

DIARY

2013

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|---|---|
| 13 th /15 th June | Shore Championship of Britain and Ireland |
| July 13 th /14 th | English Boat, Plymouth. |
| August 3 rd /11 th | European Boat & Line Class Championships – Elsinore, Denmark. |
| Oct 5 th /6 th | English Shore, Chesil |
| Oct 30 th /Nov 3 rd | European Shore Championship, Heinkensand, Holland. |
| Nov 16 th /17 th | English Species (Flatfish) Weymouth. |

2014

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| January (TBC) | Annual General Meeting – Poole |
| January (TBC) | Fun Fish Event - Poole |
| May 3 rd /4 th | English Species (Rays), Sheerness |
| September 15 th /19 th | European Boat and Line, Weymouth |
| TBA | European Species, Iceland |
| Sept/Oct | English Boat |

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at
The Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone
On Sunday 13th January 2013*

Present:

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| Mr N.Bryant | - | Chairman |
| Mr K.Bowden | - | Secretary |
| Mr P.Hart | - | Treasurer |
| Mr G.Galbraith | - | Registrar |
| Mr A.Selby | - | Boat Festival Officer |
| Mr P.Curtice | - | Shore Festival Officer |
| Mr M.Bobbett | - | Press Officer |
| Mr M.Osborne | - | Social secretary |

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman made the following statement.

Firstly I would like us all to take a moment to reflect on the passing of Peter Peck, former Chairman of the Section and for many years our President. Peter was extremely passionate about EFSA and it was because of his leadership that EFSA England grew to become a big part of EFSA as a whole. Just after his funeral Tony Hudson, Ted Entwistle and I put together a few words that were sent within the last Section newsletter and I believe that these words were a wonderful reflection of Peter and it would be hard for me to add to this other than to say a fond farewell to him, so let us all take these few moments to not only remember Peter to have a thought for all those who are no longer with us that have been a part of this family.

A brief moment of silent reflection was then observed.

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

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|--------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Ray Ashby | Arthur White | Peter Hoad | David Styles | A.J. James |
| Nick Rush | John Robinson | Rolf Marschalek | Tony Hudson | Paul Rivers |
| Jim Whippy | David McCune | Jim Henderson | Jeanne Lambert | Barrie Senior |
| Keith Skaggs | David Oliver | Mike Smith | Brian Brooker | Peter Bailey |

A total of 28 members were present.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2012:

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Gary Gailbraith, seconded by Matt Osborne and accepted unanimously. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. *Matters Arising:*

There were no matters arising.

4. *Executive Officer's Reports:*

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

Where to start, the AGM change of venue and the Dover breakwater Fun Fish event? You may be wondering why the Committee decided to have a change from Poole and the Flounder event that for many years followed the AGM. Whilst the AGM is a stand-alone event, and this will always be the case, we have for many years held the “fun day fishing” at the same time. However, sitting on a boat in Poole harbour and not being over or around fish is indeed not fun, plus the increase in costs meant we wanted to look for something different. Bringing the AGM to Dover, having it on a Sunday was also considered by us but it was felt that having a “fun Fish” day would be better from this port on the Saturday due to the travelling constraints on the membership. This is different and we do hope that it proves to be a success and in the future we can consider other venues for both the AGM and the fishing. If we don't try anything new we will never know if it makes a difference but we can always go back if that is preferred. Let's see and we will go from there.

I would now like to reflect on the past year that the Section has had with some superb events that we held from the boats and indeed, for the support on the English Shore Championships from Dover Breakwater that Paull was able to organise within a short space of time. Whilst not too many fished, those that did had a good time and the event went well. We also had our Smoothound Species event for a change from Langstone that proved to be a great success and the English boat from Poole also was well attended and it too, was a super event. Congratulations must go to Andy on sourcing these venues and getting such good support from the skippers.

On the EFSA European events this past year our Section had many members participate, from the windy shores of Ireland for the Euro Species, the expense of drinking any beer at the European Boat and Line from Norway plus the European Shore in Iceland where a lot of good fish were caught. In truth, EFSA do provide our members with a variety of events and that will always be the case I am sure.

This year we are holding our Species event from Weymouth, targeting flat fish and if the fish return in the numbers that were there last year we should be in for a wonderful Festival. Then we have our English Boat in Plymouth and it will be good I am sure for members to fish off the reefs once again. I know Paull is working on venues for our Shore events this coming year and I do feel that these will grow and more of us will take to the shores - well, it is a lot cheaper than boats.

As we know, the European Species Championships are being held in Italy and whilst this may not appeal to everyone due to the type of fishing and the costs, there were no other applications from other Sections and Italy kindly offered to run this event rather than not have one. So I commend them for their efforts and work in getting this organised in such a short time. The European Shore is being hosted by Netherlands and Denmark are hosts for the Boat and Line Championships, plus there is the return of the Game Championships in Mexico.

We are hosting the European Boat and Line Championships from Weymouth in September 2014 and I know we can expect a very good entry. We will be trying to reduce the overall expense of the event by running the Championships from Sunday to Saturday, removing some of the frills (not too many) and looking at the prize table in order to create a superb, affordable week of fishing. The Committee will now be pressing ahead with the organising - lots to do and if anyone wishes to offer any support please let us know.

