

P&I brokers defect from Marsh team

Two leading protection-and-indemnity brokers are defecting to broking groups Price Forbes and Aon.

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P&I BROKERS: Jerry Westmore (right) along with Steve Griffiths Photo: Jim Mulrenan

Top broker Marsh is losing its two leading protection-and-indemnity (P&I) brokers in the latest round of musical chairs in this sector.

Jerry Westmore and Steve Griffiths are currently at home on gardening leave after deciding to quit Marsh to move to rival broking groups Price Forbes and Aon, respectively.

Westmore, 47, a former Steamship Mutual underwriter, was recruited to lead the Marsh P&I team three years ago after former chief Mark Cracknell quit to join a marine and energy start-up operation at Benfield, formerly a specialist reinsurance-broking group.

Griffiths, who was effectively Westmore's deputy, was originally a Through Transport Club underwriter but is a long-term, Marsh broker with over 20 years

service. He originally joined as a result of the Bowring takeover many years ago.

Westmore, who spent 20 years with Steamship Mutual, specialises in North and South American fleets but also has connections in the former Eastern Bloc and elsewhere. Griffiths is known for looking after US, Scandinavian, Northern European and Middle Eastern accounts.

Veteran hull broker Nick Taylor, who is also well known in the P&I market for developing schemes to tackle risks that the clubs dislike, is understood to be currently running the Marsh P&I operation. Taylor has previously come up with solutions to tackle the high compulsory passenger-ship liabilities created by the Athens convention protocol and for US Certificates of Financial Responsibility (Cofrs) required

under oil-pollution legislation.

Price Forbes, formerly Prentis Donegan, was created in its present form by a management buy-out from Marsh two years ago and at the same time boosted its P&I reinsurance operation with the recruitment of John Garthwaite from Jardine Lloyd Thompson.

Aon P&I chief Stephen Hawke announced his resignation soon after this year's club renewals but it is unclear if Griffiths is to be a direct replacement. Hawke is currently working a 12-month notice but it is not yet clear where he might be heading.

Aon has, meanwhile, recruited two marine-hull and liability-claims specialists, Gordon Brown from Hiscox and Robert Dobson from consultancy Craig. Both have extensive backgrounds in insurance and broking companies.