



NEWSLETTER

Up Close and Personal

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General Manager for Marine Services & AVP*



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**Inaugural
Issue**



Up Close and Personal

*This man is free from servile bonds
Of hope to rise or fear to fall;
Lord of himself, though not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all.
-Sir Henry Wooton*



Nigel Saunders

Born on January 10th 1965 he lay oblivious to the world while the United Kingdom is abuzz with the arrest of twin boxers Ronald and Reginald Kray for running a protection racket in London.

Thirteen months later, a victim of a broken home, destined to never meet his father up to this day. Nigel describes how he wishes he knew of his mother's illness when he was a child, to be able to offer help and make his mum well again. As he grew he realized she was an alcoholic. At the age of 5, Nigel describes growing up amongst a sea of mixed emotions. Life as a child seemed frightfully normal. Finally, the system intervened and he was taken from his so called family home and placed into foster care. "I remember that time vividly. My mother sat me down and told me she was going up to heaven to live and I had to live with another new family".

The strange life was exchanged to a normal environment for a couple of years. At a tender age of seven, his mother sought him and returned into his life. Nigel smiles "of course it wasn't true as my mother managed to live with such an illness for another 27 years". I asked Nigel how that made him feel. "I was overjoyed to see my mother but it does something to you. The adverse effects are you grow never trusting anyone and only let people in after gaining your trust." The brutality returned for a while until he reached an age able to leave home. Memories of growing up were slowly blocked out. All thoughts of loving someone, of ever needing anyone, are pushed back in his deepest recess.

"I was called to the front, given the ball and told to run towards the elder 2nd year team. The instructions were simple, 'See if you can get through the wall of bigger boys and put the ball through the try line.' A few scuffles, gouges and bruises later the ball was down and behind me laid a pile of bodies"

School life was his release. He put every effort into his schooling which was giving him great results. At aged eleven he was invited to the senior school 1st year rugby trials. "I clearly remember this day. I was called to the front, given the ball and told to run towards the elder 2nd year team. The instructions were simple, see if you can get through what seemed to be a wall of bigger boys and put the ball on the try line. A few scuffles, gouges and bruises later the ball was down and behind me laid a pile of bodies.

"Thinking I'd done wrong my teacher, Steve Body with a huge smile across his face came jogging over, whistle in one direction and clip board in another asking my name. I replied and he tapped me on the head as I ran to join my cheering team mates".

It started from there, under the mentorship of his sports teacher he learned to play rugby thus, the burly mass that he is today. The rough-and-tumble nature of the game released pent-up aggressions, and he found freedom at last. Nigel described "I never hung out on street corners, never involved in gangs, never in trouble with the police and to this day never smoked, although I can't say I never had a mouth full of beer before the age of eighteen", he smiles; "rugby is rugby for a reason!" He found himself looking forward to training sessions and made sure that he would be one of the best because he feared no one. Out there on the field, he is somebody, out there on the field, he belonged, but most of all, like the young Fauntleroy's before him, he developed a strong character, team play, and leadership skills.

Steve Body gave up his family life. Weekends were spent all over England playing representative games. "Steve stayed a friend for many years; he pushed me to the limit many times and believed in me. Years later I saw him in the crowd during a big game in the South of England. At half time I walked off the pitch and shook him by the hand. He was a great mentor and inspiration".

By the age of 16 he had represented his school and county, the first in the Schools 124 year history. At 18 he was wearing the prestigious English rose on his shirt as a junior. Through his senior career he became a force to be reckoned with. Playing for national league teams in



the UK, captain of the county and selected for the Southwest Divisional sides before gaining his England B cap. He spent 8 months playing in New Zealand and has fond playing memories of teams like Japan and Italy. Nigel smiles as he explains “I didn’t get any higher towards the full England side. I tried to show my ball handling skills during a trial game attended by the England senior selection committee. All I can say is Prop forwards are Prop forwards! To better explain, in this position we do the power (donkey) work and have the reputation of couldn’t catch a cold or pass the salt if we tried. I think I only ever passed the ball 10 times in my career!”

He had a very successful rugby career and continued to play and train local Asian teams for leisure until the age of 33.

For his working career, when he was 18 years old a friend, Bradley Westell talked him into taking a commercial diving course. That same friend lent him £5000 and he enrolled at Plymouth Diving School taking the first step in a career. Little did he know at the time this would pave the way for his lucrative offshore marine career. Five years later Nigel received the sad news that Bradley died in a tragic diving incident in the North Sea.

