

# Newsletter April 2014

## DIARY

### 2014

May 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup>	English Species (Rays), Sheerness
May 7 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup>	Shore Championship of Britain & Ireland, Co.Wexford, Ireland.
May 30 <sup>th</sup> /31 <sup>st</sup>	European Species, Olafsvik, Iceland
June 14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup>	English Boat Championship
June 27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup>	Shore Championship, Dover.
September 15 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>	European Boat and Line, Weymouth.
November 6 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	European Shore Championship. Wales.

### 2015

January	EFSA England AGM. Riviera Hotel, Weymouth.
January	Fun Fish Event – Weymouth (Wrasse)
April/May	English Species (Bream) Littlehampton.
August 1 <sup>st</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	European Boat and Line, Stromness, Orkney.
Sept/Oct	English Boat – Dover.

## **Secretary's Report**

The next Standing Committee is arranged for April 12th when forthcoming events will be discussed, besides other EFSA HQ business. As the next newsletter is not due until October, please refer to website for my report from meeting prior to that.

On Newsletters - no change for this year, but with the ever increasing cost of printing and postage, the Committee are considering a change to distribute the Newsletter by email as a first option. Although be assured for those without email or who prefer to receive a paper copy, you will get one.

European Boat and Line 2014 Weymouth. In case it slipped your mind the entries for this should have been in by end of March. However if you do want to enter then please contact me as soon as possible and we should be able to fit you in. There is still accommodation available and a great deal at The Rivera, our Event HQ

### ***Shore events.***

Our own at fishing at Dover with a great price on accommodation at Grand Birstin. European Shore in Wales and Shore Championship of Britain and Ireland in Ireland More on these events in Newsletter and on our website.

### ***Competitions other than EFSA you may be interested in:-***

British Conger Club Members Championship, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014 Plymouth. Open to members of Conger Club only.

British Conger Club Affiliated Pairs competition, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014 Plymouth. Open to EFSA members as we are affiliated to Conger Club.

Plymouth International Boat Angling Festival, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014. £1000 top prize. Contact Tom Worthy on 01752361294.

For more information on any of the events mentioned, or anything I may be able to assist with, feel free to contact me - by email is usually the best.

Kim Bowden  
Secretary

## **Report on facilities at The Riviera hotel, Weymouth (Euro HQ)**

I am now going to be able to tick another item off my “bucket list. We decided to stay at the Riviera Hotel last weekend when coming down to attend a committee meeting and make a weekend break of it.

The hotel is a really lovely building with iconic art deco arches and is a Grade II listed landmark. It has very good facilities and is in a great location. It is worth asking for a room at the front if possible, as the views are remarkable. It is only 5 minutes from the beach and there is a gateway out onto a cliff top pathway so you can walk down to the beach or up over the hills behind the hotel.

The staff were very friendly, helpful and always on hand. They were very busy on the Saturday night with a function, and so a reduced staff in the bar were kept very busy with serving drinks and as the menu at that moment was only a bar menu, they were also busy with dinner requests. We were informed the A la Carte Menu would be back next month along with the popular Sunday Carvery.

Our room was very comfortable, with subtle lighting and modern furniture. The hotel call them chalet style. They are small but very comfortable and have all one would need. We had an en-suite shower room, with a great hot shower and lovely soft large towels and a heated towel rail. There was a wall mounted TV, tea and coffee making facilities, a wall mounted heater (which worked efficiently), a hair dryer, and a mini fridge. The hotel also has Wi-Fi internet access and a safe deposit box in the room.

Our room on the ground floor had direct access to the hotel reception and restaurant and bar via a covered external walkway. We did notice that they do also cater for people with disabilities and nothing seemed to be too much trouble for the staff.

There is also a very nice heated indoor pool and outdoor pools (subject to season) sauna and fully equipped gym plus a variety of massage treatments are available – but we did not make use of them on this visit.

