

Flying the flag

The Craig Group Magazine September 2009



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A DRIVING FORCE

Teeing off with Richie Ramsay

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Grampian Talisker goes on charter to BP





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Group well-placed to weather storm

Resources in place to ensure company retains market lead



Douglas Craig.

IN THE LAST six months or so, the full impact of what was initially referred to as the credit crunch and is now a full-blown recession is being felt across the globe and the oil and gas industry. In these uncertain and challenging times, it is good for Craig Group's clients, suppliers, partners and staff to know that we are well-placed to weather the storm.

I am confident that the oil and gas industry is resilient and will rise to meet the challenges of the dramatic dip in oil price – after all, this industry has always shown innovation and resourcefulness, even when the oil price was as low as \$10 per barrel in the early nineties. I am even more confident that Craig Group will continue to grow and prosper despite the challenging economic climate.

We will do so because we are in a strong, financially robust position, because we are long-established market leaders in the areas in which we operate and because we have invested heavily in our fleet, our people and our systems, particularly in safety processes and culture.

This re-focused strategy ensured that we reduced our gearing through the sale of three divisions and allowed us to concentrate our efforts on the key areas in which we lead the way: the provision and safe operation of offshore support vessels and sourcing and supplying oilfield products both in the North Sea and internationally. The articles in this newsletter will underline my confidence and demonstrate our successes with clients, suppliers, staff and the communities in which we operate.

We rounded off our 75th anniversary celebrations last year with the announcement of strong results for the year ending April 2008, reporting turnover in excess of £110 million and continued growth forecast for 2009.

The investment in North Star's fleet in recent years now exceeds £130 million, ensuring that it is one of the newest and safest in the North Sea and the largest wholly British owned fleet operating in the UKCS. The five new vessels to be delivered by 2010 represent a major investment of £50 million and more news on these can be found on page 4.

Craig Group remains one of Scotland's top 100 companies and in the top 20 of offshore service companies in the North Sea. This robust position gives us the capacity as well as the appetite to invest in our fleet and in our people to continually enhance our service offering.

In addition to organic growth, we will consider acquisitions that complement these core activities going forward, both in the UK and globally. The next 12 months will be challenging for us all.

We are already seeing the affects of the banking crisis coupled with the oil price on activity and jobs, not only in the North Sea but around the world. There is a renewed focus on the supply chain as operators look to make efficiencies and companies like ours must create and deliver value within that supply chain. With a keen eye on costs and high-quality delivery, Craig Group has the resources to ensure that it retains its market leading position.



J. Douglas Craig OBE, MA, CA
Managing Director

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained herein is accurate, no legal responsibility will be accepted by Craig Group divisions, their employees, or agents for any errors or omissions.

Glittering evening marks anniversary

First Minister praises Group's contribution to Scots economy



First Minister Alex Salmond, pictured with David Craig, centre, and Douglas Craig, praised Craig Group's contribution to the Scottish economy.

CRAIG GROUP celebrated its 75th anniversary in style last year and Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond was first to congratulate the globally recognised family-run group.

One of Aberdeen's most famous family businesses marked the occasion by hosting a glittering event at the Marcliffe Hotel, where it announced its move from Aberdeen Harbour to the city's West End.



Craig Group's 75th anniversary was celebrated in the Marcliffe Hotel.

The highly successful group also used its birthday celebration dinner to reveal a new brand identity to the 130 guests, reinforcing the company's commitment to modernisation and an evolving pro-active business strategy.

The Group reiterated that it continues to strengthen its core values by flying the flag for Scotland, safety, service and quality.

Commenting on the group's achievements, Mr Salmond said: "The Craig Group has been a significant and trusted employer in the north-east for 75 years. With a workforce of 1000 and an impressive portfolio in shipping and oilfield procurement, its contribution to Scotland's economy, particularly in the north-east, is considerable.

"It is especially important and encouraging that, despite the current economic conditions, we see a long-standing family business like the Craig Group choosing to keep its headquarters and business in Aberdeen, continuing its valuable role in the local and wider economy."

The longevity and success of the business have been attributed to a willingness to change and an appetite to exploit new markets both at home and abroad.

Craig Group Managing Director Douglas Craig was enthusiastic about the future, while recognising the successes of the past.

He said: "One of the cornerstones of the Craig Group businesses has been our unwavering commitment to safety, service and quality. Historically, the group has established a second-to-none worldwide reputation that reflects these qualities and, as a consequence, we have been able to build a successful business on these foundations over the last 75 years.