His first assignment was with McDermott Under Water Services in Lagos, Nigeria. “The day I graduated, I called the McDermott office in Aberdeen and was told to get myself to Heathrow airport. The next day, I was off!” He was instructed to meet with a local agent in Lagos who would be wearing a McDermott’s baseball cap and not to go with anyone else because it wasn’t a safe city! Only to find at least twenty people wearing the same cap when he arrived. After several attempts and not-so-welcome offers thrown his way, he found his man and worked the West Coast of Africa and North Sea for 4 years. As a commercial diver, he was involved in installing platforms (jackets), PLEMs, SPMs and pipeline tie-ins. Through time he gained further qualifications and worked his way into the supervisor’s role leading to sub-sea project management.

He continued working as a Diving Supervisor for 3 years and was later assigned offshore as McDermott Barge foreman for 3 more years. At only 30 years old, he was employed under ARAMCO in Saudi Arabia as the Superintendent of 6 SPM’s, operating maintenance barges, and dive support vessels.

In 1998, he was seconded to Thailand under Star Alliance Ltd, a joint venture between Caltex and Shell. This project involved installation of the terminal 48 inch mainline, PLEM and SPM. He was engaged to extend his time to train the local contingent in terminal management and maintenance programmes. Whilst

there, Nigel was involved in a children’s charity organisation raising money for the local orphan programme South of Bangkok. During this time he met his wife Nok, a manager at an international school. “I was wearing a light green sequin suit I think I may have stood out a little”. They have two children a daughter named Amy Ellen (7) and a young son Benjamin Bradley (2).

He remained in Thailand as an Operations Manager, a position held for 7 years. Involved in vessel management, structuring of terminal policies and procedures. At that time he was working for Tidewater Ltd. The contract was renewed and awarded to Svitzer, the tug division of Maersk Supply. In 2004 he was brought to Singapore by Svitzer FE where he became the General Manager for Offshore Turfs. During this period he took the challenge with a Maersk design team to build a series of 60m & 65m Multipurpose Support Vessels (MSV’s) for the SPM and FPSO support market. “This was a great experience. All my offshore knowledge loaded onto the deck of a single vessel to support offshore terminals”. The project was a success with the first 4 vessels placed on long term charters for Chevron and Conocophillips.

In September of 2007, he met Darren Yeo of Swiber. “I sat down over a coffee with Darren and listened for a couple of hours. I was attracted by the company vision he was describing”. Subsequently Nigel started in January 2008 and presently holds the AVP & General Manager position for Kreuz Offshore Marine.

“Life gives you nothing. My childhood taught me very early that you can succeed at anything if you have the passion to go out and get it.”

From a very humble beginning, Mr. Nigel Saunders has turned what could have been a hopeless existence with the scourge of unfortunate circumstances into a life of significance. Nigel added “Life gives you nothing. My childhood taught me very early that you can succeed at anything if you have the passion to go out and get it. Of course I wish life’s start was different but oddly I have no regrets. It gave me the courage to get to where I am today.”

Sure enough, his experiences have indelibly given him the steely resolve that made him rise from the ranks with only his own hands-on experience but it also bode ill in starting relationships with others. For how do you trust someone when everyone even in your own family has let you down? After knowing Mr. Saunders background, it’s easy to see how the stormy gray color of his eyes reflect the tempest in his past but portrayed in this photo is a loving father and a self-made man who captured the oceans, and to use his words.....there’s more to come.



Swiber Participates in Career Fair at NUS

Swiber Holdings Pte Ltd has participated for the second time in the annual career fair of National University of Singapore. The two-day event was held in NUS Multi-Purpose Sports Halls (MPSH) 1 and 2 last February 21 and 22, 2008.

The event was participated by some of the major players in other industries as well such as Siemens, Credit Suisse, PSA, Bloomberg, AMD and British American Tobacco, and many others.

The Swiber booth was manned by our dashing gentlemen from HSE



Queuing up in our booth

Dr Ganesh Shastri and Shadab Ahmed from Offshore Construction together with our lovely Assistant HR Manager Siew Chern Ng, HR Executive Mandy Li Hing Man, Senior

Accounts Executive Lynette Tiong, Accounts Executive Denise Kong. Our System Engineer Dai Ming Yan helped out in setting up the booth.

