



Those of you with long or Dustin Hoffman in Rainman like memories, will recall that Propeller Club Antwerp was our "grandfather" club. As were the rules of the International Propeller Club of the United States, they conferred our charter upon us, and helped bring us into being.

That was all well and good, and we have had a great relationship with our friends in "Koekenstad" ever since. However, times change and 6 years down the line both clubs have decided, as many others have, to leave the US part of the organisation, and to go it alone.

Well not quite alone, as we are working together to establish a new European group of Propeller Clubs. Mark Scheerlinck (pictured above with our own Jim Bellew) has been the driving force, and we are an enthusiastic part of this new venture.

Our President Adam Whittle has taken part in a number of online meetings, and we even had a virtual visit from a number of European propellerists during one of our own First Thursdays.

This is all very exciting, and joining Propeller Clubs in Italy, Turkey, as well as Geneva and Monaco, we will be engaging to ensure that Liverpool is a respected, recognised and valued part of this new marine adventure, Propeller Club Europe.





# PROPELLER CLUB

# EUROPE TAKES SHAPE



Mark Scheerlinck, President of Propeller Club Antwerp, and Initiator of Propeller Club Europe tells us more about the progress to drive ever more cooperation.

Over the years, a number of major European Propeller Clubs have sailed an independent course away from the US parent organisation. Clubs such as the Italian Propeller Clubs with 25 ports and 1,400 members, Basel and Geneva with 600 members, have been independent for years. More recently, in 2019, Liverpool and the Port of Antwerp also became independent of the US department.

In a world of change, an organisation needs to question itself regularly. We note that the interests of our members are mainly in the European hinterland, combined with a worldwide reach. A strong European network imposes itself, along with a strong local anchoring.

## European cooperation

Meanwhile, the independent European Propeller Clubs are exchanging views and contemplate on how to cooperate. A successful mission on October 10th 2019 to the Annual Convention of the Italian Propeller Clubs (Umberto Masucci) in Genoa, together with the Propeller Club of Geneva (Geert Descheemaeker), laid the basis for

more European cooperation and exchanges between clubs.

More visits in 2019 and 2020 to Geneva, Milan and in September 2020 to Naples paved the way for an increased cooperation. Due to COVID, we had to postpone missions to Liverpool, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. These will be taken up as soon as COVID allows. Monthly web meetings between the interested clubs in Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, UK, France, Monaco, Turkey, Spain and Greece are the basis for an increased cooperation and the sharing of views.

## The way forward

The aim is to create a pan-European community of maritime professionals, and to promote exchanges between the different clubs and its members. To inform and give access to the local meetings for all to join, and let you plan your business or leisure travel in accordance with local club gatherings.

All of this is empowered by a new European website and member administration, topped off with an app for your mobile phone so you can keep your Propeller Club Network within reach. Icing on the cake is the functionality of 'Competence Based Networking', where each member can register its competences, making it easy to other members to find the right person. E.g. Let's say I would be searching for

information on 'ShortSea in Liverpool', then my question will end up with the persons who have registered these competences on the platform. A functionality unique to any other business network.

More than 3,000 maritime professionals, 50 clubs in 9 countries unite that way. Other maritime clubs already showed interest. Joint missions to other ports are currently being planned.

Today the European Propeller Clubs are opening up to maritime business clubs all through Europe, regardless of their current status; being a Propeller Club and still part of the US parent organisation, being an independent Propeller Club or being a maritime business club with no ties to Propeller Clubs.

The Propeller Club is rejuvenating: a new website, app and member administration support the renewal. A new logo completes the operation.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to make this happen. In the mean time, stay safe and stay healthy.

See [www.Propellerclubs.eu](http://www.Propellerclubs.eu) for more information and details.