There is ample parking on site. We also had a newspaper each morning, as we love the paper with our morning cup of coffee.

In all, it was a very relaxing and enjoyable stay and we are looking forward to staying again in September, if not again before then.

***Hotel review by Mr & Mrs S Scaggs***

## FISH RECORDER'S REPORT

As would be expected and due to this year's appalling weather, we have had very few entries to date. Please keep your entries coming in, as there are still a lot of blanks. Members can register entries up to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2014. If you have a picture of your catch please send it in. Here is the current situation.

### BOAT

Bass

Black Bream

Cod	Geoff Thorner	West Wight	27 lb 12 oz
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Conger Eel	Alan Bird	PM	75 lb 0 oz
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Flounder

Plaice

Pollack

Ray – Blonde	Alan Bird	PM	24 lb 12 oz
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Smoothound

Whiting

Wrasse

Other by %

Ray Undulate	Alan Bird	PM	17lb 9 oz – 125%
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### SHORE

Bass

Black Bream

Cod

Conger Eel

Flounder	D Jupe	West Wight	3 lb 5 oz
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Plaice

Pollack

Mullet – All

Smoothound

Whiting	Martyn Gibbs	Portland	1 lb 13 oz
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Wrasse – Ballan	Noddy Coan	Portland	5 lb 15 oz
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Other %

### JUNIOR FISH OF THE YEAR

### OVERSEAS FISH OF THE YEAR

### CONGER CLUB TANKARD

Alan Bird	PM	75 lb 0 oz
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*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held at  
The Arndale Court Hotel, Wimbourne Road, Poole on  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 11:00*

***Present:***

Mr E.Entwistle	-	President
Mr N.Bryant	-	Chairman
Mr R.Ashby	-	Vice Chairman
Mr K.Bowden	-	Secretary
Mr A.Selby	-	Boat Festival Officer
Mr P.Curtice	-	Shore Festival Officer
Mr M.Bobbett	-	Press Officer
Mr M.Osborne	-	Social Secretary
Mr K.Scaggs	-	Competition Coordinator
Mr A.Smith	-	Fish Recorder

***President's Address***

On behalf of myself and all the other members, I would like to thank our Chairman Neil Bryant, all the officers and committee, their wives and partners and everyone who has assisted them throughout the past year. Not forgetting Tony Hudson who coordinates our Newsletters and for years has done the minutes for this meeting.

They continue to do a tremendous amount of hard work on our behalf - arranging annual events, booking boats sorting out bait and rules. Smoothing over problems that may arise. They attend various Section and HQ committee meetings and preparing for future events such as the European Boat and Shore Championships. They also get frequent phone calls, sometimes at ungodly hours that they and their partners have to deal with.

Sometimes this all gets taken for granted. We should take the opportunity to show our appreciation.

In conclusion I would like to wish you all, a Happy, Healthy and successful New Year.

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

Ann Enoch	Colin Bond.	Nigel Hearn.	Steph Baker
J R W Paquette	John Barrett	Tony Swain	Robin Amor
Jack Reece	Uwe Brown	Nick Rush	Budge Brooker
Alf Sindrey	Rolf Marschalek	Colin Searles	Dave Oliver
Barrie Senior	Marcus Wuest	David Styles	Steve Batchelor
Paul Hart	Jim Whippy	Garry Galbraith	Ray Barron
Paul Rivers	G.Lewis		

A total of 26 full members were present together with 20 members of Affiliated Clubs.

## **2. *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2013:***

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by K.Scaggs, seconded by T.Hudson 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.

Firstly, may I welcome you all to this year's AGM and Fun Fish weekend in Poole and whilst last year we went to Dover, which was well attended and as the event was fun, we decided to return to old grounds once again. The Committee will be considering a number of venues in the future and we will try to give plenty of notice to everyone. However, it is nice to be back here and I do hope you all enjoy the time in Poole.