"The NUS Career Fair was a resounding success with a good over 600 applications from interested applicants. Being a new player, our booth is one of the 'hottest' amidst our neighbors and old timer giants like Police Force, Army, etc. The team did a fantastic job in making this happen. Kudos to them and all who have helped in one way or another!" - Siew Chern

An estimated 6500 students and postgraduates turned out for the job fair and it was a very good exposure for our company and at the same time, an opportunity to meet new talents as well.

The Organizational Development Team

Swiber recently formed a new department which mainly focuses on Organizational Development. The team will be reporting directly to the CEO Mr. Raymond Goh and it comprise of:

Kelly Chong – Organizational Training

Rizza Echarri – Publication

Irene Chong – Media, corporate video, etc



Swiber supporters



Swiber models



Making the Victory sign



Up Ahead

Auditorium at 3rd Storey

Adjoining Kreuz International office is the Swiber Auditorium which is basically ready for “amp time” the phase where all audio video techs are being installed and everything is in order.

The auditorium holds 209 seats upholstered in luxurious red wine colored plush arranged in a fixed raised seating affording unimpaired view of the stage. Behind the proscenium is the stage which will be



replete with stage lighting system mounted on cables, wall and ceiling. Negotiation for supply and installation of Video Projection System, Lighting and Sound system has recently concluded so everything is already set.

This fully air-conditioned, quite imposing structure will play host to all entertainment showcases, movies, corporate events like trainings, signing ceremonies and witness all other future corporate milestones.



Front view of the seating area

Swiber gym at 2nd storey

Good news to all of you Swiber gym buffs! In response to the survey conducted earlier about employees’ exercise and work-out habits, now is your chance to sweat it out and skimp on those \$\$\$.

Construction of our gym is currently underway and everything is estimated to be in place by end of March. Equipments will be provided by F1 Recreation Pte Ltd and professional instructors will be coming over after office hours for personal training and programs. So everyone is encouraged to avail of this benefit. Here is the list of equipments which will be made available in this facility:



Treadmills
Cross-Trainers
Dual Adjustable Pulley

Recumbent Bike
Upright Bike
45 Degree Extension



ENTERTAINMENT

Points to Ponder

Comfort, Habit, Resistance and Fear

No man is too big to be courteous; but others are too little

- Unknown

By : Jeff Cohen

You are responsible for you. What do I mean? Simple.

You may not be where you want to be in life. You may be. Either way, you are responsible for where you are. **The decisions you made are your decisions.** You may feel trapped. You feel that way because of the decisions you made to get there. You may feel you're in a helpless situation. You feel that way because of the decisions you made. You will continue to feel that way if you decide to stay where you are.

The good news is you can make different decisions to get out of that situation and experience some new feelings. Feelings that will empower you. Feelings that will inspire you. Feelings that will enable you to further your successful life.

Here is the ridiculous part. People throughout life have most likely given you extremely valuable advice. If only you would take that advice and actually implement it to your life. For some people, all they have to do is take a couple of steps and there will be a windfall of automatic steps to follow. This will lead to so much of what they dream. The problem is comfort, habit, resistance and fear.

Look at these a little closer.

Comfort

Comfort is an enemy of success. To succeed we have to get out of our comfort zone. Think about it. While we are in our comfort zones, we sit back and enjoy just being lazy. We expect things to just happen. We are comfortable so we think we are supposed to lay back in our rocker / recliner and the world will wait on us. This mentality will kill a successful spirit. The comfort mindset is the enemy of the successful lifestyle.

The successful lifestyle calls for you to go out conquer something and drag it home. **If you want it, go get it.** Please do not expect success to come knocking at your door. It just does not happen.

Habit

Habit can be an enemy of success OR it can be the backbone for achieving success. In this context we are talking about the enemy. You can probably answer this question before you even finish hearing it.

Question: What are some habits that murder any chance of having success?





Potential Answers: Laziness, Complacency, Procrastination, Lack of Self Control, Jealousy

Do any of these look familiar? Are you where you want to be? Perhaps a couple of the above habits need to be banned from your life? One of the most difficult things to do is to stop a bad habit.

Another extremely difficult thing to do is to start a good habit. Now combine those and try to stop a bad habit and start a good habit at the same time. At first that may seem next to impossible. It may be . . . if you think that way.

Here's a good way to overcome that. Get angry enough at your current circumstance that you D-E-C-I-D-E to make a change. The most effective tool for change is a concrete decision. There is a common attribute that almost all successful people have. That attribute is habit. But not just any habit. The habits of thinking successful will bring success in your life.

