

DIARY

2011

- September 19th/23rd European Boat & Line Class Championships – Weymouth.
- Oct 21st/23rd Shore Championship of Britain & Ireland – EFSA Wales.
- Oct 29th/Nov 1st Species Championship – Langeland, Denmark.
- November 5th/6th English Cod Championship, Sheerness, Kent.

2012

- January 15th EFSA England AGM – Poole.
- January 16th Flounder Competition – Poole.
- April/May Bream competition – Littlehampton.
- May 4th/6th Euro Species – Cod – Dunmore East, Co Wexford, Ireland.
- June 9th/10th English Boat Championship – Poole.
- August 6th/11th European Boat & Line Class Championships – Tananger, Norway.
- October 2nd/6th European Shore Championship – Akureyri, Iceland.

2013

- August 3rd/11th European Boat & Line Class Championships – Elsinore, Denmark.
- Oct 30th/Nov 3rd European Shore Championship, Heinkensand, Holland.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EFSA England Shore Festival Officer's post and report on England Shore Championships and Festivals

As you are aware, the Committee has been actively seeking the support of a member to take on the role of Shore Festival Officer for some time now and to date we have not had anyone come forward. This has been fully discussed by the Committee and was reported at the AGM in January 2011 that unfortunately, until such time as we had a Shore Representative able to attend the meetings and organise events, we were unable to arrange any domestic shore matches.

This is very unfortunate and regrettable, but inevitable, as we do not have the expertise on the Committee to organise Shore events and therefore, as we are unable to offer the full support to the membership in running them, it has left us in this "hole" that we have not found a way out of. Whilst we have had the running support of a few members who have liaised on some events, for which we are extremely grateful, this just isn't sufficient in offering the whole package of an event to every member of the Section.

We were asked recently if some members could organise The English Shore Championships from Weymouth to be held during the final weekend of the European Boat and Line Championships. Whilst appreciating the offer, we could not sanction this because it clashes and we would never hold two EFSA England events at the same time. To do so would mean preventing members who were taking part in the European Championships the opportunity to consider entering, and because all our events are for "Individual Members", it would not be right. That said, the short notice would also have been an issue because we would not be giving every member the same opportunity in planning their entry.

This highlights the importance of having a Shore Festival Officer who can attend at least one of the three Committee Meetings held in each year, who can collate all the information in advance, prepare entry forms and together with the full support of other Committee Members, provide the right opportunities for all the membership to enter.

We would continue to support any EFSA England members wishing to take part in any other Section events, be that European or domestic, as long as the correct protocols and entry procedures were adhered to.

Please be assured that as soon as we have a suitable volunteer who can take on the position of Shore Festival Officer we will once again be able to arrange Shore events for all our membership to participate in. However, we regret that until this happens all domestic Shore events are to be suspended. So please, please, if there is anyone out there who is willing to become an active and important part of the EFSA England Committee, please come forward.

EFSA England Committee

Secretary's Report

As most of you are aware, we are promoting the use of Email for passing on information. This is particularly useful regarding competitions for any changes to programme or general information on the event. Therefore, please ensure that all changes to your Email address are forwarded to both the Membership Registrar and myself.

On a similar note we are mindful of changes in the banking system and the greater use of online banking, so we intend to make it easier for payments for a competition to be made via bank transfer, rather than writing a cheque.

Martin Bobbett is working on an electronic Team application form which will be easier to fill in on the computer and Email to the Chair of selectors so look out for this in the near future.

Be assured that with all of the proposals above we will still be using the postal system for those not ready for change!

At the presentation of the English Boat in Weymouth I was handed an EFSA European Championship bar hanger with a number of Championship bars on, can't give too much away, but if you find your blazer missing this decoration then get in touch with me.

Kim Bowden

2012 AGM

Please note that all proposals for the 2012 AGM must be with the Secretary by 30th September 2011.

Any proposal received shall be included within the Agenda under Special Business and the wording of the proposal can be circulated prior to the AGM via the October Newsletter. All members will then be aware of any proposal and will have been able to consider the merit of such and be better informed in formulating their thoughts concerning the motion.