Once again another year has passed us by and the weather has indeed played its part in our events, as I am sure it has in our everyday lives recently. That's one thing we, as Sea Anglers will always have to deal with so I suppose we are more used to it than many. Indeed, it did interfere with our Boat Species Festival from Weymouth last year with us having to cancel the event.

Following last year's AGM and the results of the Financial Accounts we, the committee, decided it would be prudent to see if we could find ways of making some savings for the Section so that we did not have to eat into the reserves. We concluded that we would try and have one less committee meeting and also produce one less Newsletter. Firstly, to establish if we could make reasonable savings, and secondly, to see that it did not reflect on the running of the Section. There were a few teething problems we encountered with getting the right information out at the right time but overall it has proven fruitful as you will hear later from the Treasurer. Therefore, we feel that now we have been through the first year's 'trial' that we can continue with the changes made and also continue to look at becoming more efficient in our organising. We will also be looking into other ways of sustaining income so that EFSA England always remains strong and self-supporting.

Looking back to 2013 it was indeed a busy year once again and from the number of entries for each event we must be doing something right. There were many members who participated in the European Boat and Line in Denmark and also a very good entry from England attended the European Shore event in the Netherlands. Our English Boat Championship's in Plymouth had one of the largest entries for a number of years and whilst the Species Festival was re scheduled so late in the year this did have some effect on numbers. We were pleased that last year we were also able to hold our English Shore Championships and again we do thank you all for supporting this and all our events. It

would be remiss of me to not thank Andy Selby and Paul Curtice for all their organising skills and also everyone else who assisted prior to and during the events.

This year we are hosting the European Boat and Line Championships from Weymouth so the Committee have been and will be very busy with finalising everything. We are very pleased to say that a super deal has been agreed with the Headquarters Hotel and it would be appreciated if this is well supported. We are aware that many like to reside in the town, however, the deal presented is superb so I do hope you will seriously consider this option.

On the domestic and International front we appear to have a lot happening over a short period of time with the Species Festival Boat in mid May, closely followed by the European Species Championship at the end of May in Iceland. Then we have the English Boat Championships in mid June. However, it will be good to return to Torquay for this one and then at the end of June we have the English Shore Championships. That is four EFSA events within six weeks...takes some organising - let alone attending and I do hope that with these being on top of each other that it does not prevent high entries. One reason for this congestion is the hosting of the Europeans in September plus having the World Boat and the WIBAC that all take place over a six week period from in September and October. Should be tough, but fun we hope!

Moving on to organisation matters, you will see from the AGM Agenda we are re-introducing the Committee position of Vice Chairman and I am very pleased to say that Ray Ashby has accepted the nomination because, in truth he just could not leave the committee after all the years as Fish Recorder. No, it is a position that allows us to maintain his services without him doing any day to day organising...little does he know there then! Ray, we thank you for staying with us albeit it may be only for a short time. You will be pleased to know that all previous Committee Members who are also up for re-election have offered their continued service so I do hope you will support their nominations.

One thing I would like to say if I may, EFSA Headquarters have a difficult role to play in keeping all the wheels of the Organisation running when you consider the geography and location of each Officer let alone the Member Sections, it isn't easy I assure you. There will be some significant changes taking place with the Executive over the next three years, with the resignation of Arthur White, Treasurer and David Wood, Fish Recorder. We should not underestimate the amount of work that has been done in holding EFSA together over these difficult times. I am convinced that these changes will reflect on how EFSA goes forward and it is vital to the future that if anyone feels they have the time and inclination to consider working alongside or within the Executive, in whatever way they can and that is required by Headquarters, then please do let us know.

Finally, yes all good speeches have to come to end sometime, well especially mine as you all appear to have dropped off, joking of course. So, may I thank you all for your attendance here today, it is appreciated. I would also thank all the Committee for their tireless work and support and to all the membership out there have a great season and please do try to join us at some, if not all the years events. Have fun and thank you.