"We continue to look ahead, always anticipating change and adapting to it, and have a commitment to growing the business through our people, strategic planning and the recognition of business opportunities around the globe. We have continuously operated from a strong and healthy financial position which has enabled us to enhance, re-position and re-evaluate our core businesses of shipping and oilfield procurement, essentially allowing the Group to capitalise on the past while making plans for the future."

Group's new headquarters

AFTER 75 YEARS at Aberdeen harbour, Craig Group has moved to a prestigious address in the West End.

The impressive granite building at 12 Queens Road represents the new headquarters of the global shipping and energy services firm.

The new HQ provides a modern, attractive and refreshing purpose-built environment and houses the 45-strong workforce which moved in March.

Craig Group, however, will continue to have a representative presence at St Clements Street and Blaikies Quay at the harbour



Douglas Craig outside the new Craig Group HQ, Queens Road.

for ship management, North Star Shipping rescue craft maintenance and traditional rigging services.

Commenting on the move, Craig Group Managing Director Douglas Craig said:

"We are sad to be leaving Albert Quay which has been our home for so long. However, Aberdeen Harbour is changing to meet increasing demand and, due to the redevelopment of certain areas, we felt it was time for a change.

"We are very pleased to have secured such prestigious offices in the heart of the city's West End, particularly when demand for this type of office accommodation is so high.

"It will certainly be a change for us but the offices, which are fully refurbished, will offer a much more attractive and modern environment for our staff.

"We are continuing to maintain our profile at Aberdeen Harbour with our rescue division, St Clements office and, naturally, our North Star Shipping personnel will still spend much of their time at the harbour, on board our fleet."

Grampian Talisker takes to the seas

New vessel goes straight into service thanks to BP contract

NORTH STAR SHIPPING'S latest vessel has already been awarded a contract by BP for its operations in the North Sea and West of Shetland.

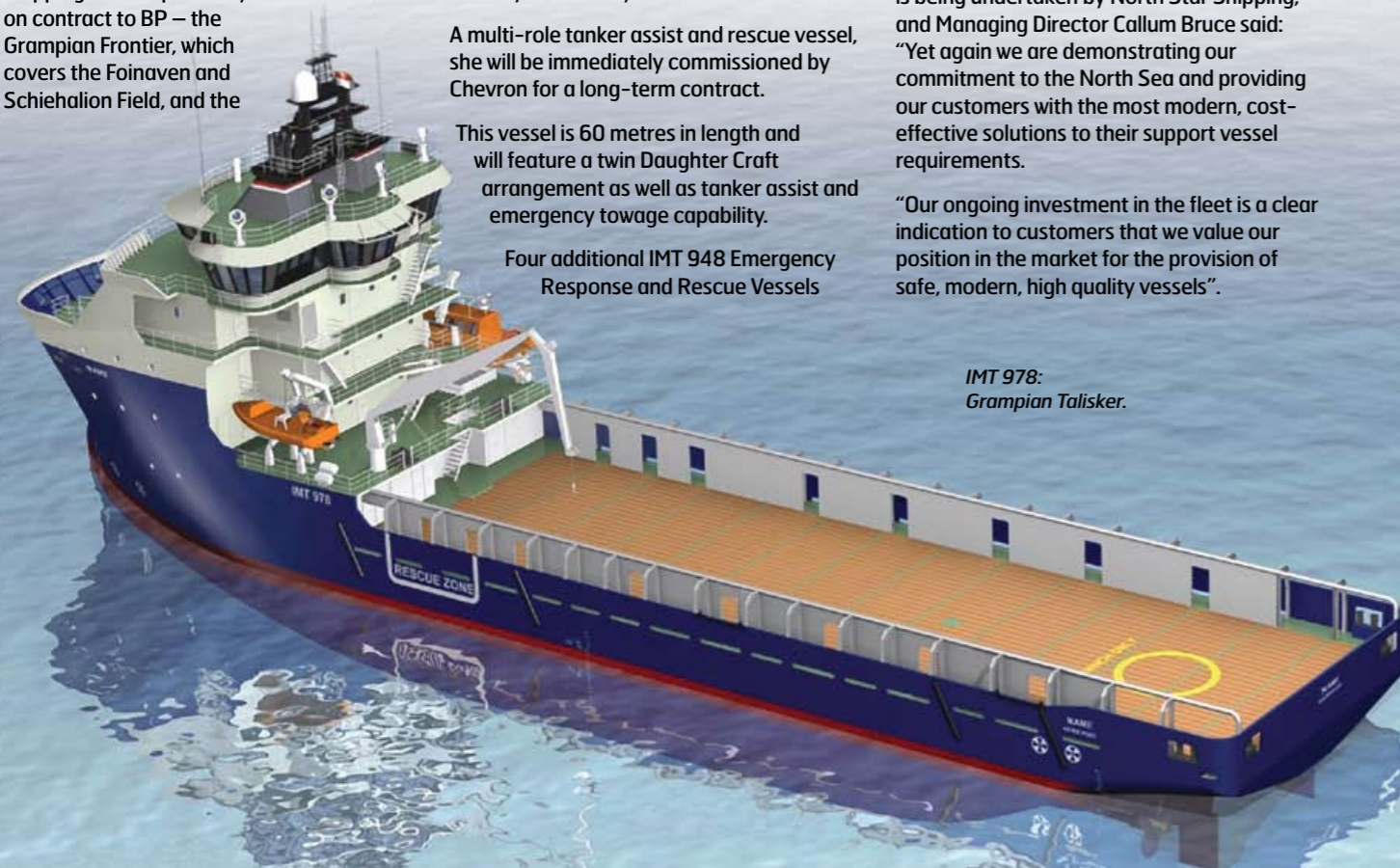
The **Grampian Talisker**, a platform supply vessel, took to the seas in August. The Talisker, a sister ship to the Grampian Talisman, is on charter to BP for an initial period of one year.

