

CATCH UP: Dimitris Samonas of Golden Flame Shipping at the Maersk Broker party.
Photo: ANDY PIERCE



LARS SCHIONNEMANN: Head of Maersk Broker Hellas.
Photo: ANDY PIERCE



POW-WOW: Henning Oldendorff (left) and Lou Kollakis (right) settle the problems of the dry bulk market at the Maersk Broker party. Photo: GILLIAN WHITTAKER



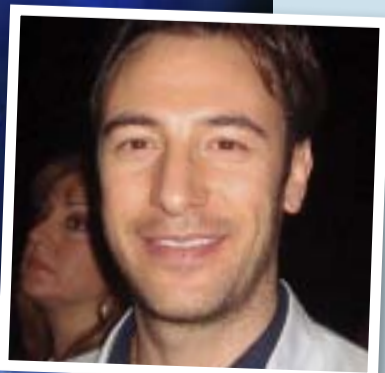
GUESTS: Hyundai Merchant Marine chartering manager Ken Lee (left) and Marc Pauchet of Maersk Broker.
Photo: ANDY PIERCE



MAERSK BROKER: (From left) Gallery director Iason Theophanidis, Stefanos Kollakis and Maersk Broker chief executive Anders Hald.
Photo: ANDY PIERCE



ENTERTAINMENT: Greek pop icon Angeliki Iliadi at the Enterprise Shipping & Trading party. Below, guest Giuseppe Rosano of Alibra Shipping.
Photos: HARRY PAPACHRISTOU AND GILLIAN WHITTAKER



ONBOARD: Alma Navigation S&P manager Maria Bakola (left) and Elefsis Shipping Agency general director Costas Tselikas at the Allied Securities reception.
Photo: HARRY PAPACHRISTOU

Greek ‘wow factor’ draws thousands to party and mingle

Gillian Whittaker Athens

Another record-breaking Posidonia is over. More than 22,000 visitors and 1,800 exhibitors from 90 countries have dispersed, some back to their offices, some for a few days rest and recreation on an island or a yacht.

But apart from the unquestionable and continuing success of the shipping exhibition, a week of endless partying has also come to an end.

It was a week that saw three companies bring in headline Greek singers to entertain their guests, other smaller outfits striving for – and achieving – an innovative twist.

Evangelos Marinakis’ party saw more than 4,500 people enjoying a surprise concert, starting out with the Gypsy Kings and followed by popular Greek singers including Antonis Remos.

Remos was also called on two days later to entertain at the extravaganza put on by Dimitris Melissanidis’ Aegean Marine Petroleum, where the singer per-

formed on a platform built in the sea especially for the event. Rumour has it that 5,000 invitations were sent out for the evening.

The third “wow factor” singing appearance came at Victor Restis’ Enterprises Shipping & Trading party, where heartthrob Sakis Rouvas topped the bill.

In addition to the lavish entertainment, guests at two of the parties were reminded of the close ties between Greek shipowners and sports.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

The Greek Soccer Cup Winners trophy won by AEK – the team of Aegean principal Melissanidis – was on show at his event, while the two back-to-back cups won in 2015 and 2016 by Olympiacos basketball club were proudly displayed at the event hosted by Arcadia Shipmanagement. Company principals, brothers Panagiotis and George Angelopoulos, are owners of the team.

Marinakis, of course, is owner of Olympiacos football club, but as one observer quipped, he could not

display the cups his team has won as there are too many.

Demand was also strong for Wednesday night tickets at the Island, where Cass Technava and TradeWinds welcomed a full house, including owners such as Nikos Tsakos, Petros Pappas, Panos Laskaritis, Antonis Komninos, Kostantinos Logothetis, Yiannis Martinos and Harry Vafias.

Getting away from the glitter and glamour of these huge events, there were some well-attended smaller ones. Lion Shipbrokers, which founder Panos Pantos calls “a small family business”, hosted an afternoon party with a Hawaiian flavour. Guests were given a lei of flowers as they arrived and, in keeping with the style, as well as sunshine there was a downpour of tropical rain that day.

Yacht trips remained private as did many a dinner where no doubt some real business was done.

And for the next Posidonia? Organisers say they are already being overwhelmed by demand for increased space for the event to be held in 2018.





ALLIED SHIPBROKERS: Partners gather at the company's Posidonia party. **Photo:** ANDY PIERCE



POSIDONIA: Aerial acrobatics at the event. **Photo:** HARRY PAPACHRISTOU



CLASS IN GREECE: DNV GL colleagues Ioannis Chiotopoulos (left) and Andreas Pagalos (right) flank Theodosios Stamatellos of Lloyd's Register. **Photo:** HARRY PAPACHRISTOU



PYXIS PARTY: Ridgebury Tankers chief financial officer Hew Crooks with wife Kate. **Photo:** ANDY PIERCE



ALSO AT PYXIS: Ridgebury Tankers chief executive Bob Burke with wife Lesley. **Photo:** ANDY PIERCE



TENNIS TOURNAMENT: Alexandros Tsavlis (centre left) and partner Apostolos Kaltis of Neptune Lines win the Posidonia 2016 event. **Photo:** WINTER SCOTT AND EG ARCHYRAKIS & CO



ALOHA PARTY: Graincom Shipping colleagues Andrey Pogorelov (left) and Igor Chumakov (right) flank Lion Shipbrokers director Panos Pantos. **Photo:** GEORGE DIAMANTAKIS



ON HAND: Pyxis Tankers chief executive Valentinos Velentis (left) and chief financial officer Henry P Williams. **Photo:** ANDY PIERCE



LION SHIPBROKERS EVENT: (From left) Lion Shipbrokers colleagues Diana Solberg and Athanasia Pantou with Amit Agarwal of Kasturi Commodities and Christos Ropalis of Grecomaritime Chartering. **Photo:** GEORGE DIAMANTAKIS