It would be remiss of me not to thank all of the Committee for their tireless work for the Section and now that we are up to full strength it has indeed made life a little easier for all of us. I need not mention them all by name, they know who they are, but I do thank them personally for the support they give me and to you all as well.

I think you have listened to me for long enough - only another three years if you vote me back as Chairman, but to you all, I thank you for attending the AGM. It is appreciated by all the Committee and demonstrates your support to them for what they do for EFSA England and the membership.

Enjoy your year's fishing and hope to meet many of you at one or more of the events this coming year.

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

Well, 2012 has been a memorable year for the wrong reasons! Never before have so many fishing competitions been effected by the wind. Most competitions had a day cancelled so the 2-day ones became 1 day, but many were cancelled altogether. We were very fortunate with our home EFSA England competitions able to go ahead in full and I hope enjoyed by all that took part.

Several others and myself went to Peter Peck's funeral in September in uniform to show the support from EFSA on the passing of a long-standing supporter of EFSA and our President up until his death. There was a large turnout at the funeral with family and friends but also a great number of anglers who had known Peter over many years and time spent fishing together.

My past year has been taken up with the usual EFSA business between Sections, hopefully keeping abreast of it all and keeping the England membership informed. On that subject, it

has been useful to have Email addresses, as it is easy to circulate information as soon as I get it. Whilst on the subject of entries please fill in all detail including membership number, as it is always needed on master entry sheet so saves me having to look for it.

Prior to Christmas, I passed seasonal greetings to the Secretaries of all other EFSA Sections on behalf of all at EFSA England. I did receive many good wishes from other Sections, or at least I think they were as not all were in a language that I can read!

So it just remains to thank you all for your support at the events over the past year and hope you attend and enjoy the events planned for 2013.

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

Although membership income has held steady this year we have made lower surpluses on hosted events that have resulted in an overall excess of expenditure over income of £2193 using up the entire surplus made from Weymouth 2011 and more. I will now discuss the deficit in more detail and make some recommendations for the future to try to keep income and expenditure more closely matched and to avoid the current trend for a steady reduction in reserves.

Interest from investments continues to be negligible at just £17 for the year and is unlikely to improve for the foreseeable future leading to significant reductions in the Life Members' fund as the fund continues to be reduced due to the EFSA head office levy of £8 per head and as suggested in my report last year, there may be a time when life members are required to make an annual contribution towards the levy and running costs of the Section. I am not recommending this course of action at the moment, but it cannot be ruled out in future years and will be subject to annual review. It is, however, crucial that the Section makes substantial surpluses on the events it hosts and although we will be hosting another European Championships in 2014, this will not help us in the forthcoming year so we need to carefully review the budgets for this year's events if we are not to reduce our reserves even further. As Treasurer I also do not recommend that subscriptions be raised at this time as I feel attention to some items of expenditure may help reduce the deficit. One way that we could make substantial savings is by reducing the number of hard copy newsletters we send out each year. We could still send out the one following the AGM with details of the accounts and entries for forthcoming events (although these can of course be downloaded from our website). But in an era of almost universal internet access, other reports and newsletters could be accessed at any time online at EFSA England's website where all newsletters can be viewed and any hard copies could be printed off if required. It would save hundreds of pounds in printing and postage costs and also the most up to date information can be accessed soon after each event and before most newsletters were scheduled to be sent out.

We have a strong Section with sound finances and with some attention to efficiency, savings should be able to continue to operate at our current level of subscriptions.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Jerry Knight, seconded by Andy Smith and accepted unanimously.

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

Renewal of membership was due on 1st January with the final deadline being the AGM for those of you who wish to apply for team selection this year. So if you are a member who pays yearly and you haven't received a membership card, check to see if you have renewed. New members who joined after 1st September last year don't have to pay now till January 2014. Those of you paying by standing order please don't forget to check with your bank that:

- a) I can identify you by making sure your bank references your name when making the direct debit payment.
- b) That you are paying the correct amount (£20).

The Annual Membership currently stands at 106, Life Membership is 76 & Affiliated Clubs are at 10.

EFSA England Stock I will be taking stock 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.

Fish Recorder's Report: The Chairman gave the following report to the meeting in Mr Ashby's absence.

Well here we are, at the end of another year. Entries overall have been slightly down on last year, probably due to the abysmal weather we have had this year. Nonetheless, we have had entries for almost all of the Boat and Shore categories (Mullet – Shore being the only exception) and some fine fish have once again been registered.

My adventures 'down under' will find me out of the UK from 3rd Dec to 18th January and at our last meeting it was agreed to close the 2012 'Fish of the Year' awards as at the end of October 2012. This allowed members to register fish up to the 15th November 2012 and allow me time to contact the respective winners and organise trophies prior to my departure on December 3rd. Any fish registered in November and December will be carried forward into 2013. This is not a satisfactory situation and we have had to do this on a few occasions already in the past few years. Also, it will become an increasing problem in the future as I intend spending more time in OZ with the family at this time of year.

