

19th May 2007

Captain Alan Haakestad

Have received an email from Alan Haakestad, a member of the Durban Branch of the Society.

Alan was a Unicorn cadet who proceeded through to Master in the company before leaving in 2003 to join Delmas ships on the Austral/Asia line, on which he served for about two years.

He was then moved to the NYK container ships, but as he had not previously sailed on vessels over 300 metres long, he had to understudy a German Master for 2 months, do simulator and dangerous cargo courses, and pass an oral examination in Tokyo, before being appointed as Master on the 6500 TEU vessels.

In February this year he was appointed as Master of the new building **NYK Vesta** and spent a month in the shipyard in Ulsan, S.Korea prior to delivery of the vessel on the 6th March.



This vessel can carry 8650 TEUs, and is on the trade, Dalian, Xingang, Qingdao, Pusan, Shanghai, Ningbo, Singapore, Port Klang, Jeddah, Rotterdam, Hamburg and Southampton, on a two month turnaround at 26 knots, which Alan describes as “nail-biting”.

Alan has been joined for the China coastal voyage by his wife Christine and his two sons, who are signing off in Singapore on the 22nd May, while Alan will proceed to Port Klang to sign off on the 23rd May, thereafter joining his family for a three day stay in Singapore before returning home on leave. Apparently he will be taking command of another new vessel in Japan at the end of the year.