

DIARY

2009

28 th /30 th May	EFSA European Species Championship – Plymouth, England
20 th /21 st June	English Boat Championship – Rhyl, North Wales.
26 th /27 th June	Lupus Summer Cod Festival – Helsingborg, Sweden.
3 rd /7 th August	European Line Class & Boat Championships – Orkney
3 rd /4 th October	English Shore Championship – Eastbourne.
7 th /14 th November	European Shore Championship (EFSA Germany) Langeland, Denmark.
12 th /13 th December	English Cod Festival – Dover.
TBA	Shore Championship of the British Isles.
TBA	European Game Festival - Portugal

2010

11 th /15 th May	European Line Class & Boat Championships – Dalvik, Iceland.
3 rd /5 th September	European Species Championship, Marina Albufeira, Portugal.

2011

September	European Line Class & Boat Championships – Weymouth.
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**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at
The Arndale Court Hotel, Wimbourne Road, Poole.
On Saturday 10th January 2009**

Present:

Mr N.Bryant	-	Chairman
Mr P.Peck	-	President
Mr K.Bowden	-	Secretary
Mr D.Styles	-	Vice-Chairman
Mr P.Hart	-	Treasurer
Mr G.Galbraith	-	Registrar
Mr A.Selby	-	Boat Festival Officer
Mr D.Oliver	-	Acting Press Officer

1. Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from the following:

R.Ashby	B.Allum	J.Whippy	A.White	M.Toomer
S.Spencer	K.Smith	J.Barrett	M.Wuest	J.Reece
J.Wood	N.Rush	T.Porrirt	A.Pye	A.Sindrey
C.Williams	P.Dack	K.Scaggs,	M.Smith	J.Dent
N.Cottington	R.Barron	D.Clark	B.King,	P.Badger
D.Saunders	A.Devin			

A total of 34 members were present.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2008:

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by P.Peck, seconded by J.Knight and accepted unanimously. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Prior to the Officer's Reports being given, the Chairman informed the meeting that both Keith Scaggs and Brian Allum were currently battling with cancer and were undergoing treatment. The best wishes of the Committee and membership were offered to both of them.

4. Executive Officer's Reports:

Chairman's Report: The Chairman gave the following report to the meeting.

Well, here we are again at another EFSA England AGM and to you all I want to say a Happy New Year and thank you for taking the time to attend this annual event that seems

to come round so quickly each year, albeit that it is still every 365th day. It is true that the older one gets the time gets shorter.

Firstly, as you can see there are a few faces missing from the Committee at this AGM and I would like to advise you all that Brian Allum has just been diagnosed with kidney cancer and I am sure we all wish him well. Having spoken to him briefly he is just getting down to dealing with each day as it comes and we agreed that it puts everything else into perspective. That said, Brian has always given his all to the Shore events and we do await his speedy recovery. You will see that Jim Whippy and Ray Ashby are also not with us and that is due to the economic climate and they have chosen to be aboard at this time, lucky chaps.

Well, what a strange year it was within the EFSA fishing family with the cancellation of The European Shore Championship and our own English Cod Festival due to the lack of support. Taking into account that the world is a changed place from last year's AGM to this one, from the value of currencies around the world and the effect that this is having on most, if not all EFSA Sections. It started with Iceland and their problems and now we have all seen the effects of the reliance we have on the financial stability of nations as well as individuals. I am sure that this will have an effect on all of us in some way or another and we, your EFSA England Committee, will be looking hard at our costs and reflecting on our events and will be trying hard to make everything that much more affordable.

You will see from our Treasurer's report and the financial accounts that we have indeed made a loss last year and this excludes the costs that will be incurred from the cancellation of our English Cod Festival, as this falls into next year's accounts. We may be able to rescue some costs from this years European Species Championships with some last minute efforts in getting some additional sponsorship for the event - let's hope so. I am sure that by looking at the accounts when we get to them that you will see that whilst we have maintained a level of control over the expenses, it demonstrates the importance of getting good support for the events to enable us to keep the running costs self supporting of the Section. I wonder if it is now time to discuss the production of the Newsletter in a paper format and maybe, just maybe if we can get ALL our Membership to supply their email address's we can do it all electronically and make some considerable savings. We do also have our Website that is working well and we could use this more in future. This is only a thought but we do have to look at all aspects of running the Section with the best interest to the Membership being our priority. That is the future and we will work on it.

Within the AGM there are reports on all of last years events and there are also the relevant reports on forthcoming events, those that we are hosting and those being dealt with by other Sections. I am sure that you will agree that some are very interesting ones and with us hosting the Species Championship from Plymouth will certainly be different, just think about how small the tackle bags need to be for a start. A rig wallet and some lead and a bait container, think of all the room on the boats! We will see. In the boats, we are returning to Rhyl for the English Boat Championships and back to Dover for the Cod Festival. In the shore we have to arrange the Shore Championships of the British Isles and

our own Shore Championships and Shore Species Festival. As you can see from the amount of events there is a lot of work the Committee have to do and if anyone feels they can be of any assistance, please do let us know.

It would be remiss of me not to thank all of the Committee on your behalf for all the work they have done over the years and I must say how pleased I am to have had Gary Galbraith, Kim Bowden, Paul Hart and more recently, Dave Oliver taking such active roles within the Committee, working along side the older members (I mean longstanding not age!) who appear to have been around for many a year. It does give one a real sense of relief to know that all the Committee positions are now occupied and together I am sure we can sustain the hard work of all the previous years and have a positive approach to the years ahead. It will take teamwork and I believe that this team is set to work hard within the Section for and on behalf of all the membership. There are some very good ideas coming forward in relation to increasing our exposure around the country and I am sure that we will maintain our membership and hopefully increase it. I assure you we will all be positive in the continued success of the Section in all disciplines and do our very best for the membership. After all, that is why you entrust us with the responsibilities of taking care of the Section.

