



► **DELIGHTED:** Hill Dickinson partner David Pittlarge (left) and Russel Gardner, the firm's UK head of shipping.



► **WELCOME:** Patrick Hawkins (left), head of Hill Dickinson International's Piraeus office, and Marc Jackson of the UK Defence Club's Piraeus office.
Photos: GILLIAN WHITTAKER



► **DUO:** George (left) and Stathis Gourdomichalis of Blue Wall Shipping.



► **BROTHERS:** Athanasios (left) and Constantinos Karaindros of the Karaindros group.



► **GEORGE CARAMANOS:** of National Insurance Brokers.



► **DENNIS VERNARDAKIS:** Head of Masters Shipping that specialises in passengership broking.



► **NIKOS ATHANASSIOU:** of lolcos Hellenic Maritime Enterprises.

Hill Dickinson marks 21 year Greek presence

Gillian Whittaker Athens

Celebrating one's 21st birthday today does not carry quite as much weight as it once did when it marked the official entry to adulthood.

But that did little to detract from the celebration of law firm Hill Dickinson's 21st anniversary of its presence in Greece.

Shipowners, along with executives, bankers, insurance brokers and yet more lawyers, all braved a very chilly Athens night to mark the occasion.

The venue was a traditional restaurant with a superb, uninterrupted view of the Parthenon temple but inside the atmosphere was more modern.

Finger food, an enthusiastic two-man DJ team, coloured light-

ing and a generous bar all went towards making a thoroughly enjoyable evening, pushing aside general worries over Greece's economy, the gloomy dry bulk market and an incipient snowfall.

Always ready for a laugh, finance man George Xiradakis of XRTC (which in pronunciation is similar to the Greek word for "dependence") and John Belousis of Independent Average Adjusters clowned around with a take on the no-tie dress code adopted by Greece's new finance minister Yanis Varoufakis.

As knots of people formed and shifted, the mood was upbeat and friendly.

It takes a lot to dampen the spirits of the Greeks and — clearly — their British hosts and guests too.



► **LION SHIPBROKERS:** Founder Panos Pantos (right) with his wife, Diana.

Marine hose couplings



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