There will be an option for BP to extend the contract for a further two one-year periods following the conclusion of the primary agreement.

The vessel is 78 metres in length overall, and is fully outfitted with DP2 capability.

The Grampian Talisker is involved in a variety of operational roles in support of the many offshore BP locations in the North Sea and the West of Shetland region.

She joins two other North Star Shipping vessels presently on contract to BP – the Grampian Frontier, which covers the Foinaven and Schiehalion Field, and the



IMT 978: Grampian Talisker.

“Yet again we are demonstrating our commitment to the North Sea.”

Callum Bruce Managing Director, North Star Shipping

Grampian Conquest covering the Clair Field, West of Shetland.

A second newbuild, the **Grampian Endurance**, an IMT 960 vessel, is due for delivery in February 2010.

A multi-role tanker assist and rescue vessel, she will be immediately commissioned by Chevron for a long-term contract.

This vessel is 60 metres in length and will feature a twin Daughter Craft arrangement as well as tanker assist and emergency towage capability.

Four additional IMT 948 Emergency Response and Rescue Vessels

(ERRVs) have also been contracted at the shipyard in Spain, and these will be delivered to North Star Shipping in 2010.

All four of these vessels will be outfitted with at least one Daughter Craft and a Fast Rescue Craft (FRC), and will provide support to our clients' operations in the North Sea.

The Craig Group has been steadily modernising its fleet over the last five years, in line with market demand, and has commissioned a total of 16 new vessels since 2003. The total investment in these new-builds now tops £130 million.

Management of the delivery of both vessels is being undertaken by North Star Shipping, and Managing Director Callum Bruce said: “Yet again we are demonstrating our commitment to the North Sea and providing our customers with the most modern, cost-effective solutions to their support vessel requirements.

“Our ongoing investment in the fleet is a clear indication to customers that we value our position in the market for the provision of safe, modern, high quality vessels”.



IMT 960: Grampian Endurance

Fleet recognised for outstanding safety culture at sea

THE OUTSTANDING achievements of two North Star Shipping vessels were formally recognised when masters and crews were commended for their high safety standards earlier this year.

North Star Shipping vessel the **Grampian Venture** has been recognised after it notched up the equivalent of nearly eleven years at sea without any lost time incidents (LTIs), having achieved 4,000 days incident-free.

The Grampian Venture, which is on contract to Talisman and based at the Ocean Princess drilling rig in the central North Sea, is the first vessel in the North Star Shipping fleet to receive a diamond plaque for reaching this milestone.

It is the only ship in the fleet to have earned this plaque and previously was the only vessel to have achieved the gold plaque for 3000 days at sea incident-free.

There are currently 11 vessels which have earned a silver plaque (2000 days LTI-free) and a further nine which qualify for a bronze award (1000 days LTI-free).

The Grampian Venture Masters, Pat Collings and Steve Leighton, were presented with the accolade at a special ceremony in Aberdeen by North Star Shipping Managing Director Callum Bruce.

Also highly commended in recent months was the emergency rescue and response vessel (ERRV) **Grampian Courageous**.

On charter to Marathon and based at the Brae Field 160 miles north of Aberdeen,



From left, Gordon Wallace, Commercial Director; Steve Leighton, Master of Grampian Venture; Callum Bruce, MD; Alistair Nicol, QHSE Manager; David Birkett, Safety Advisor, and the crew.

