



David Hughes

David joined Cayzer Irvine & Co. in 1969 as a deck cadet, serving on general cargo vessels trading mainly to Africa and India. After obtaining his Second Mate's certificate in 1974 he returned to studying while still working on shortsea vessels. He studied International Relations at Sussex University, obtaining an honours degree, before undertaking PhD research at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff, in Maritime Studies. The subject of the research was Indonesian domestic shipping and involved extensive fieldwork in Indonesia. He obtained his doctorate in 1984. He joined the Nautical Institute soon after it was set up and is currently an associate fellow.

After a period working for HM Customs and Excise he moved into shipping journalism in 1999, taking up a post with Fairplay Information Systems and subsequently *Fairplay Shipping Weekly*. He was Fairplay's Singapore-based Asia Editor from 1992 to 1995. On returning to the UK in 1995 he became a freelance journalist, specialising in the shipping industry. He has written the *Singapore Business Times*' weekly Strait Talk column almost every week since 1995. For the past 15 years has also edited *World Bunkering*, the official magazine of the International Bunker Industry Association. Until recently he had a wide portfolio of other regular commissions, including providing the news content for the Mission to Seafarers bi-monthly newspaper *The Sea* and also wrote the *Maritime London Newsletter* and the training news section for *Safety at Sea*. However he is now attempting to be 'semi-retired' and only retains his *Business Times* and *World Bunkering* work.