



Bob Mankin, former N Sea Chapt Chair, epitomizes IADC spirit

HE WAS CHAIRMAN of IADC North Sea Chapter for 2 1/2 years, from 2000 to 2002. He would do it again if asked. This willingness to serve and support IADC and the industry says a lot about **Bob Mankin** as he explains how he became North Sea Chapter Chairman for so long.

"The chairman in 2000 relocated to the US so they were looking for someone to step in on short notice. I said I'd do it as long as I didn't have to make speeches at the IADC dinner," he said, perhaps only half jokingly. "

He served out the remaining six months of the former chairman's term that ended in 2000. The industry was in a state of transition at the time and he was convinced that he should remain chairman for another term, taking him into 2001.

"At the end of 2001," he continued, "I had two vice chairman, one of which was supposed to take over as chairman, but they both left the industry, so I ended up as chairman for another year.

"I made it clear to everyone that 3 1/2 years just wasn't going to happen"

So he says now: he's presently chapter vice chairman, only a mere step away from the top once again.

"Would I do it again?" he asked. "The answer is yes. I have enjoyed the association with IADC. It's a worthwhile organization within the drilling industry in order promote what we do and to get the best out of it.

"I don't think we can do that as individual drilling contractors," he continued. "I don't think we can tackle the issues of government legislation by ourselves, we must do it as an association."

For example, he notes that while Chairman of the North Sea Chapter, he oversaw and promoted the introduction of the Northwest European Safety Case. "We

changed the whole face of Northwest European drilling activities by getting the safety case accepted by all of the regulatory bodies around the North Sea," he said. "It truly was a great piece of work.

"We are trying to do the same thing with training now," Mr Mankin added. "It has been a target of ours for nearly three years, but we have enough working groups now that it could be a reality within the next 18 months."



Bob Mankin, Maersk Contractors, a former chairman of the IADC North Sea Chapter, has been active with IADC and since 1989.

Mr Mankin has a long involvement with IADC. He began attending North Sea Chapter meetings in 1989. He has also been involved with the British Rig Operators Association Technical Committee since 1989, as well.

He is still very involved with the Association and within the industry. He's on IADC's Government Affairs Working Party that monitors international government affairs.

If there are cross border government issues, IADC can address them from an international perspective.

Mr Mankin is also on the board of direc-

tors of **Cogent Sector Services Limited (CSSL)**, formerly the Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organization (OPITO), representing IADC.

He is also on the board of directors of the **Offshore Training Foundation**, a charitable organization that is a subsidiary of OPITO. The Foundation promotes the industry and make the industry more attractive to young people.

Mr Mankin began his association with the offshore industry by initially serving as an apprentice with **Swan Hunter** ship repairers. Upon completing his apprenticeship, he went to sea as an engineer with **Houlder Brothers** shipping and later transferred to a diving barge owned by Houlder in 1973. That was the beginning of his offshore career.

After working for three years as an engineer on the diving support vessel **Oregis**, he transferred to Houlder's drilling division, **Kingsnorth Marine Drilling**, as a subsea engineer on the semisubmersible **Kingsnorth UK**.

Mr Mankin left Houlder in 1982 and joined **Canadian Marine Drilling (Can-Mar)** to work on the project team of the newbuild semisubmersible **Sovereign Explorer**. When the rig was completed he transferred to **Dan Smedvig**, where he was involved in the installation of the world's first tension-leg platform (TLP) in the Hutton field in the North Sea.

"In those days the TLP was very much a concept design," Mr Mankin noted. "I could see this as the future from steel jackets and concrete platforms here in the North Sea.

"I figured I could get in on the ground floor, so I went to work on the platform during installation and its first 10 months of operation."

After about a year with Dan Smedvig, he decided he'd rather work on semisubmersibles, and worked for **Global Marine** on the **Glomar Arctic II** from 1984-86. In 1986 he joined **Maersk Contractors** as a project engineer based in Copenhagen then worked offshore prior to taking up the position of Technical Superintendent.

His career progressed to Rig Manager in 1991 and Drilling Operations Manager since 1996, responsible for all of Maersk's drilling operations in the UK continental shelf as well as onshore.

The IADC volunteer spirit is alive and well with people like Bob Mankin. ■