Grampian Courageous has been awarded a gold flag for the best on-board safety culture in the Craig Group fleet.

Masters Jim Cargill and John Cruickshank, who lead the 30-strong crew, were presented with the accolade by Craig Group Managing Director Douglas Craig at a special ceremony at Aberdeen's Albert Quay.

This award is judged on internal and external audits, quantity and quality of incident reporting and observations made following vessel visits.

North Star Shipping's Managing Director Callum Bruce said: “The presentation of these awards marks another stage in our continuing pursuit of excellence in terms of providing the most efficient, modern and safety-conscious service for customers operating in the North Sea.”

“The presentation of these awards marks another stage in our continuing pursuit of excellence.”

Callum Bruce Managing Director, North Star Shipping

From left, John Cruickshank and Jim Cargill, Masters of the Grampian Courageous, with Alistair Nicol and Douglas Craig.





From left, Thinus von Waltsleben, Tracy Philip, David Allan, Jill MacDonald and Steve McHardy of CIS.

Extensive coverage on worldwide scale

International strategy targets global clients

CRAIG GROUP has harnessed its global oilfield procurement business under one brand to streamline the service and capitalise on further international opportunities.

Craig International Supplies (CIS) operates around the world from three strategic locations – Aberdeen, Houston and Cape Town.

The base in South Africa, initially set up to target the emerging markets in the African continent, operated as Craig Energy Services (CES). It has now been brought under the CIS banner and an international marketing strategy

is under way to target new clients on a global basis.

As part of the CIS brand development, and to promote a unified marketing structure, CIS director Steve McHardy (Aberdeen) and country managers Ken Pujats (Houston) and Thinus von Waltsleben (South Africa) will visit Angola in October to jointly market the CIS brand.

The visit will focus on identifying key market drivers in the region and hosting meetings with individuals and companies with purchasing requirements.

The oilfield procurement business, which celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, makes up 35% of Craig Group's £100 million turnover.

The Angolan visit will coincide with a strategic business plan that aims to continue to develop a programme of increased local content offerings to clients in the region.

This will be one of the first times that CIS services have been jointly marketed under the new brand to the global oil and gas industry, the aim being to encourage new business into both the Cape Town and Houston divisions of CIS.

The oilfield procurement business, which celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, makes up 35% of Craig Group's £100 million turnover. CIS sources and supplies oilfield products and equipment to clients in the North Sea, Kazakhstan, Norway, the Middle East, Far East, and West Africa.

Harnessing the three international hubs reflects the Craig Group's consolidated approach to providing extensive coverage to the global oil and gas marketplace.

This restructure is bolstered by new appointments and significant investment in e-processes to maximise efficiencies for clients who, in the current climate, are demanding even more value from their supply chain.

Extra warehouse space to meet client demand

Increased product ranges brought in to satisfy surge of new requirements

CIS Aberdeen

FOLLOWING a move to bigger premises in 2008, CIS Ltd now has 15,000 square feet of warehouse and office accommodation on Denmore Industrial Estate. The increased warehouse space will allow it to expand its stock to meet client demand.



David Allan, Managing Director CIS.

The bigger warehouse space is also enabling CIS to introduce increased product ranges in line with a surge in customer requests.

In addition, new staff have been recruited to manage the extra business generated at CIS Ltd.

Total investment in the new Bridge of Don premises was approximately £1.5 million, which included new state-of-the-art communications infrastructure and a complete revamp and modernisation of office equipment and furniture.

CIS Ltd is also examining opportunities in the Middle East with a view to opening a new base to meet changing customer demand in this oil and gas-rich province.

Aberdeen based managing director of CIS, David Allan said: "We are seriously considering setting up in Dubai as the Middle Eastern hub as well as Angola to give us a presence in West Africa. This would give us ideal locations that would – along with Aberdeen, Houston and Cape Town – effectively close the loop for us in terms of full global coverage."

"The Craig Group name is synonymous with high quality services at affordable prices."

Ken Pujats
Country Manager, CIS Inc

CIS Houston

Fresh focus for Houston operation



Ken Pujats, Country Manager CIS Inc.

CIS INC, based in Houston, is headed up by country manager Ken Pujats. In the coming months the experienced Houston team will be exploiting the potential of both the domestic and international markets in the US while continuing to grow the experienced team with some new staff additions.

The Houston operation provides Central and North American coverage and has recently broken into the US domestic market with a contract to supply services to Chevron, the first-ever order secured by the Houston base for a US domestic client.

In order to manage its growing business interests in the US, CIS Inc has recruited an additional buyer. Tammie Phillips has joined, bringing the team in Houston to four.