I feel it is important to also mention that I recently attended a meeting in Derby, organised by the Angling Development Board and the new Angling Trust, which was recently ratified as the main governing body of angling in England. I was invited to attend in my capacity as EFSA England Chairman and to take part in active discussions about the way forward with competitions in the future and was invited as being considered probably the best Organisation for organising Sea Angling events in England. I took this as a great compliment to the Section. I will be discussing this with the Committee at our next meeting to establish if there is any way we can be of assistance to them in the future. It may be a good way to also increase our membership and as we have an association with the former NFSA. We should see where it takes us.

I am sure there are many items I could continue to report on, however most of these are covered within the AGM Agenda and I am sure that even though 2008 was a difficult year for the Section we will try and make 2009 an enjoyable, successful year all round.

Once again, on behalf of the Committee I would thank you for your attendance at this AGM and to all who are fishing the Flounder Festival I wish you well. I do hope you all get out of the events you attend the pleasure you are seeking. I for one will be trying to get to more events and trust I will meet up with many of you through the year. To all the members that were unable to attend today I do hope to see you all in the near future and would ask everyone to attend as many events possible and support the Section where and whenever you can.

I do hope you find the meeting informative and finally wish you all a Very Happy New Fishing Year.

Vice-Chairman's Report: Mr Styles gave the following report to the meeting.

I trust that everyone had a great time over the Christmas and New Year period and 2008 enabled you to reach some of your personal angling goals. This coming year the pundits are telling us it is going to be hard with failing businesses and job losses to add to the financial chaos. May fate be kind to you all so we can continue to enjoy each others company in varied locations around the world. Tomorrow sees the Section kick off our angling programme again with our annual Flounder bash in Poole Harbour; I wish everyone a good time and some nice fish.

Your Committee has been working hard to run the Section's business as well as we can on your behalf. This past year has been particularly hard on some of our number with their family, business and personal commitments, on your behalf I thank currently serving and proposed new Officers for their time and commitment. If it is your wish, Dave Oliver will join us as Press Officer, already Dave has attended a Committee meeting to get the feel of the post and with Jim Whippy's help I am sure Dave will make a great effort for you and the Section. Looking at the responsibilities of the various Committee posts it is noticeable that there are only 2 positions on your Committee that require anglers with dedicated knowledge of their particular branch of our sport, those being the offices of Boat and Shore Festival Officers, all other positions can be filled by members from any particular discipline, in practice they are predominantly participants in Boat and Game angling. If our Shore Festival Officer is unable to attend a meeting we struggle to deal with Shore issues as well as we need to, so further input and representation from a predominantly Shore focused angler would better serve the membership and enable the Section to represent everyone better. We still have a vacancy for a Social Events Officer to help out with organising the AGM, organising the raffles and prize ceremony at our events to take some of the workload off our respective Festival Officers.

This last year has seen me doing what I can to help other Committee members and in particular streamlining the Website. I would like to thank Paul Curtice for the 2 excellent articles he has provided for the Newsletter and Website. As you are probably aware, current and past editions of the Newsletter can be downloaded from the site together with entry forms where available for future events. If you have any ideas that are simple enough for a technophobe like me to understand and implement, please let me know.

I look forward to fishing alongside you all this year and in closing, remind everyone that if you wish to discuss any Section business I am always ready and willing to give any assistance or guidance that I can. All the very best for 2009.

Secretary's Report: Mr Bowden gave the following report to the meeting:

Well, to say it has been a difficult year could be an understatement. Despite the number of members, support for events seems to be diminishing and if this is due to what is being organised, we need to know.

Due to the reducing Euro rate between start of entries and financial transfer to Ireland, on arrival in Ireland I was given a bill for the shortfall. This meant I have sent letters

requesting the shortfall from those who entered. At the time of writing this report, I am still waiting on some to respond, the alternative would have been for me not to pay and for them not to fish! As a Committee we need to look at how we set the exchange rate and bank the money for events outside of the UK so that we are not faced with a repetition of the above. I should mention that the majority of the non-Euro countries entering faced the same situation on arrival - so we were not alone.

Rather than the gloom at present we should look forward to 2009 with a good spread of competition venues - more on those later. So it would be good to see support for the events, as there is nothing more demoralising than putting the work in and then having to cancel with the associated costs involved.

Throughout the year I hope I have completed all that was required of me, not that it is easy at times with work and other commitments - as is the case with most of your Committee. Despite the time constraints and my typing abilities (or lack of) I am still willing to continue as Secretary. The best way to contact me is by Email or mobile. You can contact me at any reasonable time of the day and I will assist as best as I can.

As you know I am a man of few words, most of the time at any rate. So to finish, let us hope the flounder find your worm if fishing tomorrow and I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming events.

Treasurers Report: Mr Hart gave the following report to the meeting:

It has been an interesting year for the finances of the English Section with membership actually holding up but with a trend towards decreasing support for events. The year started with The English Cod at Dover being cancelled due to bad weather and just after the year-end, we have seen this same event planned for the Mersey (Liverpool) cancelled due to lack of support. Another event, the European Shore in Holland was also recently cancelled - again due to lack of numbers. This is a worrying trend and the Committee has resolved to discuss in detail at the next Committee meeting the entire structure of future events with particular regard to pricing structure to see if we can make events more attractive to members, because cancelling an event can be a very costly business - especially when you factor in the cost of incidental expenses and time taken off to attend.

A significant part of our income arises from raffles at events so if events are not held, or even poorly attended, we will need to dip into our reserves to cover expenditure. I guess reserves are there to support the Section through hard times and times are certainly very hard for just about everyone at the moment, but we still need to run the Section's finances so as to at least try to balance our income and outgoings. You can be assured your Committee will do its best to ensure we all continue to do what we love to do - go fishing and catch fish, but at a price that ensures solid support for events and value for money.

The bright spots on our horizon are not only the European Species (Conger) Championship to be held in Plymouth 2009, for which there is already good support from

home and overseas Sections but we have also been provisionally accepted to host the European Line and Boat Championships at Weymouth in 2011 which, in the past, has provided valuable support to our Section.