Although not urgent, the 'feelers' should be put out now for someone to take over the role of Fish Recorder. A discussion point at the AGM perhaps. I am still willing to remain on Committee and attend as many meetings as I can and I will give whatever support is needed to whoever takes over the role. So if there is anyone who would like to take on this position or even just discuss it at this stage please give me a call (phone no. at front of Newsletter).

In the meantime, congratulations to this year's winners, tight lines for 2013 and thanks to Neil and Kim for standing in to cover things for the AGM.

Public Relations Officer's Report:
the meeting in Mr Whippy's absence.

The Secretary gave the following report to

Our Press Officer Martin Bobbett has done well through last year, getting EFSA plenty of coverage in the various publications and with the range of exciting events lined up for us this year, I'm sure membership will remain strong. The Flatfish competition at Weymouth in March has certainly whetted the appetites of everyone I have spoken to. The thought of targeting those big plaice, turbot and brill should see this one fully subscribed. Then with the English boats back in Plymouth and the European boats in the popular venue of Elsinore, the boat anglers are well looked after. The shore anglers have two exciting venues to fish later in the year at Chesil and Holland and for the big game anglers there is Italy and Mexico. So it's another busy year and with better weather we should all enjoy some good fishing and time with fellow EFSA members.

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

Last year's two main boat events were both a tremendous success with a great turnout and superb fishing. The new format species event targeting smoothhound at Langstone was enjoyed by all and hopefully set a new precedent for this event. We are working on bringing in a type of pin for the Boat Species event so the winner can be recognised for their achievement in future years.

In 2013 we are going to Weymouth for our Boat Species event targeting Turbot, Brill and Plaice. Over the past three years the most prolific fishing has been seen on the chosen dates. Last year one boat had over 50 turbot/Brill and 60 plaice during this period with other boats having similar catches. Turbot of 32, 30, 28 and 26lb were caught with many other fish over 20lb. This event has limited places and is already filling fast so get your entry in quick.

The English Boat Event will be returning to Plymouth to fish the area around the famous Eddysone reef and these plentiful fishing grounds hold many species that will hopefully make this another memorable event.

For those that fish the EFSA Sweden Lupus event, the dates for 2013 are 28 & 29th June. We will leave on the 26th and have booked a practice day on the 27th and return on the 30th. Anyone wanting to go to the Lupus please let me know and I will forward details.

Shore Festival Officer's Report: Mr Curtice gave the following report to the meeting.

2012 was a quiet year from the point of view of shore angling events and outcomes. The highlight of the year for some of us was the exciting prospect of spectacular shore angling in Iceland. For the 9 anglers from the section who made the journey they were not disappointed with some fantastic catches that will not be equalled on our own island. Unfortunately our team and individual results were not quite high enough for glory, but some of our days fishing will have bragging rights for some years!

The English Section Shore championship held at Dover – Samphire Hoe was poorly attended and if judged from that point of view, would be deemed a failure. Fortunately the quality of the angler's skills, sense of humour and camaraderie made the weekend very enjoyable. Anglers who are not shore specialists were not daunted by the late change of venue from the Southern Breakwater (concrete boat) to the amazing Samphire Hoe promenade. In fact they showed great skill and Dave Clarke and Gerry Knight led the competition after the first day.

So what for 2013? It was our turn to host the British Isles and Ireland Championship in 2012 but we were not in a position to be able to run it however we propose to host it this year in Dover on the 13th – 15th June 2013 inclusive. Whilst the details are to be firmed up it is proposed to run the competition across 3 venues with the idea of using the venues of Prince of Wales pier, Samphire Hoe and the Southern Breakwater. The format of the competition is as a European Championship so will be bait supplied and we hope to use the Grand Burstin as the HQ. Attempts will be made to keep costs low by reducing the prize fund and keeping bait costs as low as possible but as you all know, bait costs are an issue and a box of squid and a pack of mackerel is not the ideal for a successful shore session.

Our own Section Championship will be held on the mighty Chesil Beach and the outline plan is to run it on the 4th & 5th October 2013. This is a Friday and Saturday however Andy is looking into the possibility of running boats across the fleet to access the middle section of the beach. As this would alleviate pegging conflicts with pleasure anglers we could run the competition on the 5th & 6th October therefore keeping to a weekend.

The European Shore championship is hosted by the Dutch Section on 29th October to 3rd November 2013 and promises to be a great competition. They have purposely placed their HQ inland to enable access to a wider selection of beaches so that they can have reasonable alternatives to poor weather affected beaches. On top of this they have negotiated a fantastic rate with the owners of the campsite where the holiday homes are sited and with keeping prize funds down to a minimum they have managed to keep the

entry fee very low. For accommodation, entry and gala dinner you are looking at paying from E275 per angler, which is an amazing deal. The downside is entries need to be in early. A deposit of E50 needs to be paid to Kim Bowden before the end of January and the balance will be required before the end of March 2013. The early deposits will enable numbers to be counted up and anglers sorted into groups for the accommodation. This will enable advice on costs per angler as the overall costs are based on numbers sharing.