EFSA Standing Committee Meeting, Crawley 16th April 2011

The following is a resumee of the major points raised at the meeting.

Orders for Weymouth from HQ order soon if required.

In future, if skipper/owner is fishing the competition he must draw for position same as the rest on the boat and not automatically fish no 1.

Line Class Championship: David Styles pointed out that the line strength should reflect the weight of species likely to be caught. This will be reflected in Norway when proposed line strength is 2kg due to fish no bigger than 2 or 3 kg.

2011 EFSA Wales to host Shore Championship of Britain and Ireland, 21st to 23rd October.

2012 European Boat and Line in Tananger, Norway is proposed for the 6th/11th August. It will be catch and release with 10 fish limit per species, fish points and species points and they hope to have a steward on each boat. 2kg line for Line Class.

2013 European Boat and Line in Elsinore, Denmark proposed for 3rd to 11th August. Entry 600 Euro, Gala dinner 50 Euro, licence 14 Euro. Largest fish likely to be a 2kg cod but possibility of 9 or 10 different species. Bait supplied worm. HQ and accommodation in the LO School at cost of 889 Euro single, 1123 Euro double for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Other accommodation available.

2012 European Species, cod, Dunmore East, County Wexford, Ireland, 4th to 6th May

2012 European Shore, Akureyri, Iceland, 2nd to 6th October.

2013 European Shore, Heinkenszand, Holland, 30th October to 3rd November. Price about 250 to 275 Euro include bait and accommodation based on 3 bed chalet for 5 or 6 sharing

2014 EFSA Wales proposed to host European Shore.

2016 Ireland have proposed to host the European Boat and Line and the European shore.

EFSA Game. There are 3 proposals: Thailand end of 2012, Mexico May 2013 or South Africa March 2013. Cost on each is likely to be just over £2000 for flights, entry and accommodation. A decision is to be made at next SC meeting in September in Weymouth, I do not have a clue or desire to go Game fishing so if any of you Game fisherman are interested or have an opinion on venue then let me know it.

Next Standing Committee meeting 17th September in Weymouth.

Report by Kim Bowden

FISH RECORDERS REPORT

Although we are already half way through another year, in truth the fishing year has only just got underway and this is reflected in the recorded catches to date.

Nonetheless, we have seen some good specimens recorded.

From the boats, a 5 lb 12 oz Plaice (Dickie Prosser), a 15 lb 11 oz Smoothhound (Derry Meyers), a 5 lb 13 oz Ballan Wrasse (Ivan Wellington), and a 13 lb 2 oz Spurdog (G Thorner).

From the shore, notable catches include a 12 lb 3 oz Bass (R Harms), a 14 lb 6 oz Smoothhound (M Bennett), and a 6 lb 9 oz Ballan Wrasse (Noddy Coan).

There are no junior entries to dated but our Overseas fish of the Year includes a 77 lb Wahoo (Ian McClean – Gran Canaria), a Sailfish 80lb plus 26 lb Jack Trevale (Shaun Trinder – Mexico)

A full list of the current leading ‘contenders’ appears on the EFSA England website and at the time of going to print are as below.

SPECIES BOAT

BASS

BLACK BREAM

COD R Whitewood W/Wight E 24lb 11oz

CONGER

FLOUNDER M Osborne PM D 1 lb 15oz

PLAICE R Prosser PM D 5 lb 12oz

POLLACK

RAYS - Blonde

SMOOTHOUND D Meyers Portland D 15lb 11oz

WHITING S Barnaby W/Wight E 3lb 9oz

WRASSE - Ballan I Wellington Portland D 5lb 13oz

OTHER (by %) G Thorner W/Wight E Spurdog 14 lb 2oz (117%)

JUNIOR FISH OF THE YEAR

OVERSEAS FISH OF THE YEAR

I McClean	Wahoo	77 lb - Gran Canaria - Boat)
		80lb / Jack Trevale 26lb - Mexico
S Trinder	Sailfish	Boat

SPECIES SHORE

BASS	R Harms	Portland	D	12lb 3oz
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BLACK BREAM