Ken said: "With a new and rebranded trio of CIS businesses, working as a streamlined core operation, the spectrum of service remains diverse but with a more cohesive and centralised approach, now accessible due to the advances in internet and web-based technology and ordering systems.

It is keenly recognised throughout the worldwide business community that the Craig Group name is synonymous with high quality services at affordable prices.

The threefold coverage that CIS is now offering is an endorsement of a global business strategy to provide enhanced and integrated services and products to the oil and gas industry."

CIS Cape Town

Formidable procurement capability in heart of Africa

TO DATE the Cape Town office has operated extensively within South and West Africa.

CIS Pty's continued emphasis on the West African region has been evident with the expansion of the business into Angola. This has re-affirmed the area as the main focus for CIS Pty's new business drive, with the company opening a regional office in Luanda by the end of 2009. The Angolan market is driven by local content and it is important to follow this strategy in order to grow the business in this region.

While Angola is the main focus of its expansion, CIS Pty is working hard to achieve representation in Walvis bay, Namibia where operations will focus on the supply of materials to ensure maintenance work on oil and gas installations and support vessels can be completed within specific time frames.

CIS Pty has recently secured new modern offices at Montague Gardens, Cape Town. This will enable the team of five personnel to offer a north sea style service in the heart of Africa. The team is led by country manager Thinus Von Waltsleben, he said:

"The combination of experience, expertise and commitment to quality and service, allied to the considerable financial strength of the Craig Group, provides CIS Pty with a formidable procurement capability at competitive rates.

With this in mind we are moving forward in order to secure business in the African oil and gas markets, trading on the highly respected Craig Group family name, whilst preparing to expand even further into the African market-place".

CIS can supply the entire range of products for all seismic, drilling, exploration, production and transportation operations in the oil and gas industry. In conjunction with these services all three offices are now linked via video conferencing.



CIS Pty's new base, Cape Town.



Thinus von Waltsleben, Country Manager CIS Pty.

Scots fishing industry faces fresh challenges under new EU regime

Fishermen must be held accountable for their own future

GRAMPIAN SEA FISHING has continued to manage its vessels profitably despite enduring a massive fuel increase of 45% in 2008, which has been reflected in their overall performance.

As Grampian Sea Fishing enters 2009 we are facing, alongside our contemporaries, the draconian rules and regulations regarding quota restrictions and effort limitations on days at sea. These policies, which have evolved from the talks in Norway, finally have been laid at the doors of the Fisheries Ministers for negotiations in Brussels.

After annual discussions with Ministers and scientists at the end of 2008, the fishing industry looks set for another difficult year ahead. Quotas have been altered accordingly so that no extra weight of fish has been granted. There has been an increase in cod but a reduction both in haddock and whiting.

Furthermore, the complexity of this year's deal seems to be dominated by a host of other factors, such as a reduction of 15% on effort limitation, which was 146 days in 2008. However, on a positive note, other rewards and benefits have yet to be finalised.

In addition, consultations are taking place on the introduction of kilowatt days. This method will be used to replace the present sea days and how they are to be managed – as well as representing a very complicated arrangement.

Further discussions are taking place in relation to new effort control measures which are being introduced this year in the hope they will allow the industry to 'buy back' extra fishing days.

Putting this into context, all of the above signifies a very confusing and complex



"In my opinion, looking towards the future is very important for the Scottish fishing industry, as it is a huge part of our national heritage."

David Craig
Chairman of Grampian Sea Fishing and The Craig Group

situation for fishermen and one can only wonder where the industry goes from here, when we closely examine such sweeping schemes by Ministers at the December meetings.

During 2009, the Scottish Government proposes to phase in a new quota and licensing arrangement system which at present is under consideration. However, it seems likely that it will implement these systems later in the year.

In my opinion, looking towards the future is very important for the Scottish fishing industry, as it is a huge part of our national heritage and must be supported. Indeed, it is the lifeblood of many fishing, island and rural communities throughout Scotland.

Under the present system and controls there appears little incentive for the future, with no motivation or encouragement for fishermen and owners to build new vessels.

Under current restrictions and laws these questions become even more pertinent when

we absorb the fact that a fishing fleet will be totally obsolete in a few years' time.

It is becoming obvious that action in the form of reducing effort catching capacity is required for the present fleet to remain viable.

It appears the only present solution is to accept a further decommissioning programme whereby, as vessels are decommissioned, their quotas and days are divided out to remaining vessels in order to survive. A rather backward step, but it could be to the fishermen's benefit for the future.