Please communicate with me and the other committee members any ideas or offers of help as it is much appreciated. Suggestions of Shore match venues always welcome bearing in mind that the following also need to be considered: Safe environment & parking, accommodation if necessary, bait supply and quality of fishing.

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

Hopefully you all enjoyed the change of venue and format to kick start our events for 2013, It was felt that the skippers at Poole had become complacent for the flounder event hence the change. Keep a lookout for the report in the usual places.

Thanks to Kim for the reports on the European species (cod) event held at Dunmore East and the European Boat & Line Championships held in Norway. Thanks to Paul for the reports on the English Shore Championship held on Dover's Samphire Hoe and the European Shore Championship held in Iceland. And thanks to me, for the reports on the Poole flounder, English species (Smoothound) Championship in Langstone. Hopefully, you all viewed this plus the one from Glenn Milligan that took up nearly 3 pages of BFM, plus the English Boat Championship held in Poole.

2013 looks quite busy with events taking place in Dover, Weymouth, Plymouth, Italy, Denmark, Mexico and the Netherlands, just remember to take a few pictures if you are competing in any of these events and forward them to me at mcarbobbett@o2.co.uk

Social Secretary's Report: Mr Osborne gave the following report to the meeting.

It's that time of year again when we have to decide which competitions we want to do this year or more to the point, which ones we can afford to do. This definitely leaves out the European species in Italy for myself and many others whom I have spoken to, which is why I haven't looked into it to be honest.

The first one will be the English species (flatfish) at Weymouth. There's no need for me to look into accommodation as most of you already have your favourite places to stay in Weymouth. Next will be the English boat at Plymouth, where registration will be at the Premier Inn, Sutton Road.

I have been looking at travel and accommodation for the European Boat and Line class in August being held in Denmark. The accommodation deal being offered may seem

expensive, but by the time you have taken into account the extra travel to the boats and food etc, it will take some beating. At the time of writing this the best flight deals are with Easyjet, Gatwick to Copenhagen for approx £75 plus baggage. Then train, from Copenhagen to Elsinore, which run every 20 minutes.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a Happy New Year and let's hope there's plenty of fish for us all.

Competition Co-ordinator's Report: The Chairman gave the following report to the meeting in Mr Scaggs's absence.

As we start a new year, EFSA England competitions entries have started to come in and we have moved into the modern banking world, where accounts do not have cheque books and electronic banking is the way to go.

As for competitions, members are still not adding their membership numbers so can I please ask you all again to put your number on the entry forms as it helps when I have to check if you are an annual or life member and makes processing a lot quicker.

Apart from that, I wish you all a good year's fishing and have lots of fun too.

Standing Committee Delegate's Report: Mr Bowden gave a brief report on S.C. matters –reports of which appeared in the August and November Newsletters. The next S.C.Meeting is scheduled to be held in Italy in April.

5. Reports on Championships & Festivals in 2012:

a) Flounder Competition - Poole:

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the February 2012 Newsletter.

b) English Species Championship - Langstone

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

c) English Shore Championship - Dover

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

d) English Boat Championship - Poole

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

e) European Species Championship – Ireland

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

f) European Shore Championship - Iceland

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

g) European Boat & Line Class Championships - Norway

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

6. Presentation of Fish of the Year Awards.

Mr Neil Bryant, assisted by Mr Kim Bowden, made the following presentations.

EFSA FISH OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2012

Boat

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| Bass | D.Lynes | PM | 10lb 2oz |
| Black Bream | B.Short | PM | 3lb 14oz |
| Cod | R.Whitewood | W/Wight | 25lb 3oz |
| Conger | M.Roberts | BCC | 90lb |
| Flounder | T.Spencer (Jnr) | PM | 2lb 4oz |
| Plaice | K.Sampson | PM | 6lb 1/2oz |
| Pollack | E.Elgar | Bisley | 11lb 8oz |
| Ray – Blonde | K.Sampson | PM | 31lb 8oz |
| Smoothound | A.Currier | PM | 18lb 12oz |
| Whiting | G.Thorner | W/Wight | 3lb 4oz |
| Wrasse (Ballan) | M.Pickford | Portland | 6lb 2 oz |
| Other (by %) | | | |
| Spurdog | D.Lynes | PM | 20lb 14oz (174%) |

Shore

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|-------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| Bass | C.Griffiths | W/Wight | 7lb 12.1/2oz |
| Black Bream | P.Dixon | Portland | 3lb 1oz |

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|-------------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Cod | J.McKeen | W/Wight | 25lb 3 oz |
| Conger | J.McKeen | W/Wight | 25lb 3 oz |
| Flounder | D.McCune | PM | 2lb 8oz |
| Plaice | | | |
| Pollack | P.Dixon | Portland | 2lb 9oz |
| Mullet (all by %) | | | |
| Smoothound | A.Bennett | W/Wight | 10lb 11.1/2oz |
| Whiting | D.Lovelock | PM | 3lb 4.1/2oz |
| Wrasse (Ballan) | C.Hayne | Portland | 5lb 12oz |
| Other (by %) | | | |
| Sting Ray | M.Cassell | W/Wight | 42lb 7oz |

Norman Witt Award - Best Overall Catch

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|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Sting Ray | M.Cassell | W/Wight | 42lb 7oz |
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Overseas Fish of the Year Award

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| Cod | R.Russell | PM | Norway (boat) |
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Junior Fish of the Year Award

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| Black Bream | Sam Short | PM (boat) | 3lb 8oz (100%) |
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| British Conger Club Tankard | M.Roberts | BCC | Brighton (90lb) |
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7. Election of Officers: Prior to the election of Officers, it was agreed that the positions would be voted en-bloc, as there was only one nominee per vacant position.

