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North

Correspondents

2022 International Group Correspondents Conference

Find out more about the
2022 International Group
Correspondents Conference
inside... plus more!

NorthStandard name change

Update on the NorthStandard merger.

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www.nepia.com

Correspondents

Welcome to our ninth Correspondents Newsletter.

2022 International Group Correspondents' Conference

This is sadly North's last edition of the Correspondents' Newsletter, but on a positive note, the next Correspondents' Newsletter will be from NorthStandard, as we head towards "Day 1" on the 20th February 2023!

It has certainly been a busy few months, with not only with the merger talks and the IGCC 2022, but a major IT project at North providing a more integrated system for managing claims and information. The focus for the next year however will be firmly on the merger itself which is fast approaching now.

In this edition, we look at the changes about to take place with the merger we also discuss how the merger will affect you as Club Correspondents in the coming months.



North

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HOW HAVE WE DONE?

Let us know what you think of the latest edition. Contact: neil.watson@nepia.com

CONTRIBUTORS

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INSIGHT ARTICLES AND BACK ISSUES

Current articles from the Correspondents Newsletter and back issues are available online at: www.nepia.com/latest/publications/newsletters

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NorthStandard – the new name for North and Standard Club



Approvals from Competition and Regulatory Authorities are a major step in plan to merge North and Standard Club and establish NorthStandard.

You as our correspondents will continue to be the first point of contact should there be any questions raised in your port. It is therefore important that should you be approached by any Harbour Master, Local Authority, Court or other third party, that you are aware of the implications of the merger on day to day matters. We are sure that questions will be raised as to how this is going to effect North and Standard's prior commitments and our cover going forward.

What's changing

As part of creating this new entity, North will become the group's parent company and change its registered corporate name to NorthStandard Limited. There will be no change to the underlying insurance business.

Apart from North, all the other businesses within the NorthStandard group will continue to use their existing names and provide their current services.

In the table below this article are the full details of the insurance underwriting entities within the combined NorthStandard group from 20 February 2023.

Uninterrupted cover

The merger of North and The Standard Club will have no impact on any cover already in place. All existing insurances, certificates, blue cards, guarantees, undertakings, powers of attorney and other insurance or legal documentation bound or issued by insurance underwriting entities in either North or The Standard Club prior to 20 February 2023 will continue uninterrupted in accordance with their terms.



Pictured: Paul Jennings, CEO at North and Jeremy Grose, CEO at Standard Club

For the avoidance of doubt, the change of name of The North of England Protecting and Indemnity Association Limited will not affect the validity or enforceability of documents issued under that name.

Continuity of contact

NorthStandard will continue to provide timely guidance, continuous support and efficient claims handling.

If you are involved with any claim following the 20th February 2023, whether this is for North or the Standard Club, please continue to contact them in the usual way as you have done in the prior to the merger.

Next steps

Over the coming months we will keep you updated on the progress around the merger. If you have any questions about it or the planned changes to the wording in our certification, please email: namechange@nepia.com or get in touch with your usual contact.

FIND OUT MORE

Learn more about NorthStandard by clicking here.

Name prior to 20 February 2023	Name from 20 February 2023	Registered Number	Domicile & LEI Number
The North of England Protecting and Indemnity Association Limited (North)	NorthStandard Limited	505456	England XJCO61LLUWTBTNWIXO53
North of England P&I Designated Activity Company	North of England P&I Designated Activity Company	628183	Ireland 635400AADIICESCVBE87
The Standard Club Asia Ltd	The Standard Club Asia Ltd	199703224-R	Singapore 54930086ZEV1V0711X16
The Standard Club Ireland Designated Activity Company	The Standard Club Ireland Designated Activity Company	631911	Republic of Ireland 549300VGBC3B6V1QOU65
The Standard Club UK Ltd	The Standard Club UK Ltd	17864	England 549300F68LAQQLU3OH85

The Correspondents' questionnaire

We continue our regular feature of hearing from North's correspondents around the world. In this edition we talk to husband and wife team John and Abigail Bugeja from Vassallo Associates in Malta about their experiences as Correspondents.

Q How long have you been a P&I correspondent and how did you both start in the industry?

A The firm has been established since 1870 and we retain in our records hand-written correspondence from various marine insurers and hull clubs. The world was different back then as most seemed to have had the time to dedicate themselves to profuse writing.

John:

I started off in the industry as a teenager whilst gaining my first experience as a Summer job some twenty odd years ago. The experience was captivating and a fascinating to such an extent that I remained involved in the industry ever since. By 2013 I took over the practice and embarked on a journey to consolidate our involvement further, both locally and overseas.

Abigail:

I joined the litigation department in 2014 and nowadays head the marine litigation department which has grown from strength to strength. I was always drawn to the marine field, but I would have never imagined it to form the focus of my career in such a way and to such an extent as it did. I am truly glad this happened.

Q What are your earliest or most memorable recollections of working with North?