COD

CONGER

FLOUNDER	S Cooke	W/Wight	E	2lb 5oz
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PLAICE	J Booker	Portland	D	2lb
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POLLACK

MULLET (all-
by%)

SMOOTHOUND	M Bennett	W/Wight	E	14 lb 6oz
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WHITING

WRASSE - Ballan	N Coan	Portland	D	6lb 9oz
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OTHER (by%)	C Wyatt	W/Wight	E	Pouting 2lb 6oz
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158%

Ray Ashby
Fish Recorder

EFSA European Shore Championships – Ireland 2011

The 2011 EFSA European Shore Championships was organised and hosted by the Irish Section with beaches on the West coast of Ireland, North of Wexford, providing the fishing. The Headquarters for the competition was within Sean OG's Hotel and holiday home complex at Kilmuckridge. This is a fantastic facility, which enabled the Irish Section to be able to offer very favourable rates and high quality of accommodation for all participating anglers and their families.

The dates of the competition were the 20th – 23rd April 2011 however many anglers had taken advantage of the very good deal being offered to arrive early and in some cases National teams had spent up to a week enjoying the local fishing venues. English section members travelled over a day early, which meant a more relaxed approach to the competition and an opportunity to view all of the potential venues.

The EFSA Ireland Chairman George McCullough extended a warm welcome to all competitors and the competition booking in evening was well managed and painless. Our hosts had laid on a feast of a “finger” buffet that consisted of sausages, nuggets, onion rings and chips. This had some of us ruing the fact that we had eaten earlier but still managed to fill a space – no one can resist sausage and chips! 57 Anglers had made their way to the competition and it was great to see juniors attending and competing within the competition.

The Irish Section had made some changes leading up to the competition to try and ensure that the best could be made of the low catches coming from local beaches. These included lowering size limits within the measure and return system and changing the start and finish times of the 1st and 2nd day to ensure some fishing in dusk and darkness. There were also some necessary changes to accommodate double peg draws for junior anglers who needed to be accompanied on the beach.

The changes made seemed to work well as the first days fishing saw plenty of entries on angler's cards. The catches were made up of predominantly flatfish with flounders and dabs being fairly well distributed. Some other species did appear though with Bass, Dogfish, Eel, Scorpion Fish, and Smoothounds all making appearances.

Day 1 at Clones Strand saw mixed fortunes in the English camp with Budge Booker doing very well coming 2nd in his zone, Reg Clough 3rd in his zone and Gerry Knight managed to find both largest round and flatfish to make sure he could pay for his dinner! The results were posted on the wall in the Sean OG's Bar and the English Section team sitting in 4th place well behind the both Wales A & B teams and Ireland A.

Day 2 at Tinnebearn Strand. Fish were less plentiful and anglers had to contend with a blustery side wind but despite this still enough fish around to keep anglers busy. English anglers did better with John Campbell and Dave Lovelock winning their zones, Reg Clough with a 2nd in zone and the rest of the team managing good placings in top order of their zones. After a few pints of the black stuff the results were posted and our anglers had moved up the ladder and we had 3 of our number in the top 10. The team had also

moved up to 3rd place tying on points with 2nd placed Wales A but knocked back on fish count. This was a big lift for the forecasted arduous last day!

Day 3 arrived and the weather held dry and for the most part sunny with a daylight match on the notoriously "peggy" at Ballinoulart Beach (or Morris Castle North Beach). Despite these far from ideal conditions each of the English Section anglers was upbeat and looking forward to the challenge. There were fish around but not as well distributed as the previous 2 days and many anglers blanked. This included the championship leader Steve Davis from Wales, who had 2 zone wins under his belt coming into the last day. As we made our way off the beach we were upbeat with Paull Curtice, Dave Clark, Gerry Knight all with zone wins along with high placed finishes from Reg Clough, John Campbell and Dave Lovelock gave us hope of an upset,

The presentation evening was held in the main hotel function room, which was a perfect setting for a lovely meal. Once cleared away the speeches and prize giving began. It soon became apparent that the English Section table would be pretty full of prizes with its occupiers well "gonged"! The 2 Icelandic anglers could only look on with anticipation of showing us how they do it next year!