Resistance

Resistance can be a good thing but it's not when you are trying to achieve something. Resistance can be seen through behaviors such as procrastination and just negative thinking in general. Resistance can cripple any potential successes or be a blockade to keep successful living from exploding. How do you know if you're resisting successful living? Simple.

Are you in the same place now you were in 3 months ago? 6 months ago? 1 year ago? If so, chances are you are resisting successful living. Now that sounds absurd. Why would anyone want to resist successful living? I don't believe anyone would consciously and purposely keep from living successfully. But on another level people are too comfortable to change. There's a question of the unknown element of success. On a subconscious level there is a fear of success. Or should I say it's more of a fear of failure. Which brings us to fear.

Fear

Fear can be the most crippling, unrelenting, paralyzing, scary emotion you will ever experience, if you let it. Fear plays a part in our every day lives and it can keep you from failing. It will keep you from taking risks. It will keep you safe.

Consequently, it will keep you from successful living.

So how do you overcome and kill fear?

First, you have to become extremely emotional about killing your fear.

Are you afraid of heights?
- Climb a mountain.

Are you afraid of meeting a boyfriend or girlfriend?
- Go strike up a conversation with all the interesting people every chance you get.

Do you fear public speaking?
- Sign up for a public speaking course or go join your local Toastmasters chapter and sign up to speak as much as possible.

You see fear is a decision. You can decide to be a person of fear or you can decide NOT to be. Fear can be your end or it can be your beginning? What do I mean by that? Just this, if you decide fear is going to rule your decisions about how to succeed or not, then you most always will not. But if you decided that fear will be your motivator to overcome every thing that may hold you back, then you will be on top in a short amount of time.

Fear = Limitations

No Fear = Endless Opportunity



Fun Facts

✚ March Birthday Celebrants:

- ☼ March 2 – Denise Kong – Accountant Asst.
- ☼ 3 - Kho Teck Ghim - Brunei Accountant
- ☼ 7 - Dai Mingyan – System Engineer
- ☼ 10– Paul Chia – Logistics Coordinator
- ☼ Low Kit Kai – Technical Superintendent
- ☼ 11– Lynette Tiong – Senior Accounts Executive
- ☼ 14- Sohan Sharma – Project Manager / Malaysia
- ☼ 15- Chong Yae Yu – Finance Manager
- ☼ 16- Stellen Hoon – Project Engineer
- ☼ 21- Syed Thameen – QA/QC Manager
- ☼ 23- Sharon Ng – Document Controller
- ☼ 24- Anish – Technical Superintendent / India
- ☼ 25- Lina – Finance Manager
- ☼ 28- Macarthur Goh – QA/QC Coordinator
- ☼ Shiao Chen – Admin Assistant
- ☼ 30- Sarvath Ali – Office Boy /India

✚ Did you know?

- ❖ Singapore is consist of only one **main island and 63 other tiny islands**. Most of this islands are uninhabited.
- ❖ Singapore is among the **20 smallest countries in the world**. With a total land area of only 682.7sq km. The USA is about 15,000 times bigger.
- ❖ Symbolism of the **National Flag**: Red symbolizes universal brotherhood and equality of men while white signifies purity and virtue. The crescent moon represents a young nation on the rise and the five star signify the ideals of democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality.
- ❖ The **Merlion**, a half-fish, half-lion beast is a fitting symbol of Singapore. The “Singa” or lion represents the animal that a Sumatran prince saw which resembled a lion, and the fish is a tribute to Singapore’s history as “Temasek” the ancient sea town.
- ❖ The **Bukit Timah Nature Reserve** contains more species of trees than the entire North American Continent.
- ❖ The **World’s Highest Man-made Waterfall** standing at 30 meters is located at Jurong BirdPark.
- ❖ British pop violinist **Vanessa Mae Nicholson** was born in Singapore and moved to England when she was four.
- ❖ The **Singapore Sling** was first served in 1915 at the Long Bar of the Raffles Hotel. The ingredients are gin, Contreau, cherry brandy, Dom Benedictine, pineapple juice, Grenadine, Angoustura bitters and limes.
- ❖ The **Great Singaporean Duck Race**, an annual event that raises funds for charity, set a new world record in 2002 when more than 123,000 toy ducks took to the Singapore River.
- ❖ In 2003, **Changi Airport** won the award for “Best Airport Worldwide” for the 16th consecutive year from the UK/Europe edition of The Business Traveler Magazine.
- ❖ The buildings of **Suntec City** have been built in the shape of the palm of a hand symbolizing good “feng shui”.