It may have been a difficult 2008 but let's make it a brighter 2009.

The Treasurer then gave a brief explanation of the accounts and balance sheet to the meeting and invited questions from the floor. He stated that Life Membership fees to HQ were causing concern, as the current low interest rates were insufficient to cover these subscriptions. During the forthcoming year, the Committee would look at ways to reduce costs to events in order to make them more attractive to members. The importance of obtaining sponsorship was also raised. Some other minor comments were raised and were answered to the satisfaction of those present.

A proposal for acceptance of the Accounts was made by P.Curtice, seconded by R.Russell and carried unanimously.

Membership Registrar's Report: Mr Galbraith gave the following report and details to the meeting.

England EFSA Membership

March 2008	October 2008	December 2008
93 Life Members	76 Life members	77 Life members
03 Honorary Life Members	02 Honorary Life Members	02 Hon Life Members
93 Annual Members	103 Annual Members	107 Annual Members
05 Affiliated Clubs	09 Affiliated Clubs	09 Affiliated Clubs

Since coming to office

- 3 Annual Members change their annual membership to Life Membership
- I have removed 18 Life Members from the membership saving £144 annually
- Increased Affiliated Clubs from 5 up to 9
- Increased Annual Members from 93 up to 107
- Included in the 107 are 5 Junior Members

One year in office as Membership Registrar and the Membership records are about 99% up-dated and correct. This has been no easy feat as a minority of the Membership are reluctant to return information or change their standing orders to the correct amount when

requested. However, I shall continue with my dogged and relentless approach until this task is completed.

I am pleased to report that our Junior Membership numbers have increased and hope that this will continue, with Members encouraging new juniors to join wherever possible.

Annual Membership has also increased and with Dave Oliver's new appointment to Press Officer, and with his enthusiasm to promote and publicise EFSA England and Membership benefits, this may increase still further despite the economic situation our country is now facing.

England EFSA Stock *I now have polo shirts up to size 6XL: So those of you who could not be accommodated before, you now have the chance to look good in a EFSA polo shirt. I have also been pricing up other suppliers and have received a very favourable quote from a company that can supply hooded sweatshirts and smocks in larger sizes. The hooded sweatshirts are better quality and at a slightly lower cost to the present supplier. So may also enable us to hold our prices at the current levels.*

I will be taking all stock items to all the boat competitions that I enter, which is most of them, and to the AGM. You can also purchase items by completing and sending me the form in the Newsletter. Don't forget that when ordering my post, you must enclose the correct postage cost (Postage £2 per shirt / smock and £1 for all other items).

Fish Recorder's Report: In the absence of Mr Ashby, Mr Bryant gave the following report to the meeting.

Apologies for not being with you today, and indeed also tomorrow when I shall miss the annual Flounder bash. I shall hopefully be doing a little flattie bashing of my own with a few Flathead in Port Phillip Bay. Who knows maybe a contender for the 2009 Overseas Fish of the Year? My thanks to Kim and Neil for stepping in to do the presentation honours.

Back to 2008, and entries again this year have been slow, with the Boat entries in particular suffering. This is surely due in part to the appalling summer we had. I can't remember ever having so many summer trips called off. However, our stalwart affiliated Clubs, West Wight, Portland, The Cornish Federation and the British Conger Club continue to provide the main support for the competition and their members continue to make up the bulk of the entries.

What we have lacked in quantity has again been matched with quality and notable fish include from the shore several good Conger Eels - the best a fish of 41 lb 1oz caught by Derek Spear of the Conger Club. Several good Bass were also landed, the best a superb fish of a lifetime of 17 lb 2oz caught by Colin Wyatt from the West Wight Club. The boats also produced their fair share with the best Conger a fish of 109 lb 8oz caught by Roger Beer of the Conger Club, a Trigger fish of 4 lb 7oz from A Hill of the Cornish Fed, plus a Stingray of 48 lb caught by Ashley Currier.

The full results of the fish of the month awards plus the main premiere annual awards will be announced during the course of the Meeting.

As you will see from the proposals and from the note in the last Newsletter, the intention in 2009 is to try out an alternative to the current fish of the month award scheme in an effort to stimulate more interest. Full details were published in the last Newsletter, and it will be interesting to see if Members respond to the new challenges that the new award scheme offers. The annual awards will remain the same. November and December 2008 Fish of the Month Awards remain as per the old scheme and will be awarded at next years AGM, whilst the new scheme, all being well, will start as from January 2009.

Have a good Meeting and good fishing to all in the coming year.

Public Relations Officer's Report: In the absence of Mr Whippy, Mr Bowden gave the following report to the meeting.

EFSA England's year followed the economic down turn very closely. Our competitions all going well in the early part of the year but finishing disappointedly with the cancellation of the Cod Festival in the Mersey. It probably means we will have to tighten our belts for the next year or so but we have sufficient funds behind us to weather the storm. The new amalgamation of the various angling organisations into the Angling Trust will hopefully give us more clout in the halls of power and we certainly need it with the new proposals from the EU who consider it's us the recreational anglers are responsible for the lack of sea fish. Wishing you all a happy New Year and good fishing despite the economic gloom.

Boat Festival Officer's Report: Mr Selby gave the following report to the meeting.

This year was a real disappointment with the lack of support at our home events and for the first time ever; we had to cancel our English Cod Festival in Liverpool as only 14 members had entered at close of entry. This has resulted in a financial loss to the Section of about £660. The lack of interest from members, especially those who vocally complained about not fishing enough northern venues, has seriously impacted on whether we fish here again. I do thank those that did enter and am saddened for them for the lack of support from other members.

In 2009 we will be returning for the English Boat Championship at Rhyl and the English Cod Festival from Dover. Let's hope these events are well attended. Both venues have previously been very well supported and have seen plenty of fish caught.

Our big one in 2009 is the European Species Championship (conger) from Plymouth. We have about 45 entries to date and as there are limited places get your entry in quick to avoid disappointment.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to another busy fishing year and meeting you all at our events.