The positions for 3-year terms of office, unless stated otherwise, were as follows:

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Chairman | Nominee Mr N.Bryant |
| Fish Recorder | Nominee:Mr R.Ashby |
| Public Relations Officer | Nominee:Mr J.Whippy |
| Social Secretary | Nominee:Mr M.Osborne |

Acceptance of all the above were proposed by Martin Bobbett, seconded by Andy Smith and accepted unanimously.

8. Election of President of EFSA England:

The Chairman informed the meeting that due to the passing of Peter Peck, the position of President was now open and proposed that Mr E.Entwistle be nominated for the position.

The nomination was seconded by Tony Hudson and accepted unanimously by the members present. Mr Entwistle was duly elected as President of EFSA England.

The Chairman called Mr Entwistle forward and placed the medallion of the EFSA England President on Mr Entwistle who then took a seat next to the Chairman for the rest of the meeting.

Mr Entwistle thanked the membership for supporting his nomination and that this was indeed a great honour for him to become President of EFSA England and he appreciated that he was following in big footsteps, those of Peter Peck. He wanted to assure all that he would continue to maintain the integrity of the Section and look over the committee's shoulder and provide support and advice wherever it was needed.

9. Election of Hon. Auditor:

Mr J.Knight was proposed as Hon Auditor by Dave Clark and seconded by Tony Porritt. There being no other nominees, Mr Knight was duly elected for a one-year term of office

10. Reports on Championships & Festivals for 2013:

- a) Fun Fish Competition – Dover: Mr Curtice gave a brief report on the competition that was fished the day before. A full report will be in the next Newsletter.
- b) European Species (Tuna) Championship – Italy: Mr Bowden reported that the closing date for entries had passed and regrettably no entries from England members. Thoughts were that it was due to the cost of entry and style of fishing.
- c) English Boat Championship – Plymouth: Mr Selby informed the meeting that it was a return to Plymouth, with the HQ being the Premier inn, Sutton harbour, from where the boat pick up is a walkable distance.
- d) European Boat & Line Class Championships – Denmark: Mr Bowden stated that entries close 15th March and if staying at the Lo School, that all fees had to be paid by 15th May. Full details and entry form are on-line or, if members have any problems downloading or cannot access website, then they should contact himself.
- e) European Shore Championship – Holland: Mr Curtice expected it to be a good event. The accommodation is inland so as to be more central to access the fishing, as

venue will depend on the weather. The event was very reasonably priced and if attending and staying at the suggested accommodation, the entry and fees have to be with the Secretary within the next week.

f) English Species (Flatfish) Championship– Weymouth: Mr Selby stated he had already given details in his report and mentioned that if it fishes as well as 2012, it should be a very good event. He went on to say that many of the large Brill and Turbot that were caught last year were returned to the water so could still be there for us in March.

g) English Shore Championship – Chesil: Mr Curtice said we were looking at the 4th and 5th October. With the help of Mr Selby, it may be possible to fish an area of the beach that is rarely fished, as it is only accessible by boat. In which case we may look to 5th and 6th October. It was hoped to have the information on the web very soon.

h) European Game Championship – Mexico: Mr Bowden informed the meeting that the closing date is 15th January. There are currently no entries and only a few that have asked for details and will inform him if they decide to go.

i) Shore Championship of the British Isles: Mr Curtice reported that we have only just received confirmation from the EFSA HQ Shore Festival Officer that we are clear to host it. The proposal is 13th to 15th June fishing Dover, probably Southern Breakwater, Prince of Wales Pier and Samphire Hoe. Now we have approval to host, we will now look to get a detailed proposal to see what we can get for accommodation. More information will follow on the website as soon as we have it.

11. Special Business. There were no items for discussion received by the Committee.

12. Annual General Meeting 2014. A date and venue was to be confirmed later in the year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:55

Secretary's Report

Well, where does one start? First competition of the year cancelled due to wind. Let us look forward and hope 2013 is not a repeat of 2012 when I lost more days fishing due to the weather than I can remember in previous years.

I would like to welcome Andy Smith (see following introduction) onto the committee as Fish Recorder. Ray Ashby has had to withdraw from the position due to change of lifestyle. We thank Ray for all he did in that role but pleased to say he still remains a valued member of the committee as Vice Chairman.