This would mean enhanced quotas for all, ideally quotas in excess, which the remaining vessels would be unable to catch. Days at sea would be an echo of the past: an industry with no demands, rules and regulations to deal with and only catching fish over as many days as required – this is utopia.

This would also encourage new vessels to be built, attract school leavers to once again pursue a life at sea, and enhance safety, not only in new vessels but where skippers can then fish according to weather conditions with no restrictions on days at sea.

The Common Fisheries Policy is due to be reformed in 2012. The outcome will probably be aimed at a future where we are delivering conservation of the fish stocks, especially cod, which will be a priority with the scientists.

An economically viable and healthy fishing industry for the future is undoubtedly required and Scottish fishermen need to be held accountable for the stewardship and planning of their own fisheries, now and for future generations.



Fishing remains the life blood of many Scottish communities.

Cadet Programme provides ideal start to a life on the ocean wave

Three-year scheme offers excellent career prospects

A CAREER AT SEA provides an exciting and challenging opportunity for school leavers and graduates seeking a varied and rewarding life.

North Star Shipping offers one of the best Cadet Programmes in the UK, and the company sponsors 21 individuals through the programme every year.

This is fully funded by North Star Shipping, which also provides accommodation for trainees outwith the area.

The three-year programme provides an exciting and challenging opportunity for those who seek a career at sea.

During the course, participants are taught the valuable engineering skills needed for their first Merchant Navy Certificate of Competency, a globally recognised qualification.

Following this, cadets receive a certificate of competency for either Deck Officer or Marine Engineer on completion of the programme.

Participants who have completed the course will obtain recognised academic and

"The course gives the cadets excellent career prospects and provides them with a solid base from which to launch their professional lives."

Callum Bruce Managing Director, North Star Shipping

professional qualifications and have the opportunity to join Craig Group, a family shipping company with over 75 years' experience and a 30-strong fleet.

In addition, cadets will not only achieve excellent career prospects onboard our

fleet and onshore, but will have a structured career path to Master or Chief Engineer.

"The Craig Group is committed to introducing young professionals into the industry and our Cadet Programme is the perfect opportunity to capture those highly motivated individuals.

"The course gives the cadets excellent career prospects and provides them with a solid base from which to launch their professional lives," said Callum Bruce, Managing Director of North Star Shipping.

North Star Shipping's Cadet Programme puts candidates on course to rise to the rank of Master or Chief Engineer.





“The aim of the custom fit process is to offer the most forgiving, easy-to-use golf clubs at a reasonable price.”

Paul Girvan Director of Golf, The Kings Links Golf Centre

Pictured from left to right: Iain Flemming, PGA Professionals Katie Thomson, Paul Girvan and Scott Henderson with Steven Strachan.

ABERDEEN'S KINGS LINKS golfing emporium is the largest independent golf retail outlet in Scotland. The 3000 sq ft golfing “heaven”, features six PGA Professionals and employs 22 full and part-time staff.

The centre boasts a 56-bay floodlit driving range on two tiers, carpeted bays and the finest quality mats and range balls with dedicated training studios.

A newly appointed female professional, Katie Thomson, joined Kings Links in October last year to provide another dimension to the already well respected team of golfing professionals. Katie turned professional in 2006 following a series of major championship successes and reflects Kings Links' acknowledgement of the rapidly expanding female clientele who visit the centre.

Award-winning store is heaven for golfers

New female professional joins team

The award-winning 3000 sq ft superstore stocks everything for the beginner to the seasoned golfer. It is also the only outlet north of St Andrews to offer custom fitting to its customers.

With the help of Custom Fitting carts and Launch Monitors, the process of custom fitting can be remarkably straightforward. Helping with the choice of brand and type of club, the highly trained and knowledgeable Kings Links staff will painlessly guide clients through the decision-making process.

Having golf equipment ‘made to measure’ is a huge advantage to the player, enabling him or her to feel totally confident with their sporting equipment.

An ethos of ‘see it fly before you buy’ exists at the centre and has allowed customers to make an informed choice when choosing golfing equipment. It has also allowed clients to avoid possible

disappointment, as can often be the case when buying over the Internet.

Paul Girvan, Manager at Kings Links, said: “Year on year, manufacturers are continually upgrading models through research and development. Whether the use of lighter materials comes into play or anti-slice weighted heads and shaft technology are important, the aim of the custom fit process is to offer the most forgiving, easy-to-use golf clubs at a reasonable price”.

The custom fit department also includes fitting carts from Titleist, Cobra, Wilson, Ping, Mizuno and Callaway. These exciting new additions to Aberdeen's most prestigious golfing arena will allow customers to try literally dozens of head and shaft combinations, which greatly simplifies the whole fitting procedure.