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

Well, we now bring to a close another years fishing in 2013. There were many highs and lows - and that was just the weather! Again it was the weather that played havoc with much of the arranged fishing with many events cancelled, lost days or rearranged. It is always difficult when these situations arise and difficult decisions have to be made, so I ask the membership to have an understanding when this occurs. We can not control the weather so please do not give the organising committee grief as they have enough to deal with when canceling, and any decisions taken are made for the safety and well-being of the membership.

The events that did go ahead were well attended and I hope those that participated had a good time fishing and socialising. 2014 there are some good venues planned both at home and in Europe and these will all be covered later in the meeting. Just a note on entry forms; please remember to fill in fully including membership number. Also please note closing dates for entry in your diary if you are going to leave it to the last moment, closing dates have to be there especially for boat competitions and European events as it is only at close of entry when the organisation of the event can be finalised.

As most of you are aware, we are moving forward all the while with electronic communication and bank payments. In particular, please ensure we have an up to date email address as this enables any information on events to be instantly circulated.

It just remains for me to say that the committee always acts for the benefit of the Section. If there is anything you would like to have your say on or any thoughts on the way things are going you can always contact me and I can raise them at one of our regular committee meetings.

To finish, I would like to wish you all the success for the events during the year ahead and hope to see you on the beach, in a boat or in the bar.

**Treasurers Report:** In the absence of Mr Hart, Mr Bryant gave the following report on his behalf:

Despite the doom and gloom in the economy and falling memberships in many angling organisations, our membership income is up! Good news indeed and when you consider there were only two events hosted by the Section during the year our deficit was well within the parameters of a normal non-European Championship year. This frugal running of the Section has been brought about by such measures as reducing the number of newsletters sent out during the year by just one and encouraging members to use the website for downloading competition entry forms and keeping up to date with news and results.

Interest from investments continues to be negligible at just £17 for the year and I am currently looking into whether we can obtain a better rate with a savings account at another bank to improve on this return. It is, however, crucial that the Section makes substantial surpluses on the events it hosts and with this year's European Championships at



Weymouth, effectively two species events (rearranged flatfish at Weymouth and Rays at Sheppey), the English boat at Torquay and the English Shore at Dover, we have never had a better opportunity to build up a much needed surplus to carry us through until such times as we host another European Championships many years in the future. Because of this potentially bountiful year ahead, as Treasurer I do not recommend that subscriptions are raised at this time and hope that this year proves to be a record breaker in terms of profit.

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.

Balance Sheet issued under separate cover.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by T.Hudson, seconded by K.Bowden, and accepted unanimously.

***Membership Registrar's Report:*** In the absence of Mr Galbraith, Mr Bryant gave the following report and details to the meeting.

Renewal of membership which was due on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> September last year don't have to pay until January 2015. 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 108, Life Membership is 77 & 9 Affiliated Clubs which are as follows:

Bisley & District SAC.            British Conger Club            Christchurch & District F.C.  
Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers    Portland Angling Club            Sportfishing Club of  
the British Isles    Western Wight Angling Club  
Weymouth Angling Society    Individual Boat Anglers Club

## **England EFSA Stock**

If anyone requires white short-sleeved shirts with EFSA logo and your name at £26 each, I will be placing an order on 1st February 2014. I have had a few enquiries from members so please take advantage as they are on a special order and only done in bulk. Please send cheque for the correct amount made out to EFSA England to me with your neck size and you're your sex before the aforementioned date to avoid disappointment.

I take all stock items to all the EFSA 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 and website.

***Fish Recorder's Report:*** Mr Smith gave the following report and details to the meeting.

The year started rather slowly but later in the year entries flooded in. We received entries in all categories apart from boat caught flounder. There were some excellent catches and in particular A.Sherwood's 32 lb 4 oz boat caught cod, G.Browning's 23 lb 1 oz boat caught smoothound, N.Coan's 6 lb 10 oz boat caught ballan wrasse, J.Tucker's 6 lb 11 oz boat caught tub gurnard, M.Flambard's 14lb 5 oz smoothound and G.Thorner's 15 lb 1 oz shore caught blonde ray.