At the end of the competition our contingent had a number of successes and prizes awarded as follows:

Reg Clough - Overall 2nd Place individual and Silver Pin

John Campbell - Overall 4th Place (missing out on Bronze place by 1 point!)
Drawn pairs 2nd.

Paull Curtice - Overall 7th Place individual
Drawn pairs 2nd
Drawn 3 man team 1st

Gerry Knight - Overall 9th Place individual
Flatfish and Longfish pools winner on day 1
Flatfish pools winner on day 2

Dave Lovelock - Overall 13th Place individual

Dave Clark - Overall 29th Place individual

Budge Booker - Overall 30th Place individual

The overall individual Championship results were:

Championship winner awarded Gold Pin - Kenny Gainsforth (Wales)
Championship 2nd place awarded Silver Pin - Reg Clough (England)
Championship 3rd place awarded Bronze Pin - Alan Cheswick (Wales)

National teams:

Gold - England
Silver - Ireland A
Bronze - Wales A

Junior prizes

1st Scott Brunton
2nd Jake Forsythe
3rd Dylan Kearns

Ladies

1st Clarinda van der Zande
2nd Annette Poehier
3rd Mary O'Callahan

2 Man Team.

1st Paull Curtice (England) & Paul Tyndall (Ireland)
2nd David (Jack) Keegan (Ireland) & Shaun Tucker (Wales)
3rd Alan Cheswick (Wales) & Jonathan Costello (Ireland)

3 Man Team.

1st John Campbell (England), Paull Curtice (England), Shaun Tucker (Wales)
2nd Theo Rijnberg (Holland), Rob Collins (Wales), Steve Tucker (Wales)
3rd Ian Knight (Ireland), Jan Gorrissen (Holland), Annette Poehler (Germany)

4 Man Team.

1st Kenny Gainfort (Wales), Jonathan Costello (Ireland), Arno Vermeiren (Holland),
Reg Clough (England)

2nd Alan Cheswick (Wales), Paull Curtice (England), Matthew Lustig (Wales), Klaus
Friedmann (Germany)

3rd Alan O'Dowling (Ireland), Paul Tyndall (Ireland), Kieran Rice (Ireland), Rob Collins
(Wales)

Life Members

1st John Campbell (England)

Hanging to the wreckage or OAPs

1st Reg Clough

2nd Dave Clark

3rd Brian (Budge) Booker

Best Round Fish: Harry McKee (Ireland). Gold Medal.

Best Flat Fish: Gerry Knight (England). Gold Medal.

Most Fish: Steve Lewis (Wales), 24 fish. Gold Medal.

Another well-organised and very friendly competition organised by the Irish Section. The weather was dry and sunny throughout and the hospitality from everyone concerned both hotel and bar staff to the guys organising the competition was faultless. It's a shame that the fishing deserved by the effort that went in was not forthcoming but even so the section did their best to make it an interesting competition. I know that everyone attending from the English Section thoroughly enjoyed themselves and will be looking forward to returning to the Emerald Isle.

If only we had a Sean OG's next to Chesil beach!!

English Boat Championship, Weymouth 21st – 22nd May 2011

The contest was fished using points per fish system, the harder to catch species such as Rays, Bull Huss and Conger accrued more points than fish such as mackerel, Wrasse and Pout. The first five of each species are awarded full points the next five are only worth one point each, once ten of a species has been captured no further points are awarded. This method prevents anglers targeting the most prevalent species such as the Pout and Wrasse. The only fish not returned to the sea are those that are required for the plate.

Day 1

The 73 competitors assembled at the quayside from around 7.15am. With competitors from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Germany and England, this looked like a mini European Championship. It was also a good chance for the UK teams to practice for next month's Home Nations - also scheduled for Weymouth.

The 8 boats started loading the vast array of bags, boxes, trolleys, rods, bait and anglers at 7.45. Some anglers had already set up their chosen rods for the day, others waited for the game plan to be announced by the boat skippers. The weather forecast looked like Saturday would be the best day of the weekend, Sunday looked likely to be a wet one with some wind thrown in for good measure.