Shore Festival Officer's Report: In the absence of Mr Allum, Mr Paull Curtice gave the following report to the meeting.

As you are now aware, Brian Allum has been taken ill and will not be able to continue to carry out any work on behalf of the Section in the short to medium term. Due to the seriousness of the illness and the need for Brian and his family to be left to concentrate on personal issues, I have not felt it right to ask for any input to this report. I have been asked by Brian and other Section members to carry out the function of Shore Festival Officer until Brian is fit enough to resume, or if the Section decides it necessary to vote in a new Shore Festival Officer. I can only add that whilst the Section had been successful this past year, numbers attending events were reduced and that more support for the events is sought from the membership.

Acting Press Officer's Report: Mr Oliver gave the following report to the meeting.

Firstly I would like to say how very proud and excited I am in taking on this role and how I, along with the full support of the Committee, would like to project EFSA England through the Angling press and help promote the England EFSA image and to greatly improve the membership.

Having read the terms of reference there is not anything there that I feel that we are not able to achieve.

We have set up a new e-mail account that is daveoliver.efsapo@yahoo.co.uk This is for sole use for EFSA work and contacts. Apart from the terms of reference, which I will fulfil to the best of my abilities, I would also like to include some more expanded ideas within the role.

Formulating a network of contacts of sea angling writers covering all national and local fishing magazines and papers along with any sea fishing websites promoting EFSA England. What it's all about, future competitions, results and membership trying to reach all four corners of the country.

1. Include all NFSA Division Secretaries with correspondence referring to competitions and results and include information how anglers can join EFSA
2. Set up a network of Sea Fishing Club Secretaries that wish to be included and promote the benefits of their clubs and members joining EFSA.
3. Talk to the Committee about setting up a stall at the Go Fishing show at the Birmingham NEC to promote EFSA England and recruit members.
4. Try and promote EFSA through tackle shops throughout England.

I have spoken to Norman Berry and he is looking forward to printing an EFSA England report in his monthly Sea Angling paper The Sea Angling News. I have also negotiated with Lock, Stock and Tackle in Portsmouth that all EFSA members will receive 10% off all tackle deals.

Competition Co-ordinator's Report: In the absence of Mr Barron, the Chairman gave the following report to the meeting.

All entry monies for all competitions have been banked. It was a pity that the Cod Festival had to be cancelled, but luckily I didn't bank all the entries so this just left four people to have refunds. The flounder comp has been well supported again with four full boats and a good attendance by the shore anglers. Let's hope the flounders make a good show as well. I've only had a few entries for the English Boat, but it is a while away and with the excellent fishing at Rhyl, I expect a good turn out. Kim Bowden is collecting the entries for the Species Championship at Plymouth and the Europeans in Scotland, so please ensure entries are forwarded to him.

Standing Committee Delegate's Report:

Mr Bryant informed the meeting that two S.C Meetings had been attended during the year, details of which were given in the Newsletters. The next scheduled meeting was to take place at Gatwick in April to be attended by himself and the Secretary as replacement Delegate for Mr Allum.

5. Reports on Championships & Festivals in 2008:

Flounder Competition - Poole:

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the February 2008 Newsletter.

English Cod Festival - Mersey

No report was given due to the cancellation of the event as described earlier in the Boat Officer's Report.

English Shore Championship – Chesil

Mr Curtice gave a brief report, a full report of which was given in the November Newsletter. The meeting was informed that Mr B.Booker had won the SCBI, the European Shore Championship and the English Shore Championship at consecutive events – a remarkable achievement.

English Boat Championship - Plymouth

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the July Newsletter.

European Species Championship –Ostende

Mr Bowden gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was published in the July Newsletter.

European Shore Championship – Zeeland

Mr Curtice informed the meeting that, regrettably, the Netherlands Section had to cancel the European Shore Championship at Zeeland due to there only being 23 entries and they were anticipating 60 plus to enter. He stated that the ten English Section entrants were very disappointed in the cancellation.

European Boat & Line Class Championships - Ireland

Mr Bowden gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was published in the November Newsletter

Shore Championship of the British Isles – Camarthen, Wales.

Mr Curtice gave a brief report on the event to the meeting, a full report of which was given in the July Newsletter. He also corrected a report published in earlier Newsletters and on the Website and stated that Mr D.Lovellock won the Silver Medal and not Bronze as reported.

English Species Championship – Shore - Dover

Mr Curtice gave a brief report on the event to the meeting, a full report of which was given in the July Newsletter.

European Game Championship - Mexico

Mr Styles gave a full report on the event to the meeting, which is published in the February 2009 Newsletter.

An amendment to the schedule on the Agenda was made and the Fish of the Month awards were brought forward from Item 10.

7. Presentation of Fish of the Month Awards.

The Chairman, assisted by the President, made the following presentations Mr Peter Peck.

EFSA FISH OF THE MONTH 2008

Shore

Month	Name	Club	Area	Fish	Weight	%
Dec 07	D Spear	BCC	D	Conger	41lb 11oz	166.75%
Jan 08	G Gavey	BCC	S	Conger	37lb 4oz	146.53%
Feb 08	J Butcher	Portland	D	Pouting	11b 8oz	100.00%
Mar 08	J Butchers	W Wight	E	LSD	2lb 11/2oz	83.75%
Apr 08	C Wyatt	W Wight	E	Bass	17lb 2oz	180.26%
May 08	R Instance	Cornish Fed	A	T.L.Mullet	6lb 9oz	164.06%
June 08	S.Crews	W Wight	E	S'Hound	13lb 13oz	115.10%

July 08	P.Haug	Portland	D	Bass	12lb 6oz	130.42%
Aug 08	M.Patten	PM	R	Sole	2lb 14.25oz	144.53%
Sept 08	P.Bennett	WWAC	E	Smoothound	12lb 0oz	100.00%
Oct 08	M Pengelly	Cornish Fed	A	Conger	39 lb 15oz	199.69%
Nov 08	No Entries					

