

## Book Review

Commercial Practice in Bunkering by Nigel Draffin (2011) Petrosport Limited £60/Euro 65/\$100 + p&p

The publishing house of Petrosport more and more seems to set out to deliver the sort of sound professional advice using the judgment of good experts with good writing skills, a plethora of specimen clauses and documents and the latest word on what is going on in potentially nebulous areas like sulfur emissions or co-broking arrangements.

We rather liked this book by Nigel Draffin, a dean of the bunkering industry who has written and taught on the subject of bunkers many times and who clearly has the knack of presenting a complex and many faceted subject in a blunt-plain-speaker sort of style. When he turns his eye onto a subject, he makes a lot of sense. The book is interesting throughout and certainly helps to guide neophytes like your editor. Our eye was caught by these items:

\*\* The Bunkering Association's Standard Terms and Regulations for Delivery and Supply (B.A.S.T.A.R.D.S.)--very droll

\*\*The United States does not yet use IBAN but will probably participate when its own banking system is ready. Buyers, especially in the EU, will ask for the seller's IBAN to set up payment. The chapter on banks and payment is very good. People who remember the strange waning of the Bolero project for electronic bills of lading might like to see how SWIFT handles its day to day banking business. Your average SWIFT message can teach you a lot about end user unfriendliness.

\*\*On vessel arrest : And now the bad news. Under English law, the ability to arrest a vessel for non-payment of bunkers by anyone other than the owner of the vessel does not work. And the same is true of China.

\*\*On the internet for bunker people: The sites are operated by journalists (for example, Bunkerspot, Bunkerworld, Platts, Reuters), by bunker brokers (for example, LQM Petroleum Services, Nautical Supply, Socomet Bunkering) by bunker traders (for example, O.W. Bunker & Trading, Amoil) and by companies that act as both broker and traders (for example, KPI Bridge OIL, OceanConnect). A good afterwiff of the original maritime internet bubble of 1999/2000.

We have no hesitation in recommending this book. The Petrosport books more and more resemble those ring bound chap books which all experts seem to have which consist of valuable documents and clauses for use in any given contingency. Perhaps the publishers should work to convey this quality using more than changes of font or use of borders. Perhaps there is a book in the notion of a cases, materials and clauses which could convey the essence of the subject and its mixture of old time traders knowledge and modern data handling.

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