A Starting off in reverse order, the most memorable recollections of working with North are without a doubt the trips to Newcastle. The unique setting makes such trips unforgettable and our meetings with the team always makes us feel appreciated and welcome. As to the earliest

recollection, we remember a particular incident which happened shortly in early 2000 when a vessel carrying tinned milk in bulk suffered extensive cargo damage as a result of bad weather. The damage to the cargo was considerable and even though the cargo was not destined for Malta it was subsequently unloaded in Malta in transshipment. That was quite an endeavour and a lot of effort was put into that matter in order to ensure that operations proceed smoothly as cargo was being segregated and damaged cargo disposed off; a notable experience that shows how proper expertise on the ground may overcome challenging situations.

Q What's the current state of the shipping industry in your country?

A As a small island nation, Malta is not necessarily known for world records and global leadership – the maritime sector though is an exception. The country has built up Europe's largest flag register and is making waves as a top location for the yacht and super-yacht industry. Key to this success has been a well-run international maritime register where high service and safety standards are attracting clients from near and far. Malta also boasts the third-largest transshipment port and has cultivated world-class support services to provide the best possible facilities and expertise to ship owners, financiers and operators who choose to become a part of Malta's rich maritime industry. Business streams such as ship finance are becoming more prominent, while Malta seeks to become a centre for maritime litigation, with the setting up of a

maritime court and the strengthening of dedicated arbitration services. The island currently hosts the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, the IMO International Maritime Law Institute and the International Ocean Institute.

Q What are the prevailing shipping/claims trends in your jurisdiction?

A With the calmer, summer seas of the Mediterranean, conditions are more favourable for migrants to depart North Africa in unseaworthy vessels with the hope of reaching Europe. The island's location midway between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa has seen it bearing the brunt of such crossings. It is an accepted norm of international customary law that has been enshrined in numerous international treaties that Owners are obliged to render assistance to vessels in distress and they must rescue those whose life is in danger at sea. Anyone rescued must be taken to a place of safety in accordance with the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979. Malta has not accepted the 2004 Amendments to the SAR and SOLAS Conventions, which place the primary responsibility for identifying a safe place of disembarkation with the state responsible for responding to situations of distress within their respective SAR region. Malta thus adheres to the practice that all rescued persons within the Malta SAR region should be disembarked in the nearest place of safety as provided for in the pre-amendment legislation. This often leads to significant delays and failures to render assistance to migrant boats in distress in the central

Mediterranean Sea either due to uncertainty over the responsible coordinating authority or the safe port where migrants will be disembarked. Regrettably there is no easy solution to these situations, and our involvement often sees us taking on a negotiatory role with authorities and administrations with the ultimate aim of bringing the matter to a successful resolution in the shortest time possible.

Q In your time as a correspondent, what are the most interesting or challenging cases that you dealt with?

A The international dimension that flows through most cases is what makes this industry fascinating and the role of a correspondent a privileged one. Complex cases and cross-border litigation often involving tortious liability are our firm favourite, not only for the fact that one may easily immerse oneself in such cases with grit and passion, but also as it brings together strengths in different jurisdictions to work together in unison to secure the best possible outcome. Technology is naturally a driving force in today's world that permeates every aspect of society, but there is no replacement for the basic human interaction. The possibility of working together with like-minded colleagues, wherever they may be located, is what adds to the appeal of this role.

Q Except for Covid - what are the challenges you face locally in attending vessel's interests?

A The challenges we face locally emanate from an aspect that, to a large extent, also reflects our

strength: our size. With Just 316 km², the total shoreline of the Maltese islands tallies up to a little over 271 km. This means that space is a premium as berthing facilities tend to be limited. The local authorities have a strong grasp on the management of berths and port facilities and manage such resources meticulously, yet the issue come into play when dealing with vessels in distress which require berthing facilities for a protracted stay or extensive space for the storage of cargo.

Q Do you have any "top tips" for being a successful correspondent you would like to share?

A In our view, it is advisable that correspondents treat each matter as their own and never settle for any outcome that is less than optimum. Striving to obtain the best outcome possible is what drives results and what makes a correspondent valuable, and ultimately irreplaceable.

Q What are your passions outside of your life as a correspondent?

A considerable time together for one reason or other, but we do enjoy travelling in our free time and making lovely memories with our three kids. Every moment spent together helps

us form unforgettable memories in our minds that can be a distinctive dish, a fascinating architecture, breathtaking landscapes, or even a hapless trip riddled with hiccups. Whatever the circumstance, we make the most out of these trips and have lots of memories to treasure.

Q How do you see the role of the correspondent evolving in the coming years?

A Whilst in the previous years there has been an unrelenting drive towards globalisation, we get the impression that we are now going through a transitional phase where, to a certain extent, we are experiencing a fragmentation of the global order we were used to. The challenges and disruption of international trade heighten the requirement of retaining appropriate local expertise in dealing with aspects that are specific to each jurisdiction as countries become increasingly self-reliant.