Boat

Month	Name	Club	Area	Fish	Weight	%
Dec 07	G Roper	Cornish Fed	A	Flounder	4lb 1oz	203.10%
Jan 08	R Quinn	PM	D	Flounder	3lb 1oz	122.50%
Feb 08	No Entries					
Mar 08	No Entries					
Apr 08	D Saunders	Christch'ch	D	Turbot	24lb 4oz	161.66%
May 08	R Chapman	Cornish Fed	A	Grtr Weaver	1lb 14oz	150.00%
June 08	P.Dixon	Portland	D	Bull Huss	14lb 6oz	143.75%
July 08	J.Styles	Portland	D	Black Bream	3lb 13oz	110.26%
August	No Entries					
Sept 08	R.Beer	BCC	C	Conger	109lb 8oz	219.60%
Oct 08	A.Hill	Cornish FSA	A	Trigger Fish	4lb 7oz	178.13%
Nov 08	No Entries					

Junior Fish of the Year Sam Short (PM) Whiting 2lb 7oz

Overseas Fish of the Year Nigel Hearn Cod 49lb 8oz (Norway)

BCC Conger Tankard R.Beer (BCC) Conger 109lb 8oz

Norman Witt Trophy Colin Wyatt (West Wight) Bass 17lb 2oz

7. Election of Officers:

Given the fact that all nominees were unopposed, the Chairman requested that all nominees be accepted en bloc and that a proposer and seconder be sought for this change of procedure. This amendment was accepted by those present and en bloc acceptance was proposed by A.Smith, seconded by P.Curtice and accepted unanimously.

The positions and terms of office were as follows:

Vice Chairman.

Mr D.Styles was nominated as Vice Chairman and was duly elected for a three-year term of office.

Secretary.

Mr K.Bowden was nominated as Secretary and was duly elected for a three-year term of office.

Boat Festival Officer.

Mr A.Selby was nominated as Boat Festival Officer and was duly elected for a three-year term of office.

Press Officer (1 year Co-opted).

Mr D.Oliver was co-opted to the Committee for a one-year term of office.

Shore Festival Officer.

Mr B.Allum was nominated as Shore Festival Officer and was duly elected for a three-year term of office.

Chairman of Selectors (Boat).

Mr R.Russell was nominated as Chairman of Selectors (Boat) and was duly elected for a three-year term of office.

Chairman of Selectors (Game).

Mr K.Scaggs was nominated as Chairman of Selectors (Game) and was duly elected for a three-year term of office.

Chairman of Selectors (Shore).

Mr C.Sargeant was nominated as Chairman of Selectors (Shore) and was duly elected for a three-year term of office.

Boat Selectors. - 3 year Term

R.Barron, N.Bryant, A.Selby and J.Whippy were nominated and elected for a 3-year term of office.

Game Selectors – 3 year Term

R.Barron and D.Styles were nominated and elected for a 3-year term of office.

Shore Selectors – 3 year Term

B.Allum, J.Campbell, R.Clough and P.Curtice were nominated and elected for a 3-year term of office.

8. Election of Hon. Auditor:

Mr J.Knight was proposed as Hon Auditor by R.Russell and seconded by M.Bobbett. There being no other nominees, Mr Knight was duly elected for a one-year term of office.

9. Reports on Championships & Festivals for 2009:

Swedish Lupus Summer Cod Festival – Helsingborg: Mr Selby gave details of the event due to take place in June and stated that more details would be given in the February Newsletter.

Flounder Competition - Poole: Mr Selby gave details of the arrangements to those present for the event which was to be held the following day.

European Species Championship – Plymouth: Mr Bryant informed the meeting that entries had been received from 53 entrants from 5 nations. He also stated that most of the organisation had now been finalised and that there were places available for a further 25 entries. He commented that the costs in sterling were now excellent value for those residing within the Euro zone.

English Boat Championship - Rhyl: Mr Selby informed the meeting that a special deal for accommodation was being finalised and that further details would be given within the next Newsletter. It was hoped that the event would be well supported and in order to protect the Section from lack of support, only four boats had been booked so far. Other boats were available should the need arise.

European Boat & Line Championships: Orkney Mr Bowden informed the meeting that details were in the November Newsletter and that about 12 English entries had been received so far. To add to the information, he had been notified by Section Scotland that to help in these troubled times, instead of full payment with entry, they are allowing £250 with entry and balance by the end of April. Close of entry is just 2 weeks away so it's make your mind up time.

European Shore Championship: Langeland, Denmark Mr Curtice stated that the event would be held between the 7th and 14th November and that details would be published via the EFSA England website and in forthcoming Newsletters. He stated that preliminary information had been received and that a brochure was expected by the end of January. However, he indicated that entry fees could be about 240 euros, which was considered to be very high with the current exchange rate against sterling.

English Cod Festival: Dover Mr Selby advised the meeting that the event would take place over the weekend 12th/13th December and that the HQ would be the Grand Burstin Hotel in Folkestone. Four boats had been booked and further information would be given in forthcoming Newsletters.

English Shore Championship: Mr Curtice advised the meeting that the event would take place on 3rd/4th October at Eastbourne. Further information would be available in the July Newsletter.

English Shore Species Festival: Mr Curtice informed the meeting that this would not take place this year so as to concentrate on core events. He stated that it would not be realistic to organise an event in June given the current situation.

European Game Festival – Mr Styles informed the meeting that the event would be held in Portugal and would be a predominantly `big fish` event but would be low profile. He advised those present that few fish would be anticipated and that luck would play an important part in winning the event.

Shore Championships of the British Isles: Mr Curtice stated that nothing had been done towards organising the event as the Section had only been advised at very short notice that they were to organise it. It was expected to be held at Dover breakwater and the Chairman assured Mr Curtice of the support of the full Committee. Mr Curtice requested that HQ should give more notice and Mr Styles promised to raise the matter at the next S.C. Meeting.

10. Special Business.

- a. Proposal tabled by the EFSA England Committee and seconded by A.Smith.

