

# Leer shipping out in force at Gallimarkt

Geoff Garfield

Leer

Munich may be the centre for Germany's famous annual Oktoberfest but the small town of Leer, several hundred kilometres further north, never fails to disappoint when it comes to Gallimarkt.

The event, marked by its colourful street fair, dates back more than 500 years and helping to keep the tradition going is Leer's sizeable shipping community.

Again last week, owners and operators invited guests from around the world to their Gallimarkt parties, including the annual celebration held in a massive marquee courtesy of BBC Chartering, Briese Schifffahrts, EMS Chartering, Fehn Bereederungs and Leda Shipping among others.

Freight forwarders, bankers, brokers and insurers were among the approximately 700 people from more than 40 countries, including employees, who feasted on the type of cuisine that BBC Chartering boss Svend Andersen joked had earned the company the moniker "BBC Catering".

"Our business is based on relationships between people. It is because of you we are here," he told guests, who went on to party into the early hours of the morning.

Roelf Briese of Briese Schifffahrts and Heiko Luikenga of EMS Chartering kept tradition going by wearing black hats at the event, which was attended by representatives from companies including Frachtcontor Junge, Commerzbank, Panalpina, Clarksons, Thomas Miller, Gard, Braemar Shipping and Bremer Landesbank, as well as Leer's mayor Wolfgang Kellner.



**LEER MAYOR: Wolfgang Kellner**



**ROELF BRIESE: Black-hat tradition**



**LEER TOWN CENTRE: Gallimarkt street festivities**

Photos: Geoff Garfield



**ABOVE: From left, Jaroslaw Jerezek and Adriana Cwiertnia, both of Briese Shipping Agency, flank Wilke Briese of Briese Schifffahrts**



**MAKING THE JOURNEY: From left, Masatoshi Nakano of Nippon Express, Yoshimi Tokumaz of BBC Chartering Japan and Masao Ogawa of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries**



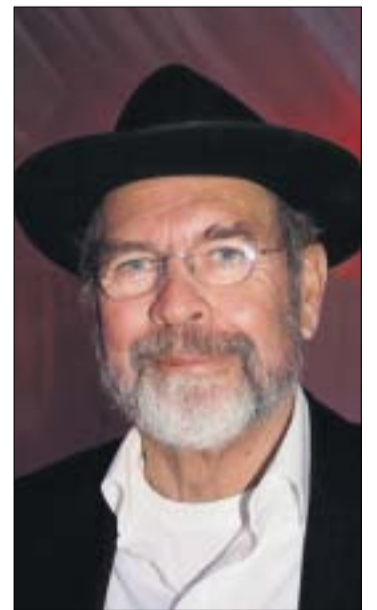
**ANNUAL CELEBRATION: BBC Chartering boss Svend Andersen (left) and Stefan Zinecker of Intermarine**



**IN ATTENDANCE: Upul Peiris (left) of Hayleys Advantis and Praneeth Gunawardena of Maritime Agencies, Sri Lanka**



**GUESTS: Michael Wester (left) of the German Ship Owners' Defence Association and Heiko Bloch of Gard**



**EMS CHARTERING: Heiko Luikenga**



**ON HAND: John Watt (left) of Denholm Barwil and Mathijs de Wolde of the University of Groningen**

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