

***Captain Anthony Phillip Meredith Davis FCIS ACMA MNI
Master, Honourable Company of Master Mariners 2008-09***

Tony was born in New Milton, Hampshire in 1931. He was educated at St Mary’s College, Crosby and at Wimbledon College. His pre-sea training was in *Conway* from 1947 to 1948.

After *Conway* he was indentured to the British Tanker Company (later BP Shipping Company). They ran an excellent training programme and he came top of the company’s cadet examinations for which he won a sextant. He served in a number of BP Tankers including *British Courage*. He was 2nd Officer in *British Skill* when she discharged the first cargo of crude oil at the Isle of Grain terminal bring the new £40 million facility on-stream.

His most exciting moment at sea was at the time of the Suez Crisis. His ship had just transited the canal but had been holed in an accident and so was anchored in Suez Bay. He managed to negotiate the temporary removal of the Egyptian armed guard so that a repair squad could weld a plate onto the bow making the vessel seaworthy – welding not really being recommended on a tanker in ballast but they had little option. They departed under cover of darkness and soon passed the Royal Navy task force steaming towards Suez. The Anglo-French landing began the next day. He remained at sea with BP until he gained his Master’s certificate when he transferred ashore to the Marine Department office.

He left the sea and qualified as an accountant and company secretary. He joined the National Provident Institution (NPI) and eventually became their Company Secretary. He was chairman of the industry tax committee leading the industry’s response to the major reform of the taxation of life insurance business in 1989. During this time he had to draft and promote and Act of Parliament and so is the only Master of the Honourable Company ever to have to been summoned to appear before a House of Lords Committee to introduce a Parliamentary Bill.

After his retirement from NPI in 1991 he formed his own tax consultancy business with offices in *Wellington* but by his time as Master of the Honourable Company he was completely retired.

He is a member of the Nautical Institute, the Chartered Institute of Company Secretaries & Administrators and the Chartered Institute of Managements Accountants, a trustee of the Royal Alfred Seafarers’ Society and is involved in the *Wellington* Trust. A keen bridge player he has won the annual inter-Livery bridge competition twice.

He joined the Honourable Company in 1968 and became a Liveryman in 1969. He was a Warden from 2003 and a long standing member of the Membership Committee and the Finance & Pensions Committee which he chaired for several years. He was Senior Warden in 2007-08.