Individual Life Members- those who have been an Individual Member for not less than three [3] years, have attained the age of thirty [30] years and have paid a fixed sum for their Life Membership equivalent to 15 times the current annual membership.

Mr. P.Peck made an addendum to the proposal that Life Members as at 31st December 2008 were not affected by this proposal. A short discussion followed and the addendum was accepted.

- b. Proposal tabled by the EFSA England Committee and seconded by R.Russell.

The existing fish of the Month Award Scheme shall be suspended until further notice and be replaced by the following Award Scheme.

Annual Awards for Boat and Shore caught entries will be made for the heaviest fish recorded for each of the following species of fish. Bass, Black Bream, Cod, Conger, Flounder Plaice, Pollack, Ray - Blonde, Smoothound, Tope, and Wrasse - Ballan. There will be a twelfth heading which will be 'other' and this will be decided on the best specimen fish of all 'other' species recorded that fall outside the scope of the 11 specified main species. The new scheme will run for the same twelve-month period as at present. The other Fish Awards (Norman Witt, BCC Tankard, Overseas Fish of the Year, Junior Fish of the Year) will remain unchanged, and will run alongside the new scheme in the same way as they do with the existing scheme. The species selected can be altered each year if felt necessary by the Committee.

A short discussion followed and it was noted that it was no longer legal to bring Tope into the boat for weighing. In view of this, the general consensus was that Tope should be removed from the list and Whiting added in its place. The Committee made this amendment.

Proposals, addendum and amendments were accepted unanimously.

11. Annual General Meeting 2010.

A date and venue was to be confirmed later in the year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 14:15

2008 Game Championship, Zihuatanaejo, Mexico.

Getting to the venue proved a logistic challenge but then are not all the best things in life worth the effort? A Friday evening flight from Heathrow saw us landing at Madrid with just over an hour to make our onward connection to Mexico City where we had a 4 hour wait to make our final flight to Zihuatanaejo. Our group finally arrived at our accommodation just gone noon on the Saturday local time and a total of 28hrs in transit since leaving home.

The place we stayed at had a nice pool, loads of hammocks on the shady terraces and individual jacuzzis for some of the rooms coupled with superb views across the bay to the Pacific beyond and the fishing pier where the focus of our fishing activity would be centred. Things looked good from first viewing with lots of fish activity evident in the bay. Shoals of Pacific Jack Crevalle were laying siege to the resident baitfish with "Turbo-Gars" i.e. Needlefish patrolling just off the rocks picking up any escapees heading for sanctuary. Sunday was spent shopping at the local supermarket, preparing our tackle and exploring the town with a spot of Shore fishing to complete the day.

Alan Bird (Bod) had arranged offshore cruisers for our party the first day with a maximum of 2 anglers onboard and this was followed by 2 days in the Pangas; small 24-28' outboard powered boats that could venture offshore for Marlin and Sailfish or inshore for the fabled

Roosterfish and Jack Crevalle and all the other assorted species. Prices for the cruisers ranged between \$350-\$400 plus tips, the Pangas were \$210 plus tip. Live-bait could be purchased for \$10 for a day's supply per angler. Packed lunches were not needed as the locals provided freshly baked ballios (rolls) filled with a choice of mildly spiced Pork, Beef, Chicken or vegetables together with fresh fruit and fruit juice and coffee, there was always a good queue each morning at the pier for this food.

Practice day one saw a mixed bag of results with poor Bod and Andy Smith blanking for all bar bait fish and Peter Flowerday and Roy Shipway recording 3 Sailfish up to an estimated 120lb and a Mahi-Mahi fish (Dorado). My day was really special for 2 reasons; 11 years of trying for a Marlin was finally put to bed with a small Pacific Blue Marlin taking my 30lb outfit and a really great fight ensued. Secondly my 80 year old Mother was finally to give angling a go, and managed to fight an Eastern Pacific Bonito into submission from the fighting chair on a 30lb outfit, after much effort I was finally able to photograph the proud captor with her 12oz trophy fish! My holiday was already complete.

Practice days 2 and 3 saw us in the Pangas where Helen Verrall, Mick Toomer and Bod recorded Roosterfish. Helen photographed a 40lb+ specimen and Mick had 2, with one released at boat side in excess of 50lbs. Other catches were made up by Jack Crevalle, Needlefish, Black Skipjack Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Bonito and Cero Mackerel. The really game fight from Black Skipjack Tuna was something to be experienced on light tackle.

Roosterfish had a particular aversion to the boat it appears, each time they it they just screamed off again. Jack Crevalle as ever just plugging away and never gave up. The fishing for the Roosterfish was done casting and trolling towards the shore and the swell and size of the waves that you had to see to believe!

The Shore fishing had been pretty spectacular with most of the party trying various locations with pretty special results, fish recorded included; Needlefish, Groupers, Guitar Shark, Puffer fish, Jacks, Moray Eels and Snappers. One day, Ray Barron, fishing from the rocks below our Hotel saw several Eagle Rays in excess of 60lbs gliding under his rod tip as he targeted the giant Needlefish that kept attacking his 2lb Grouper live bait.

The local town was just a short stroll along the paved walkway where loads of bars and restaurants provided entertainment and eating experiences. Prices in town were generally very reasonable and taxis on average cost the equivalent of £1.60 including a tip. Zihuatanejo is a lovely unspoilt Mexican town having grown from a small fishing village. Those of you who are movie aficionados will know this was where the prisoner longed to be if he escaped in the film the Shawshank Redemption. The flea market had a good range of modern and traditional gifts and most importantly the locals were extremely friendly and everyone commented on just how safe the place was. The headquarters hotel was located in the nearby town of Ixtapa; this was a Government funded venture with the tourist board and was built 30 years ago. The difference was as Chalk and Cheese, most of us went there only for the 2 official functions and never wished to return. In summary the place was soulless! Zihuatanejo in contrast was "our town" bustling, lively, friendly and with a zest for life.