Kings Links houses the largest stock of golf club manufacturers in the north-east of Scotland and offers a golf club repair service, a comprehensive juniors' section, a selection of ladies' equipment with accessories and online gift vouchers which can be used at the centre to buy the latest golfing equipment.

From left, PGA Professionals Scott Henderson, Richie Ramsay and Paul Girvan.



Group backs Richie's European adventure

CRAIG GROUP is delighted to sponsor US Amateur Championship winner Richie Ramsay, the first Scot to achieve this accolade in a century.

Richie turned professional in August 2007, playing on the Challenge Tour and securing victories in Germany and France during his first full year on the circuit.

These triumphs, and consistently high performances in other events during 2008, secured him sixth place overall

on the tour and a card for this season's European Tour.

Commenting on the importance of the continued support from Craig Group, Richie said: “I have known Douglas and the family for a number of years so I am particularly pleased to have secured sponsorship from a company that has its roots in Aberdeen.

“It is great to have a partnership with a company I can trust and who have faith in me.”



PGA Professional Scott Henderson.

Scott proud to be Kings Links pro

Sponsorship spurs player to new highs

THE KINGS LINKS GOLF CENTRE provides crucial sponsorship to local professional golfer Scott Henderson who has been sponsored by Kings Links for the majority of his professional golfing career.

Currently a Kings Links Touring professional, his career highlights to date are winning the Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year in 1997 on the European Tour and finishing second in the European Masters from 1997 through to 1999.

Paul Girvan, Director of Golf at The Kings Links Golf Centre, said: “Scott is a tremendous asset to the centre as a professional player.

“He is extremely enthusiastic and supporting him throughout his professional career has been a pleasure in terms of being a part of his achievements and watching his game improve each year.”

Commenting on the importance of sponsorship, Scott Henderson said: “I have always been extremely proud to be a part of the Kings Links team of professionals.

“The high level of personal support from the Kings Links staff has been above and beyond what I could ever have expected from a professional sponsorship relationship, which is why it has proved so critical to my career and been a huge boost to me over the years.”

Q&A with... Richie Ramsay

Don't leave home without? Laptop. It keeps me in touch with all my friends over the net and what's going on at home.

Favourite course? Augusta National.

Best memory? Standing on the 16th green at Hazeltine National with the US Amateur trophy.

Things you miss on tour? Good home cooking.

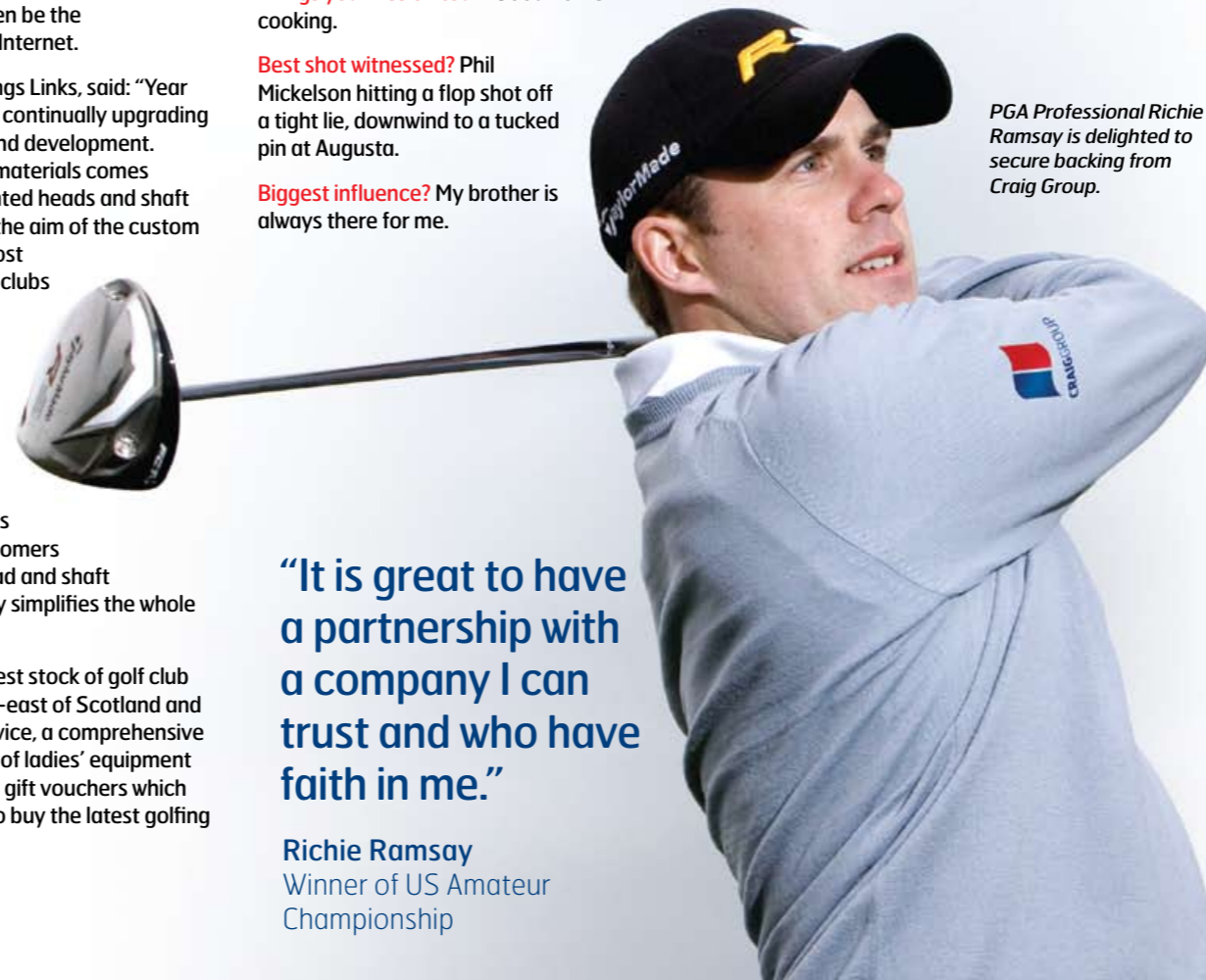
Best shot witnessed? Phil Mickelson hitting a flop shot off a tight lie, downwind to a tucked pin at Augusta.

