



Natalia and Haris MOUNDREAS of Nicholas G Moundreas Shipping



John RAKKAS of Transmed Shipping



Iakovos RIGOS of John J Rigos with lawyer Riri PANAYOTOPOULOS

Fest for Greek mutual

The Hellenic Hull Mutual celebrated its 10th anniversary in true Greek style.

Gillian Whittaker

Athens

The attractions of a televised pre-electoral debate featuring all party leaders, not to mention a UEFA cup match between Greek team Panathinaikos and Auxerre of France, could not hold a candle to the 10th anniversary celebration dinner hosted by the Hellenic Hull Mutual Association (HMA) in Athens last week.

More than 300 guests, including a flock of well-known owners and a substantial number of guests from the London insurance market, turned up to enjoy a champagne-cocktail reception before sitting down to a four-course dinner. HMA director Bob Wiggins mentioned the competing events but was clearly grateful for the guests' preference to be on hand.

Some of the big-name owners and company representatives present included Evangelos Marinakis of Barclay Shipping, Stavros Hamodrakas of Iolcos Hellenic, George Gourdomichalis of Proships, Iakovos Rigos of John J Rigos, Natalia and Haris Moundreas of Nicholas G Moundreas Shipping, Andreas Nomicos and sister

Tatlianna of Oia Maritime, John Trampaklos of Metrostar and John Rakkas of Transmed, to name just a few.

"When we started to plan the association 12 years ago many people thought we were insane," Wiggins said. But defying all doubts the first Greek hull-insurance organisation came to life in January 1994. Since then it has covered over 3,000 ships.

"In the last five years we have worked to develop from a small club that covered older ships," Wiggins said. Over the past two years HMA has been consolidating its position and refusing to accept business considered uneconomic. The audit of 2003 results is still under way but Wiggins says HMA is confident it will show another surplus.

After Wiggins's speech and a few brief tributes to HMA, it was enjoyment all the way through to cigars and after-dinner drinks.

Upon leaving, the ladies were presented with a white rose swathed in blue gauze, reflecting the colours of the Greek flag, and the gentlemen took home a replica of the underwriter's quill pen.



George GOURDOMICHALIS of Proships with his wife Alexandra

Photos: Gillian Whittaker



George DIMOS of ALS Risk Management



Yannis PAVLAKIS of the Karaindros Insurance brokerage with Nafsika CHRISSIKAKIS, assistant finance director of HMA



Marcos FRANGOS (from left), HMA chairman, Bob WIGGINS, HMA director, Captain Konstantinos GERAPETRITIS, HMA board member and operations manager of Pacific & Atlantic, Ioannis MEGAS, director of HMA and Mantinia Shipping



John EDMONDS, principal surveyor of the Salvage Association in Greece



Steven BARNES (left) of Meridian Risk Solutions, Takis BARTSIOKAS, director of HMA and Tom HUNTER-BLAIR, chairman and CEO of Meridian Risk Solutions