Th. Pagonis and N. Pentheroudakis: Chartering Manual by Practitioners

Practitioners' Book Avenue, LLP, London, pp. 386, Price £98

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Shipping is a complicated business, and the duties of a shipping CEO require knowledge and skills from no less than a dozen different disciplines. Even the most experienced ship manager will discover after reading this 386-page book that they need to brush up on their knowledge in some areas they never thought necessary before.

The range of subjects covered in the book is phenomenal. One would not normally expect to find an extensive analysis on electronic bills of lading and guidance on NYPE court cases under the same cover, yet both are there for those interested, along with a commentary on the 2018 Bunker Terms by BIMCO and a very clear review on voyage estimation.

Other than the range of subjects, the book is wonderfully user-friendly. The authors do not hesitate to interrupt their argument to explain in plain language the meaning of the terms used to make sure everyone is in the same boat. The text's intention is clearly to educate rather than impress the reader.

The book also has a brief section on strategy and risk, dealing also with the fundamental areas where a shipping executive will have to make decisions, usually under uncertainty. Disputes between charterers and owners are, as one would expect, catered for at some length, as is—much to my surprise—cyber risk and cyber crime, with a documented historical review of literature on this subject.

It is unusual to find a book which can be recommended to a mixed audience of academics, researchers, professionals, students from several disciplines and ship officers with management aspirations alike, yet this is exactly the case with this painstaking piece of work. It is not a book for the shelf; it is one for the desk drawer. Don't miss it.

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