Having explored the day time fishing some of our group tried their hand and rods at night fishing. Mick not content with using a rod decided a bucket was the best implement for capturing a Pelagic Sea Snake. These Mexican Sea Snakes have venom that is 10 times greater than an Egyptian Cobra! Ray along with the boat skipper were really impressed with sharing the boat with the now captive Sea Snake, I am sure that was the correct translation of the term “loco gringo” that they aimed at Mick. The Moray Eels really came into their own on the night trips. Roy was successively bitten off with 50, 80, 120, 200lb mono then 50lb wire.

As always the competition proved nowhere near as good as the private practice days as far as personal fulfilment goes. Anomalies with the format for the scoring system meant that the best strategy was to target Bonito / small Tuna, however, this being little more than glorified Mackerel fishing so it was not adopted by most teams, other than the Germans and some Gibraltarians who had really studied the rules and the options necessary to win. Day 2 of the competition saw a change to the scoring on the small Tuna front with yet another change on day 3 to the numbers allowed. As in previous recent EFSA Game events this constant changing of the rules was not a welcome occurrence. The 2 English Teams; England Red, Captain Andy Smith, Ray Barron, Helen Verrall and Peter Flowerday and England White; Captain David Styles, Mick Toomer and Alan Bird fished to the best of their abilities and in the spirit of a Big Game

Championship with the result that going into the last day England Red were in 3rd place and the chance of the Bronze Pin. Despite their very best efforts England Red just missed out and eventually finished in 5th place behind the Germans in Gold and Bronze position and a Gibraltarian Team who took the Silver Pin. The Team from Gibraltar had in Kenya finished 3rd so were well pleased with their improvement and are already aiming for Gold at the next Championship, we though have other ideas on where the Pins should be heading!

A tired, fulfilled and happy group of anglers wound their way back home to England. In total we had been away 2 days short of 3 weeks and experienced a change of culture and cuisine, temperatures that never dropped below 32°C, fantastic fishing venues, nice fish and the companionship and friendship of the EFSA family doing what they do best, having a great time and living life to the full.

D.A. Styles.

EFSA Flounder Festival Poole 2009

This years Flounder Festival was again well attended with 40 anglers from boat and shore trying to be crowned the EFSA Flounder (Bob) king. It was good to see four juniors fishing and giving there dads a run for there money!

At 8.45 the eight beach anglers headed off to their marks and the boats started to depart with a few anglers wishing they had not downed that final drink the night before - not mentioning any names Ashley!

The weather. Well, what can you say but****. It's been a few years since it's been that cold! Luckily the rain kept away but there was a biting south-westerly force 6 wind and we'd had varied reports on the flounder fishing - so we were ever optimistic.

There were four boats in the competition. Two of them went up the river to Wareham and the other two went to their favourite marks in the bay. At the weigh in there were a lot of cold anglers but all in good spirits with plenty of banter. The shore Anglers didn't fare too well with only one angler bringing a fish to the scales. The boats had various results with Josephine - 17, Our Gemma - 5, Ooker - 5 and Shar -3.

Our congratulations go to our Chairman Neil Bryant who caught four fish with a weight of 6lb 7oz to become our new EFSA England Flounder Champion. (And a big thank you for putting your prizes back on the table for others to win)

The full results are as follows;

1 st	Neil Bryant	4 fish	6lb 7oz	Josephine
2 nd	Bob King	4 fish	6lb	Josephine
3 rd	Ash Currier	fish	5lb 13oz	Our Gemma
4 th	Steve Spencer	fish	5lb 4oz	Josephine
5 th	Rob Quinn	2 fish	4lb 14oz	Our Gemma
6 th	Uwe Brown	2 fish	4lb 1oz	Ooker
7 th	Haydn Spencer Jnr	2 fish	3lb 5oz	Josephine
8 th	Jimmy Bond	2 fish	2lb 2oz	Josephine
9 th	Marcus Wuest	1 fish	2lb	Shar
10 th	Martin Bobbett	1 fish	1lb 12 oz	Our Gemma
11 th	Dave Lovelock(shore)	1 fish	1lb 10oz	Shore
11 th	Alf Sindrey	1 fish	1lb 10oz	Shar
11 th	Ann Enoch	1 fish	1lb 10oz	Josephine
14 th	Steve Daley	1 fish	1lb 9oz	Ooker
15 th	Ivan Wellington	1 fish	1lb 6oz	Our Gemma
15 th	Matt Osbourne	1 fish	1lb 6oz	Ooker
16 th	Alan Pye	1 fish	1lb 5oz	Shar
17 th	Clarke Wellington Jnr	1 fish	1lb 4oz	Our Gemma
18 th	Mike Smith	1 fish	15oz	Ooker

Heaviest Flounder

1st Steve Spencer 2lb 10oz

2 nd (=)	Uwe Brown, Rob Quinn, Neil Bryant	2lb 2oz
Top Beach Angler	Dave Lovelock	1lb 10oz
Top Junior	Hayden Spencer	3lb 5oz

English Boat Championship Rhyl 20th -21st June 2009

This year we make a welcome return to Rhyl for our Boat Championship. Those of you who fished here before know it is a big fish venue with quality Tope, Smoothound, Bull Huss and Rays along with many other species - and of course the huge 5lb+ Gurnards.

Places are limited so please get your entries in early to avoid disappointment.

We are negotiating with a Holiday Park adjacent to boat departure for 3-4 night deals. These are the static mobile homes similar to the ones we used at Weymouth for the European Championship and the venue will also be our HQ. There is also a new Travel Lodge being built about 5 mins drive away and will be open for the summer. Full information, including tackle and bait details, will be on your confirmation of entry.

Tackle and bait details will also be on the conformation of entry.

Please enter before close of Entry as we cannot hold boats back.

EFSA Sweden HFK LUPUS Summer Cod Festival Helsingborg 26 – 27 June 2009

This year's Cod Festival will take place on the above dates. Those of you that have not been before and wish to experience the Swedish hospitality and some great fishing - this is

the place. Last year ten of us went and had good weather, drank lots of beer, ate great food, partied with the Swedes, saw the sites – oh, and the fishing was good too.