Just want to mention a competition you may not be aware of. The Conger Club hold an Affiliated Clubs Championship. This is a pair's event to be fished on 28th/29th September out of Brixham. EFSA is affiliated to the Conger Club so if you have a like minded friend you can enter. Contact me if interested.

Some discussion has taken place in Committee concerning Newsletters and we will only be sending out two this year. What we want to consider is if the membership would be willing to receive the Newsletter by email. The reason behind this is that we regularly review the cost of running the Section and would prefer not to increase subs at this time and to spend more on fishing than administration. Obviously we would still mail a copy to those not on email or those who particularly want a paper copy mailed to them. We will look to views from the membership to determine the way forward but the cost effective way to get up to date information out, is by email or via the web site.

Kim Bowden

A fresh Fish Recorder introduction

For those who don't know me, I have been a member of EFSA England for some twelve years. I'm an enthusiastic angler rather than a proficient one and I'm thoroughly looking forward to taking over the role and seeing all the specimen fish you will be submitting. This is obviously subject to your approval at the AGM of me taking over from Ray.

On the subject of Ray Ashby, they are big boots to fill and I only hope that I can do the role justice. If you have any questions about the Fish of the Year Awards, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please keep your entries flooding in.

Tight lines.

Andy Smith

FISH RECORDERS REPORT

Well, here we go again at the start of another Fishing year. As in previous years, not a great deal to report on at this point but plenty to speculate about as the Plaice and Turbot season kicks off in Weymouth, and we start thinking about those four pound Bream arriving at Littlehampton and working their way along the south coast. Well dreaming about it at least takes your mind off clearing the next fall of snow. Although early, a few

Members have braved the cold and found some good fish notably a 32 lb boat caught Cod by Tony Sherwood off the Nab Tower, and from the shore a 6 lb 12 oz Ballan Wrasse caught by Phil Rolls from Portland. The next few months should see things picking up as the water warms up, so fingers crossed.

At the last AGM whilst I was sunning myself in OZ, Andy Smith has expressed an interest in taking on the role of Fish Recorder following my notice to step down this year to follow family pursuits on a more regular basis 'down under'. Andy I'm sure will do a great job for the Section and I will work with him over the next few months to ease him into the role.

Therefore you will see from the 'Fish of the Year' entry form enclosed with this Newsletter, Andy is now the contact point to send your applications for Fish of the Year. Any in the pipeline, or that happen to come to me by mistake will be passed on to Andy in due course. Keep an eye on the website however to double check that your fish is on the list if your entry is better than an existing registered fish.

The website will also be updated with immediate effect to reflect the change of Fish Recorder. I've really enjoyed this role which I've been a part of for more years than I care to remember having taken over from Steve Riley. I will still be involved on the Committee for the time being whilst I'm able to attend meetings

I wish Andy every success in his new role and I'm sure he will enjoy this new challenge as I have. The current status for Fish of the Year 2013 is as follows.

EFSA FISH OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2013

Boat

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|----|----------|
| Bass | K.Bowden | PM | 10lb 8oz |
| Black Bream | | | |
| Cod | A.Sherwood | PM | 32lb 4oz |
| Conger | | | |
| Flounder | | | |
| Plaice | | | |
| Pollack | | | |
| Ray – Blonde | A.Bird | PM | 24lb 4oz |
| Smoothound | | | |
| Whiting | I.Burden | PM | 3lb 0oz |

Wrasse (Ballan)

Other (by %)

Shore

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|----|-----------|
| Bass | D.Lovelock | PM | 8lb 1/2oz |
| Black Bream | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Cod | P.Dixon | Portland | 8lb 8oz |
| Conger | A.Bennett | W/Wight | 26lb 6oz |
| Flounder | J.Bowler | Portland | 3lb 4oz |
| Plaice | | | |
| Pollack | | | |
| Mullet (all by %) | | | |
| Smoothound | | | |
| Whiting | P.Dixon | Portland | 2lb 12oz |
| Wrasse (Ballan) | P.Rolls | Portland | 6lb 12oz |
| Other (by %) | | | |
| Pout | P.Hollingshead | W/Wight | 2lb 1 1/2oz (139.58%) |

Ray Ashby
Fish Recorder

EFSA England Species Festival Weymouth 23rd&24th March 2013

As you are probably all aware by now this event had to be cancelled due to the high winds that continue to haunt us boat anglers. Many members travelled from far and wide to compete for one of the newly commissioned EFSA England species pins, some through snow and ice on blocked up roads others decided to abandon attempts to travel through the bizarre early spring weather.

This was Lyle's 1st EFSA competition as Boat Commodore, but I'm sure it will not be his last. There was much debate and many a phone call made throughout the committee meeting held on Friday afternoon. With an ever changing forecast, the final decision was made Friday evening just before the registration started to call off both days. Anyone who stayed around on the Saturday (including those seen leaving Dorothy's at 6.30am) would have seen just how rough Weymouth Bay was, so the right decision was made.

For now, we will leave the plaice to fatten up over the spring and summer and return in November to compete for one of those nice shiny new pins.

