



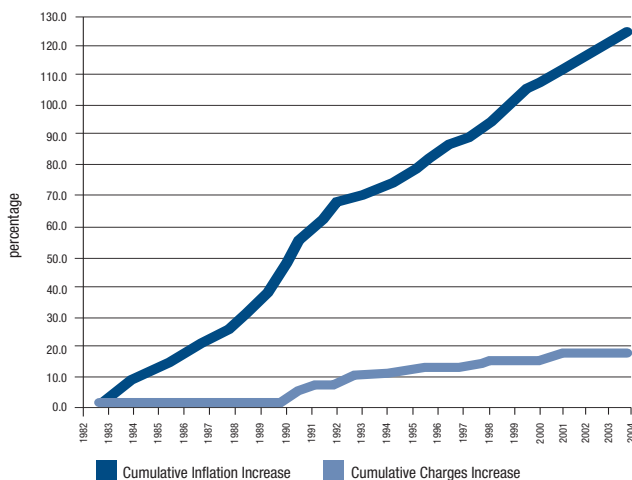
QUAYNOTES

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND'S NORTH SEA GATEWAY

Maintaining the Competitive Edge

Main Charges

Cumulative Increases - Charges /Inflation (RPI)



Aberdeen Harbour Board are to hold the main Rates and Charges at the port at this year's level for 2005 – making it the sixth time in seven years there has been no increase.

Since the early 1980s, the charges on vessels and cargoes have risen by only 17%, against a jump of 128% in inflation.

Harbour Board Chief Executive, Barclay Braithwaite, commented: *"It is vital to the future of the port and its many users that services and facilities are competitively priced. Ensuring this is a key to our strategy of sustaining and developing the range of activities."*

"The combination of a modern port, its efficient operation and another very busy year has enabled us to hold the main charges again."

The Board reinvest all profits in maintenance and development, with over £130 million spent since the 1970s and around £36 million budgeted in the current five-year plan. The port annually handles around four million tonnes of cargo, worth some £1.5 billion, and injects over £100 million into the economy.

Pocra Access Maintained

The Harbour Board have secured Department for Transport approval for amended measures allowing traffic to continue to pass along the rear of Pocra Quay.

Following the introduction of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, the Board are required by the Department's Transport Security Directorate (TRANSEC) to implement increased measures. The initial plan, developed with and approved by TRANSEC, included the closure of the whole of Pocra Quay.

Following consultations with neighbouring Footdee residents and other interested parties, and the concern over the proposed closure, the Board's alternative measures at Pocra have been agreed by TRANSEC.

Security fencing will now be located mid-quay behind storage tanks, with traffic using the rear of the quay.

Familiarisation visit

Councillor Alastair Inkster and Councillor Bob Sclater, representing Shetlands Islands and Orkney Islands Councils respectively, recently paid a familiarisation visit to Aberdeen Harbour when a wide range of common interests was discussed.

The visit came at a time when the Orkney/Shetland shipping services are out to tender and the route to-and-from Aberdeen is showing significant increases in passenger traffic.

"The Harbour Board believe we should all be working to build on successful achievements to date and to resolving outstanding issues, such as the transport of livestock," said Chief Executive, Barclay Braithwaite. *"We look forward to further developing our working relationships with the islands."*

Focus on passenger traffic

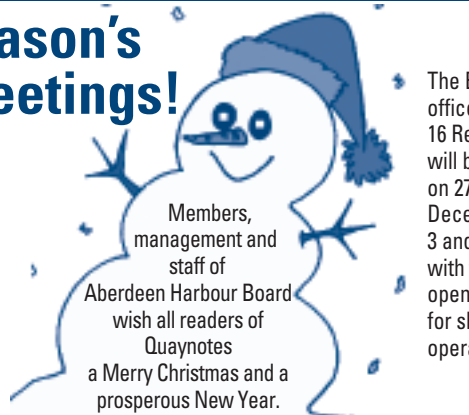
The Harbour Board are participating with the City Council and Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board in a Working Group looking at possible further development of cruise ship traffic at the port, as well as passenger traffic on the Orkney and Shetland ferry routes.

Board members re-appointed

Three members have been re-appointed to the board of Aberdeen Harbour Board, effective 1 January 2005 for a period of three years. They are: Keith K.A. Allan, Robert W. Byth and Captain Jeremy J. Procter.

There was again strong interest in the vacancies and election. The board has a total of 12 members.

Season's Greetings!