East or West?

The boats left the harbour from 8am, Super Nova & Offshore Rebel headed west, Tiger Lily, Top Cat & Flamer went east, the other boats (Meercat, Amarisa & Meridian Express) settled for the middle ground.

The scenery along this part of the Jurassic coast is quite breathtaking, although I'm not quite sure where the largest quantity of fossils was? Beach or boat! The water looked quite dark, probably down to the May water that occurs this time of year. This reduced the number of bites, especially if using lures of any kind (a favoured method for targeting the inshore Pollack) although with the quality of this field catching fish should not be an issue!

There was also a competition for the longest bream, although they are not around in great numbers there are still enough around to target them, most anglers appeared to favour a one up, one down rig as this set up should be capable of catching more species, including the Bream. The other widely used rig was a two down rig for the Dogfish, Rays, Bull Huss, etc. Most anglers had scaled down to size 1 – 4 hooks using small baits to target more species. The longest Bream of 42cm on day one fell to Welshman Rod Adamson closely followed by Neil Bryant's 41cm specimen. This proved hard to beat as Rod claimed the prize at the presentation.

Day 1 boat winners

Dave Mann (meridian express)
Myles Howell (tiger lily)
Cliff Newbold (offshore rebel)
Colin Searles (Amarisa)
Andy Selby (Meercat)
Ash Currier (top cat)
Rolf Marshalek (super nova)
Gary Galbraith and Pete Bailey (flamer)

Day 2

There were two duels to be fought, one on Tiger Lily between day one boat winners Colin Searles and Cliff Newbold and one on Al's Spirit between Myles Howell and Dave Mann. The remaining day-one boat winners still faced stiff competition from the other anglers on their boats - there is no such thing as an easy win at this level.

The weather forecast looked like it was accurate with the wind already at force 5-6; this forced the boats into a close competition in more ways than one as you can see by the picture on the website. Weymouth is a preferred location during such conditions as there is normally at least one option regardless of the direction of the wind. As the wind peaked around midday several skippers chose to relocate behind Portland especially as the swell started to resemble mini tsunamis.

Ash Currier and Gareth Croft had a close contest on Offshore Rebel, Ash lost a conger when his leader parted only for Gareth to land the same eel later in the day (with the trace still attached) Gareth won this time with a Dogfish/Gurnard double shot taken five minutes before lines up which secured his boat win.

There were also a few mini species caught, dragonets, tompot blennies and a long spined scorpion fish, none of which counted as mini species are excluded, the scorpion fish would have scored in the unclassified section if it had reached the 20cm size limit.

Only two anglers managed to win their boat on both days, Colin Searles and Gary Galbraith (both England team members) the overall result had to be decided by fish points with Colin the victor and worthy winner of the much converted gold pin, Gary received the silver and Dave Mann bronze.

For full results please refer to efsa-england.com

Day two boat winners

Colin Searles (Tiger lily)
Gary Galbraith (Meercat)
Gareth Croft (offshore rebel)
Ken Smith (flamer)
Mike Patten (top cat)
Kim Bowden (Supanova)
Chris Pucher (Al's Spirit)
Mark Devignat (meridian express)

Top Ten Individuals

Colin Searles
Gary Galbraith
Dave Mann
Mark Devignat
Rod Adamson
Ash Currier
Neil Bryant
Rob Shattock
Miles Howell
Pete Bailey

Top juniors, both of whom win 12 months subscription to Boat Fishing Monthly, were Ryan Casey and George Simmonds.

English Cod Championship - Sheerness.

The HQ will be The Abbey Hotel at Minster that can be viewed and booked by visiting. www.abbey-hotel.net or call 01795 872873.

All rooms are ground floor with their own parking bay outside the door. There is a large function room upstairs, reasonably priced food and most importantly, a well stocked bar. The rooms are small but sufficient, all with their own shower/bath en-suite.

The boat loading area takes under 10 minutes to drive to with ample free parking. This will be a bait supplied event, fresh lugworm and squid.