Boat Festival Officers Report

English Boat Species Festival Weymouth 2013

As you know, the Species event at Weymouth was cancelled due to the weather. Good news is it has been re-arranged for the 16 & 17th November.

Those of you that fish Weymouth this time of year know that there are plenty of Plaice in prime condition and you have a good chance of breaking the 7lb mark. The Turbot and Brill are still here in good numbers as well. The past few years have seen the flatfish fishing really prolific right up to mid /late December.

The entry fee has been reduced as we have trophies / Badges etc from the March event and the new entry form is in this newsletter. Don't forget this event now has Pins specially commissioned for the very first time.

EFSA Sweden Summer Cod (Lupus) 28th & 29th June 2013

This year's event takes place on the above dates. We are flying out on Wednesday the 26th and have a practice day on the 27th with the competition on the 28th & 29th, and returning on the 30th. At the moment, confirmed fishing are Andy & Charlotte Selby, Andy Smith, Chris Pucher, Paul Tulley (Efsa Ireland), Neil Cottingham and Pete Bailey. If you would like to go to this great event (which changed venues last year) please contact Andy or Charlotte.

Estimated costs:

Flight £120 Train/Ferry £20 Hotel £50 pppn (twin) Entry £110 Hot Dogs £2

EFSA England English Boat Championship Plymouth 13&14th July 2013

This years event is filling fast and we have limited places.

The HQ hotel is the Premier Inn at Sutton Harbour and if you subscribe to the Premier Inn newsletter, they often have deals for this hotel.

The Marina club on the Harbour has been booked for our prize presentation.

Fun Fish Prince of Wales Pier Dover Jan 12th 2013

A bit of a change to kick off the EFSA England competitions year as we normally hold our first event of the year in and around Poole harbour. However, due to the retirement of a number of the older style wooden boats in Poole harbour (there are very few charter boats left that can venture into the shallows to find decent numbers of flounder), this year Dover's southern breakwater was our chosen venue.

As most of you anglers out there know, the weather does not always read the script! With a forecast of 5-7, the breakwater was deemed out of bounds and after a brief discussion it was agreed that the Prince of Wales pier would be the easiest to fish due to high water at 11:16.

After a 15 minute walk and a quick dash around to peg, we were ready to draw for position (the furthest pegs were left for the locals as they often produce the most fish). Rods assembled, rigs baited, shelters erected and we were ready to fish. Most anglers had opted for 3-up flapper or cascade rigs baited with lug tipped with mackerel, sprat or squid. The whiting and dabs were quick to oblige with fish showing from most areas and the rods closest to the pier end were kept busiest, with Paull Curtice landing several treble shots of dab and whiting, Local legend Alan Yates was also kept busy - his fresh sprat/lug cocktail taking several fish. Neil Bryant also kept amongst the fish taking several double shots, Paull Curtice also captured a small school bass and a dogfish to keep the other contenders on their toes, Alan also caught a small bass.

Conditions deteriorated just after midday , with the wind increasing and the rain falling, several competitors headed to the café at the end of the pier to warm up with a welcome hot beverage and sausage roll (not something one can do when on a boat)

Richard Russell made a late surge, landing a double shot of dabs followed by 2 double shots of whiting, Dave Lovelock was also in with a chance. With only 30 minutes remaining the baits grew larger and juicier, possibly trying for one of those longer dogfish, Alan cast his last bait at 2:10 and retrieved it on the final whistle at 2:30, the first time in 3 months that he had waited that long without a fish (quite possibly a sign of things to come on Kent's beaches for the next month or so)

Lines in, tackle packed away and a seemingly longer walk back to the car park, the score sheets were collected and collated. As the weather had remained wet, cold and windy the decision was made to hold the presentation before the AGM on the Sunday.

Of the 19 who fished, 17 weighed in (well submitted a score sheet with their combined measurements on) a total of 154 fish made the 18cm size limit. The top 2 anglers were only separated by 1 fish, but it was boat angler and EFSA England chairman, Neil Bryant who took top spot from shore angler Paull Curtice. Alan Yates came in 3rd closely followed by Dave Lovelock and Richard Russell. Just goes to show, if you know how to fish you know how to fish.

Results

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 st | Neil Bryant | 527cm |
| 2 nd | Paull Curtice | 504cm |
| 3 rd | Alan Yates | 407cm |
| 4 th | Dave Lovelock | 373cm |

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------|-------|
| 5 th | Richard Russell | 349cm |
| 6 th | Martin Bobbett | 201cm |
| 7 th | Paul Hart | 196cm |
| 8 th | Rob Quinn | 191cm |
| 9 th | Ash Currier/Kim Bowden | 189cm |
| 11 th | Tony Porritt | 177cm |
| 12 th | Andy Selby | 138cm |
| 13 th | Dave Clark | 131cm |
| 14 th | Jerry Knight | 109cm |
| 15 th | Reg Clough | 86cm |
| 16 th | Andy Smith | 50cm |
| 17 th | Janice Peach | 32cm |

EFSA British Isles and Ireland Shore Championships 13th – 15th June 2013

This year's EFSA British Isles and Ireland Shore Competition is being organised by the EFSA English section and is being staged on Dover's Southern breakwater and Samphire Hoe. These popular mark offers superb fishing for a variety of species and gives opportunity for anglers of all levels of skill, to catch good quality fish. This combined with an excellent deal with the Grand Burstin Hotel located at nearby Folkestone provides the setting for an excellent shore angling package.