Biggest influence? My brother is always there for me.

Best tip? Commit 100% to each shot.

Best quote? Lady hits putt too hard and doesn't break at all and runs eight feet by the hole. She questions the caddie's line. Caddie responds: “How does your car react trying to turn at 100 mph?”

If you are buying? Magners with plenty of ice, cheers.



PGA Professional Richie Ramsay is delighted to secure backing from Craig Group.

“It is great to have a partnership with a company I can trust and who have faith in me.”

Richie Ramsay
Winner of US Amateur Championship

Festival set to impress

ONE OF SCOTLAND'S most impressive music and dance festivals has once again benefitted from a Craig Group donation this year.

The Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF) draws a host of acts from around the globe, and has been supported by the Craig Group for a number of years.

As always, the Group sponsored a themed night and 2009's evening was called "Welcome to Scotland". The evening was hosted by the AIYF's Scottish traditional big band, Ceol Mor and was a huge success.



The festival provides a platform for young talent to shine and celebrates innovation and youthful creativity.

Craig Group Managing Director Douglas Craig said: "We have been long-term supporters of this excellent festival which not only attracts thousands of visitors to the north-east of Scotland every year but also acts as a showcase for some of the best rising talent from around the world".



Douglas Craig was shortlisted for national awards.

Douglas makes the cut

DOUGLAS CRAIG was recently nominated as a finalist in the prestigious Institute of Director Awards in both the Aberdeen & Grampian regional category and Scotland's director of the year category. IoD Scotland Executive Director David Watt commented: "The awards are unique in that they recognise excellence demonstrated by Scottish directors across all three sectors and from all different sizes of organisation."



Lending a helping hand

FROM THE beginning of the year, staff at Craig Group have been generously supporting local charities. CLAN and Cornerstone are this year's chosen good causes.

A trio of North Star Shipping staff were first off the mark with their fundraising efforts when they took part in the Nippy Dippy challenge at Aberdeen beach on January 1st 2009. Tommy Karpinski, Julia Park and Eileen Lumsden braved the icy waters of the North Sea and raised



an impressive £1000 which has been donated to CLAN.

CLAN is an Aberdeen-based charity which offers support and services to anyone affected by cancer, from diagnosis, through treatment and onwards.

Cornerstone Community Care is one of Scotland's largest charities and a leading provider of services for adults and children who have learning disabilities.

The Group is also one of four main sponsors involved in the annual fundraising dinner held at the Aberdeen Foyer, and the Group will again be supporting this worthwhile city-centre venue in 2010. The Foyer, celebrating its tenth birthday this year, is a charitable organisation primarily working to prevent and alleviate youth homelessness and unemployment.



Tommy Karpinski, Julia Park (centre) and Eileen Lumsden.

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