We are beginning to master this pinking game and last year we had some great results with Charlotte Selby coming 2nd in the Ladies section and Neil Cottington taking 3rd overall. I'm sure we are going to have a winner soon.

The good news is Stirling/Maesk have started again operating from Gatwick to Copenhagen under the name of Cimber Sterling and with a short train journey to Helsingborg, the trip is easy. (Flights - Out 24th 08.40 Return 28th 16.35 these times are the best deal at present at £65 return). Special rates have also been agreed for the competition anglers with the Marina Plaza hotel. (Book online and mention Lupus Cod Festival). This year several of us are going a day early to have a practice on Thomas's Boat Vandia.

There is a cod fishing ban on until early summer so there should be plenty of fish around. We are not printing an entry form this year so anyone wishing to go, please call Charlotte on 07973 176 247 and she will liaise with the Swedes and book you in. Also, please let her know if you want to fish the practice day. The competition cost is about £100 and the practice day about £40 payable in Kroner when you get there.

Shore Events for 2009

Firstly, in view of Brian's illness, can I please request that all queries and information be channelled through me in the short to medium term. I can be contacted on 02380 879288 (Mobile 07711 447669) or by Email at paulcurtice@aol.com. I would hope that any phoned queries will be made at reasonable times of the day

One event has had to be removed from this year's calendar, this being English Shore Species Festival that was scheduled to be held from the Borth beaches in mid-Wales in June. The decision to cancel was taken because of the difficulty in attracting sufficient anglers to take part and mindful of costs, Brian and I felt that we had to concentrate on the core Section events in the hope that members would be able to support these.

As you will see from the Diary, the European Shore Championship will be hosted by EFSA Germany and held out of Langeland, Denmark between 7th and 14th November. No details are available yet but it's hoped that a brochure will be available by the time you receive this Newsletter. Early information indicates that the entry fee will be 250 euro which, given the current exchange rate and economic climate, seems a touch expensive.

Our own English Shore Championship will be held on 3rd/4th October on the Eastbourne and Pevensey beaches. Further details will be given in the July Newsletter.

There has been some confusion over who was scheduled to host the Shore Championship of the British Isles. As a consequence, no venue or arrangements have been made but it's expected that Dover will be selected. I will be discussing the event with a number of our Section members over the coming days to gather thoughts as to how we may successfully host the event this year. Details will be issued within the July Newsletter.

Paul Curtice

REGISTRATION FOR MONTHLY SPECIMEN FISH AWARD

To: EFSA England Hon. Fish Recorder.

Please register the following specimen fish which was caught in accordance with the rules of the European Federation of Sea Anglers.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

AFFILIATED CLUB MEMBER

NAME; NAME;

ADDRESS: ADDRESS:

.....

MEMBERSHIP No: CLUB:

1st WITNESS: 1st WITNESS:

2nd WITNESS: 2nd WITNESS:

SPECIES: Club Secretary: Name:.....

WEIGHT: Signature:

PLACE CAUGHT: BOAT SHORE

PORT OF DEPARTURE: DATE CAUGHT:.....

LINE STRENGTH: NFSA AREA

CAPTOR'S SIGNATURE:

If Junior Member please state date of birth.

Please give a brief description of circumstances when caught.....

.....
The Committee reserve the right to investigate any registration. Further details in relation to the capture may be sent on a separate sheet attached to this entry. On completion, this entry should be sent to the Hon. Fish Recorder before the 15th of the month following the date of capture.

Mr R.Ashby, 155 Stourvale Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth. BH6 5HG

If an acknowledgement is required, please complete below and enclose S.A.E.

To :

The entry of a specimen weight caught by

has been duly received and entered for the EFSA Fish of the Month Award.

Signed: Date:.....

HON. FISH RECORDER

EFSA England Supplies.

Items can be ordered from: **Gary Galbraith, 16 Hoo Common, Chattenden, Nr Hoo, Rochester, Kent. ME3 8LT. Tel: 01634 252866.**

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to: **EFSA England.**

Please circle size for the sweatshirts, polo shirts and smocks.

Item		Price	Qty	Sub-total
Hooded Sweatshirt	40/42 44/46 48+	£23.00	()	(£)
Polo shirt	36/38 40/42 44+	£15.00	()	(£)
Fishing smock	38/42 42/46 46/50	£15.00	()	(£)
White short-sleeved shirt with logo/name		£23.50	()	(£)
)				
(Special order only)				
Metal European fish bar badge		£3.00	()	(£)
Game bar hanger		£3.00	()	(£)
St George Cross Enamel Badge		£2.50	()	(£)
)				
Shore bar hanger		£3.00	()	(£)
Cap		£6.00	()	(£)
Tie		£8.00	()	(£)
Wire blazer badge		£15.00	()	(£)

Metal lapel badge	£1.50	()	(£)
Postage Polo shirts/Smocks (<i>per item</i>)	£2.00	()	(£)
All other items	£1.00	()	(£)
	Total	(£))

Order from:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: Day _____ Eve: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership renewal/application, due 1st January.

Subscription rates: Annual membership	£20.00
Juniors (under 18)	£ 5.00
Affiliated Clubs	£20.00
Life membership*	£200.00

*Transfer to Life Membership is open to any member who has been an annual member for a minimum of 3 consecutive years, and is aged over 30 years of age.

Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to: **EFSA England** and sent to:

Gary Galbraith. 16 Hoo Common, Chattenden, Nr Hoo, Rochester, Kent. ME3 8LT.

Membership number (if known): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

Type of membership application (circle those applicable).

New member Junior Annual member Affiliated Club Transfer to Life

I am interested in: Boat Game Shore All

I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to EFSA England for the sum of: £_____.

N.B. Applications received after 1st September in any year will run for the remainder of that year, and all of the following year for the same price.

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your renewal.