The Board's offices at 16 Regent Quay will be closed on 27 and 28 December and 3 and 4 January, with the port open as usual for shipping operations.

NOR Logistics servicing offshore industry

A new company, NOR Logistics, has been established at Aberdeen Harbour to combine the considerable experience and resources of international transport and logistics specialists, Nor-Cargo and NorSeaGroup, in providing integrated solutions, services and facilities to the offshore oil and gas industry.

NOR Logistics is operating from modern premises at Matthews Quay in support of drilling, development and production in the British, Norwegian and Danish sectors of the North Sea, as well as drilling programmes further afield.

Bill Pearson, Managing Director of Nor-Cargo Ltd said: "NOR Logistics capabilities are particularly well suited to providing the new generation of operators with cost effective management and logistic solutions in developing marginal discoveries and redeveloping existing fields."

Nor-Cargo continues to service other customers from Aberdeen Harbour where it has operated since the 1970s. NorSeaGroup is Norway's leading provider of supply bases, logistics and support services to the oil and gas industry.

To enhance NOR Logistics' operational cover and to help service drilling west of Shetland, Nor-Cargo has taken a shareholding in Lerwick-based freight and logistics company, Northwards.

Baltic potential explored

The possibility of revitalising sea trade between Aberdeen and the Baltic was explored on a recent business mission.

The Scottish Council Development and Industry-led visit - the first full Scottish trade mission to the Baltic States since independence was regained - included Latvia and Lithuania when the potential for building on centuries-old seafaring connections between North-east ports and the Baltic was on the agenda.

David Paton, Scottish Council President and Harbour Board Chairman, said: "The Baltic allows easy shipment of Scottish goods, like timber, to major Eastern Europe markets and we explored ways of increasing business between our ports, to the benefit of employment in the North-east and of the environment."

Scottish Ports re-appointment

Harbour Board Operations Director & Harbour Master, Captain Colin Parker, has been re-elected Chairman of the British Ports Association's Scottish Ports Committee for a further two years.

Pontoon dock decommissioned

Following a sustained period of low usage, the Harbour Board's pontoon dock at Albert Quay has been sold to G Baker Marine Ltd., of Southampton, for re-use on the South Coast.

Mainly due to the downturn in the fishing industry, the little-used dock had been making growing losses which could not be allowed to continue. It underwent major refurbishment and upgrade at a cost of more £1 million a few years ago, and has operated to stringent environmental requirements.

The area will be redeveloped to provide quay facilities to accommodate the expansion of other activities at the port, including oil-related and general cargo.

*Dry-docking facilities are provided at the port by River Dee Ship Repairing.

Making history

The port features in a History & Economic Development Chronicle of the City of Aberdeen, displayed in the Art Gallery in recent weeks. Commissioned by the City Council, the hand-produced parchment panels are being used in the promotion of Aberdeen. The harbour combines a long history - the first recorded reference was in 1136 - with being one of the most modern ports in Europe.

RNLI pontoons replaced

A project to replace four pontoons supporting an access gateway to the RNLI's Severn Class lifeboat, *Bon Accord*, has been completed.

The Harbour Board funded the work, costing around £70,000, and managed the project as part of its continuing support for the RNLI. It followed an inspection which showed the previous pontoons at the lifeboat station were corroded.

Aberdeen RNLI Operations Manager, Maitland Miller, said: "We are very appreciative of the Harbour Board's generous and practical contribution as otherwise the institution would have been faced with a large bill for the work."

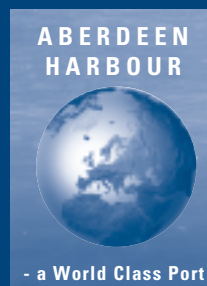
*The RNLI is the Board's choice of charity Christmas card this year.

Pulp and paper shipments

The 18,286 gross tonne m/v *Finnfighter*, which set a new record for the largest ship to berth at Aberdeen Harbour on her first visit in March, returned for a third time in late November with a consignment of 8,800 tonnes of woodpulp from Wilmington, USA, for International Paper, Inverurie.

Euroline Shipping works very closely on a number of projects and contracts with the operator of the fleet which includes *Finnfighter* and has been instrumental in the growth of the paper product trade through the port in recent years.

This month sees Euroline welcoming back the m/v *Ada Gorthon* to load a further large shipment of plasterboard liner paper from BPB Paperboard's Aberdeen mill for Trois Rivières, in Canada.



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