The competition will comprise of 3 days shore angling and will promote conservation by adopting a "Measure & Return" system. The species likely to be caught include: Pout, Dogfish, Plaice, Dab, Pollack, Sol , Silver eel, Garfish, Bass, Smooth-hound. Bait will be provided for the contestants and the cost is included in the entry fees.

The entry fee of the competition is £120. This will cover the following costs:

Daily pier fees (does not include boat fees £7 per person per day)

All bait provided for the 3 days of angling.

Pins and prizes.

The Championship hotel is the Grand Burstin Hotel in Folkestone. The rates we have been offered are:

£29 per person per night which includes breakfast and evening meal. As always, because of availability, early booking is advised. You will need to contact:

01303 854500 and ask for Julie (Monday to Friday 9-5)

Or, email her on admin725@britanniahotels.com Or you can call the central Team on 0871 222 0048 and quote that you are competing in the EFSA Fishing Competition.

Further details containing timings, general information on the venue and rules covering the competition will be on the EFSA England website and at the registration on arrival. Please ensure that you get your entry in with **cheques made payable to EFSA England by 27th May 06 latest.**

Southern Breakwater

The venue is very easy to fish with clean bottom, odd snags mostly old tackle. The water over high tide is very deep and at times the tide rips through turning from east to west in a matter of minutes so long casting is not necessary. Pendulum casting is prohibited as is the use of braided line, nose grip leads are required.

The main species to be caught will be : - Pout, Dogfish, Plaice, Dab, Pollack, Sole, Silver eel, Garfish, Bass, Smooth-hound.

Samphire Hoe

The venue stretches for 1.5 miles of man-made promenade. It is a purpose made fishing platform and is very popular with local clubs and national competitions as a shore match venue. The bottom is mixed rock ridges and sand patches and can be snaggy in places. Best fished with a Pulley Pennel rig and 25lb plus line all though for the bigger fish. On some pegs there are plenty of small fish alongside the wall and booms/float can work well. The venue is usually fished in matches with three hooks using light snoods and small hooks so that the angler can pull through the snags, some use a weak link system

but much depends upon the range you find the fish at on your peg. Obviously the further you cast the more risk of snagging.

The main species: Wrasse, pout, dogfish, bass, pollack, scad, mackerel, garfish, chance of bass, mullet, bream.

EFSA England Shore Championships Chesil Beach 5th & 6th October 2013

The fishing venue for this year's Championships will be on the middle section of the incredible Chesil Beach. A boat will be arranged to transport all anglers across the fleet behind the beach to enable us to fish the relatively un-fished middle!! As many of you will know this is a fabulous fishing venue and the opportunity for most of us to reach the "middle ground" does not happen too often.

The venue is reasonably easy to fish with clean bottom, odd snags mostly old tackle and some broken debris of wrecks lost many years past. The beach is steep shingle and anglers should be prepared for a bit of a climb up the shingle to get over to the sea. This is the prime time for huge numbers of species as the summer and winter fish co-exist for a few weeks which can provide amazing fishing. There is a tide pull that requires grip leads and sometimes distance casting can be an advantage. Headlights are required for the first day.

The main species to be caught will be : - Cod, Whiting, Pout, Poor Cod, Conger, Dogfish, Plaice, Dab, Pollack, Sole, Silver eel, Garfish, Bass, and Smooth-hound .

The match will be fished "Catch and Return" to EFSA size limits.

We are changing the format to make life easier for our keen anglers travelling from inland by making sure that **Bait will be supplied** for the competition from local sources. Dependant upon availability it is likely to consist of Lugworm, King Rag worm and Mackerel.

- Only the championship bait provided is to be used.
- No live baiting, feathers or artificial lures are permitted.
- Unused bait must be discarded no bait is to be carried over to the following days.

Float Fishing.

Float fishing is allowed with floats slid down main line which is anchored with a gripped lead. No casting of floats is allowed.

The outline programme for the Championships is as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Saturday 5 th Oct | Registration | 12:00 |
| | Bait | 12:45 |
| | Boat transport from | 13:00 |

| | | |
|--------|------------------------|---------------|
| | Fishing | 15:00 – 20:00 |
| | Boat transport returns | 20:30 |
| Sunday | Bait | 08:15 |
| | Boat transport from | 08:30 |
| | Fishing | 10:30 – 15:30 |
| | Boat transport returns | 16:00 |

Presentation at Weymouth Angling Club from 18:00

We will give details of any accommodation deals available on the website. We hope to be able to meet up for a social drink either in a hotel or in Weymouth Angling Club. The costs of the competition have been brought down by reducing the amount of nights away so hopefully you can attend and persuade other members to give it a go. If for any reason such as poor weather the competition will be switched to Preston Beach.