



Capt Ghani Ishak (62-64)

Ghani Ishak was a student at the English College in Johor Bahru in Malaysia, when, aged 15, he won a scholarship to study at Conway. After leaving Conway, he joined Ellerman Lines, gaining his 2nd Mates Certificate of Competency at Sir John Cass Nautical College, London.

He considered himself lucky to have experienced a horrifying typhoon on his first trip which made him ever more determined to become a master mariner. Sailing to Britain from the Far East, his ship was hit by a typhoon off Hong Kong, which affected the ship for two days. Several crewmen were injured and the ship strayed 100 miles off course. The incident made him realise that being at sea was not an easy life but equally it could not get any worse.

In 1970, he joined Kuwait Shipping Company on the Europe to Persian Gulf service, a job cut short in 1971 when the Malaysian government called him to serve the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation (MISC) as a chief officer on the Far East to Europe service. Aged only 26, he was given command of *Bunga Orkid*, which he saw as one of the highlights of his career.

His fond memories of his travels included the hospitable Cape Malays in South Africa who took him to their homes, introduced him to their families and took care of him like he was one of their relatives. In 1976, MISC brought him ashore and he never returned to sea.

He stayed with MISC until 1999, serving in all aspects of the company, from personnel to operations, management and business development. He then left to fulfil a lifelong dream of studying law. He got his Bar from Inns of Court School of Law (Lincoln's Inn) towards the end of 2002. He then worked for a legal firm in Istanbul, to gain experience in maritime claims and disputes, and became a member of the London Maritime Arbitrators Association.

In 2008, Capt Ghani, his wife Alison and their then 3-year-old son Adrian embarked on a 2-year overland expedition, driving their 4-wheel drive from the Isle of Dogs, London, through 46 countries on four continents, before returning to Malaysia where he founded Nautical Inclinations (M) Sdn Bhd and began promoting legal consultancy instead of outright solicitors services. He was hugely respected and much loved, particularly for his outreach work with the Orang Asli indigenous communities in Malaysia.

Capt Ghani had suffered heart problems and major ill health for years before dying of a massive heart attack last March. He leaves behind Alison and Adrian, now aged 8, who reside in Malaysia.