



KING'S LYNN CONSERVANCY BOARD

In Memoriam

Owen James Jary

30 January 1972 – 16 September 2026

A Tribute to His Life and Maritime Service

It is with profound sadness that the King's Lynn Conservancy Board records the passing of Owen James Jary, Senior Class 1 Marine Pilot, who died on 16 September 2026, aged 54.

Owen devoted his entire working life to the maritime profession, beginning his seagoing career on 21 July 1988, at the age of just 16, when he joined F.T. Everard & Sons as a Deck Apprentice aboard the *MV Cotinga*.

Over the following four years, Owen developed his professional qualifications and seagoing experience, attaining his Chief Officer's Certificate of Competency and progressing to the rank of Mate within the F.T. Everard tanker fleet.

In December 1992, Owen joined the King's Lynn Conservancy Board as a Pilot Cutter Coxswain, beginning an association with the Port of King's Lynn that would continue for almost 34 years.

His ability, experience and commitment to the profession saw him promoted to Marine Pilot in June 1998. Over the following 28 years, he developed an exceptional knowledge of the River Great Ouse, the approaches through The Wash, and the particular challenges associated with navigating commercial vessels to and from King's Lynn.

At the time of his passing, Owen held the position of Senior Class 1 Marine Pilot, the highest level of pilotage qualification within the Conservancy Board.

Owen was an exceptionally bright and intelligent man, possessing a remarkable, almost photographic memory. This extraordinary ability, combined with his extensive experience and natural seamanship, made him an accomplished Marine Pilot whose knowledge of the river, its channels, tides and constantly changing conditions was second to none.

Yet Owen was much more than an experienced and highly capable mariner.

He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word: courteous, engaging and always willing to offer help or advice to others. He possessed a wonderful sense of humour and a sharp wit, often bringing laughter and good humour to those around him. His intelligence and quick thinking were matched by an approachable nature that made him both a respected colleague and enjoyable company.

These personal qualities, together with his considerable professional abilities, earned him the respect and affection of those fortunate enough to know and work alongside him.

Marine pilotage is a demanding profession, requiring sound judgement, confidence, responsibility and an intimate understanding of the waters in which a pilot operates. Owen brought all these qualities to his work, and his contribution to maintaining the safety of navigation at King's Lynn over nearly three decades as a Marine Pilot was considerable.

His passing represents an immense loss to the Conservancy Board and the wider maritime community. His experience, knowledge, friendship and unmistakable character will be greatly missed.

With a maritime career spanning more than 38 years, including almost 34 years of dedicated service to the King's Lynn Conservancy Board, Owen leaves a lasting legacy in the history of the Port.

The Chairman, Board Members and employees of the King's Lynn Conservancy Board wish to place on record their sincere gratitude for Owen's loyalty, professionalism and distinguished service.

They extend their deepest sympathy to his family, friends and loved ones.

Owen will be remembered not simply as an outstanding Marine Pilot, but as an intelligent, witty, generous and thoroughly decent man whose presence enriched the lives of those around him.

Rest in peace, Owen. Fair winds and following seas.

King's Lynn Conservancy Board

October 2026

