & Sons provided stevedoring services.

Tim Egan, Manager of Mullock & Sons Shipbroking in Foynes commented that 'two years ago Shannon Foynes Port Company invested in a dredging vessel which has allowed super-sized cargo ships to get in and out of the port with greater ease. The dredging and ploughing has kept a depth in the Channel which makes it a lot easier'.



## 2010 IPA PORT CONFERENCE

Shannon Foynes Port Company hosted this year's Irish Ports Association Annual Conference at Thomond Park Stadium on 24<sup>th</sup> September. The conference was opened by Minister for Transport Noel Dempsey TD and Northern Ireland Minister for Regional Development Conor Murphy MP MLA. Among the speakers at the conference were:

- Geraldine Knatz, Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Los Angeles
- Patrick Verhoeven, Secretary General of the European Sea Ports Organisation
- Fran Dodd, Logistics Purchasing Manager from the Irish Dairy Board
- Tom O'Mahony, Secretary General of the Department of Transport
- Michael Sheary, Company Secretary & Financial Controller, Dublin Port Company
- Eamonn Bradshaw, CEO Galway Harbour Company
- John Lynch, General Manager Rosslare Europort

The afternoon workshop "Framing a new Ports Policy" was chaired by Pat Keating, CEO Shannon Foynes Port Company and presented an interesting debate between speakers and conference delegates. Overall feedback on the conference was very positive and we look forward to next year's event which will be hosted by Rosslare Europort.



Pat Keating SFPC and Michael Begane, Shannon LNG



Fran Dodd, Irish Dairy Board and Sean Costello, Irish Ports Association



Kay McGuinness, Michael Adams and Joe Treacy



Ann Behan, Jackie Belton, Patricia McGreal and Patricia McCormack - SFPC



Mike Shaw RPS Consulting and John Carlton SFPC



Edmund Jennings SFPC, John Carr SFPC and Helen Downes CEO Shannon Chamber of Commerce



Capt Raja Maitra, Howth Harbour, Lucy McCaffrey, Chairperson Dublin Port and Capt. Alan Coughlan



L-R: Sean Costello, Chairman IPA, Minister Conor Murphy MP MLA, Kay McGuinness, Chairperson SFPC, Minister Noel Dempsey and Pat Keating, CEO SFPC



Sean Costello IPA and Geraldine Knatz CEO Port of Los Angeles