



Marine, Scientific and Technical
Consultants and Surveyors

MATTHEW JAMES FORBES

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Matt Forbes, a Master Mariner, with a Masters degree in Marine Environmental Protection, an honours degree in English Law and Bachelors degree in Marine Operations, joined Brookes Bell in April 2011. Prior to joining Brookes Bell, Matt spent over five years at a London Admiralty law firm as a casualty investigator and latterly a qualified solicitor.

Matt has eleven years' seagoing experience serving on a variety of ship types and sizes, including Crude, LPG, LNG, Products, and Passenger Vessels. Matt served in all ranks up to Chief Officer, including a period of UK coastal command.

Matt has investigated and advised on a wide range of nautical matters and these are listed in detail below.

Professional Qualifications

Class 1 Master Mariner - Foreign-Going
Solicitor of England and Wales (non-practicing)

Academic Qualifications

Masters degree in Marine Environmental Protection
Honours degree in English Law
Bachelors degree in Marine Operations
Legal Practice Certificate (England and Wales)
Higher National Diploma in Nautical Science

Membership of Professional Bodies

Member of the Nautical Institute

Employment History

2011-present Staff Surveyor, Brookes Bell

2005-2011 Ince & Co. - Marine Manager and Solicitor

Primarily involved in the investigation of shipping casualties on a worldwide basis, before assisting with case management until settlement, arbitration or trial. Attended on a wide range of casualties for Owners, H&M, P&I, Charterers and Cargo interests. Regularly involved in reviewing claims and negotiating settlement.

2004-2005 Columbia Ship Management - Chief/Safety Officer and Relief Staff Captain

Spent six months in dry-dock as part of a small team overseeing a multi-million pound cruise vessel refurbishment, before successfully bringing the vessel back into service. Post dry-dock responsibilities included discipline and training of over 550 multi-national crew. Liaising closely with Flag/Class/Port State surveyors on implementation of all relevant legislation, writing operational, ISM and safety procedures.

2004 Coastal UK Trading (April to November) - Chief Officer and Master

Serving as Master and Chief Officer of a small UK Coaster. Duties included ship handling, pilotage, management of ship maintenance, crew, navigation and all other ship's business.

1998-2003 P&O Princess Cruises - Third Officer and Second Officer

Duties included senior officer of the watch and ship's navigator. Regular navigation in confined waters and under pilotage.

1994-1998 Shell International Shipping - Cadet to Second Officer

Duties included officer of the watch, loading/discharge of cargo and ship maintenance. Served as statutory safety officer and cadet training officer. Vessel types included LNG, LPG, Products and Crude.

Investigations Undertaken/Casualties Attended

Collisions, including multiple ship collision.

Salvage - Lloyd's Open Form - Turkish Open Form - Common Law - Contractual Dock Damage.

Machinery failure.

Fire.

Unsafe ports in South America, West Africa, North America, India.

Sinking - including structural failure and cargo shift by liquefaction.

Bunker contamination.

Rudder/propeller damage.

Pollution - including magic pipe and wrongful ship arrest.

Boiler explosion.

Cargo - including container loss, cargo shift, liquefaction, bulk liquid contamination, water ingress.

Pipe rupture on an FPSO.

Wreck removal.

Loss of life/personal injury.

Grounding.