By
John Bugeja
Managing Director

Abigail Bugeja
Director
Vassallo Associates



John and Abigail Bugeja

2022 International Group Correspondents' Conference

Although we were due to have conference last year, Covid made it impossible for everyone to meet safely. I think that it is safe to say that the short hiatus made this conference all the more special.

The focus of the conference was on the IG's Sustainability Goals and there were a lot of interesting speakers on a wide range of topics which I hope people found interesting. However I think that the main benefit that we all took from this was to get to meet so many of your counterparts from around the world and for the Clubs to see so many people who we have not seen for many years, some since the last conference in 2017! There were around 600 delegates in attendance from 96 countries around the world, which I think is a fantastic achievement, especially with everything that is happening in the world at the moment.

I would personally like to thank the IG for agreeing to organise the event and to allow Nick Tonge to attend the welcome reception on the Sunday evening, even though he proved as elusive as ever in getting to speak to and I only managed a short chat before he went to meet someone else!

As this was my first conference as the Correspondents' Manager for North, I did feel that I left down so many correspondents by not being able to spend more time with each of you and some who I was unfortunately unable to meet. Hopefully I will be able to see you in Newcastle or on Teams/Zoom in the meantime, where we can have a more leisurely chat!

A big thank you to Abbie, Adele and Gus for being such great company for the duration of the conference and Mark Smith for his (I thought) very good presentation on alternative fuels and how you can keep us updated on what's happening in your port. On the back of his presentation, our correspondents TCCN in Antwerp have already provided a great update on the plans in Belgium, which I think has also been shared within the alternative fuels IG Committee.

See you in 2026!



600 delegates from 96 countries in attendance



Open house event at Standard's office which we were kindly invited to attend.



Neil meeting members of the EPIC Team!



Mark Smith from our Loss Prevention Department



The team outside the conference center



Correspondents from around the world

IG Correspondents' Guidelines 2022

The plan was always to review and revise the IG's guidelines for correspondents in time for the next conference. The last update was in 2017 and along with other members of the Correspondents' Committee at the IG, we have revised the latest guidelines for correspondents which I would urge you all to re-familiarise yourselves with and ensure that your staff are aware of them.

Clubs as seeing, we are seeing more and more scrutiny in how we manage our cases, not only to ensure that they are handled properly, but that we are not breaking any laws or sanctions. Whilst a lot of the legislation that we at North are faced with is under English Law, even though you may be based thousands of miles away, any assistance you provide must also be held to the same high ethical

standards. As we discussed in earlier editions of the newsletter, getting this wrong can lead to an immediate de-listing.

The guidelines also provide useful information as to reporting and in my opinion, should be something that all correspondents whether they are seasoned veterans or new starters should familiarise themselves with from time to time.

A copy of the guidelines can be downloaded for free via the IG website using the following link.

FIND OUT MORE

[Click here](#) for a free downloadable copy of the guidelines.



NorthStandard Correspondents

I think that it is fair to say that since the 14th March 2022 when the merger with the Standard Club was announced, a lot of correspondents have been asking, "Well, how does this affect me as North's listed correspondent?"

In the short term there will be no changes due to the merger, but over time there will be ports around the world where between us, we will have duplicate correspondents and if nothing other than from a logistical point of view, there will inevitably be some correspondents who will unfortunately be disappointed. Similarly the merger and the creation of NorthStandard will bring opportunities for some with possible appointments elsewhere, where conflicts arise within the larger Club.

From my personal point of view, North has always strove to build a strong relationship with our correspondents and even if we

are unable to keep you as listed correspondents in a port, you should remain as Approved Alternatives for the new Club going forward and we should continue to work alongside you in the years to come.

I hope that a formal decision will have been made prior to the publication of the next Newsletter in May 2023 after the two Clubs formally merge in February. However in preparation of the merger, we have spoken to the team who look after correspondents at the Standard Club and we are both completely confident with the expertise, competence and ability of the correspondents so listed by the other club (where they differ). Therefore, if you are approached on a new matter or enquiry in 2023, before the amalgamated correspondent listing is published by a Member formally entered with the

Standard (soon to be NorthStandard), please do not hesitate to act or assist (if you are free to do so), as you do now for North's membership. We wish to assure you that instructions offered, by entered NorthStandard members and which are within the usual scope of our insurance cover, will be honoured, subject to sanctions where applicable.

If you would like to find out more about the merger in the meantime, we have a dedicated area on our website which is updated regularly with news, which you can see at the following link.

FIND OUT MORE

[Click here](#) for a more information and news surrounding the merger.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

North Group is subject to the EU and UK General Data Protection Regulation. Details of the how we deal with personal data are available from www.nepia.com/privacy-policy

We are required to take appropriate measures to safeguard personal data, in particular personal data relating to crew injury or illness, so we may encrypt or secure information we send you. Correspondents are encouraged to ensure they are dealing with personal data in accordance with applicable legal obligations; in particular, emails or documents relating to crew injury or illness claims may require additional protection. Examples of good practice are password protecting or encrypting documents when practicable, and checking that email recipient lists are correct and limited to those who need to see any personal data being sent.

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