However, the Committee voted K.Eddy's 16lb 8 oz shore caught bass as the best fish of the year and worthy of the Norman Witt trophy.

Please keep your entries coming in for 2014. The first results will be posted on the website towards the end of January.

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

Looking back over 2013 we have had a few ups and downs in attendance figures but the most positive thing is the renewed status of the English boats. The numbers have been very encouraging and the competition fierce. The committee will be at full stretch in 2014 with the European Boat Championships again being held in Weymouth. They will require some help during the event particularly during the booking in and then getting the prize table laid out. It should be an exciting year with a trip to Sheerness for some ray fishing, then several members will be off to Iceland to try for the cod. The shore members will hopefully have some excellent sport at Dover in June and then in September it's the big one at Weymouth. Sorry I couldn't get to the AGM but here's to a happy New year for all EFSA members.

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

I firstly would like to thank all the support I have had from the committee and members during this year's very busy schedule, It makes the running of the events and life in general so much easier, always better to have a volunteer than "press gang" members into helping. It would be nice to see some of our longer established members coming forward and offering their services (i.e. manning a table at registration)!

I welcome Andy Smith onto the committee and look forward to working with him I am sure he will be a great help to us all. This year's events were really well supported with a fantastic turnout at Plymouth and the re-scheduled flatfish event.

In 2014 we will be re-visiting Torquay for our English Boat Championship, a venue very few of us have fished that will make it a very interesting event. The skippers are really keen and there is a great variety of fishing.

The English Species Festival will be returning to the Medway targeting Rays.

Our big one this year will be the European Boat Championship in Weymouth and will be in a slightly different format with the Presentation / Dinner being held on the Friday evening. We have secured an excellent deal with the Riviera Hotel and have arranged transport to and from the quay and car park passes for anglers staying there.

The registration, presentation, functions, results etc will all be based here there will be nothing actually happening in the town apart from boat departure. Please support the Riviera as they are supporting us we have it booked as an exclusive EFSA hotel with an amazing package deal, when booking please quote EFSA.

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:*** Mr Curtice gave the following report to the meeting.

Over the past 12 months there have been two shore events that our Section members have supported. These were the Section's Shore Championship held on Chesil Beach in October and the European Shore Championship in Holland.

I think from an organisation point of view there are some good and bad points on how these were supported and the outcomes of participation. The Section Championship attracted 19 entries, which included a junior EFSA member. This was a little lower than anticipated as the attraction of fishing a fabled bit of Chesil was to hopefully lure members into participating.

There was some difficulty getting across on the first day on time due to technical problems with the boat engine but these were overcome and the angling whilst delayed was not adversely affected. Two members found the physical effort of negotiating the shingle bank too much for them and withdrew on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day and this was a shame but understandable. That aside, the members who did compete and managed to catch fish, despite not being very familiar with the type of angling or the environment, appeared to enjoy themselves; this after all is what it is about!

In Holland we had 11 members competing and formed into 2 teams to be able to represent the Section. As always, the weather gods are never kind to the European Shore championships (unless they are in Gibraltar) and especially so to Holland who always seem to have this problem. Again our Section members did well with some good individual results, but without the consistency to achieve overall medal winning chances. That said, we were amongst the prizes in mixed teams etc. I personally felt that this Championship was one of the cheapest to enter and the best organised that I have ever

attended. I always felt that the Dutch committee were working hard to ensure we had the best experience possible.

If I were to choose a highlight of the year I would say it was our junior competitor Ryan Casey having a day 1 zone win and overall 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Section Championship. Definitely a youngster with a lot of talent, and I hope that in the coming months we are able to attract a few more youth members into the Section.

Looking forward into this year we are looking at our Section Championship being held on the Dover Southern breakwater in June and the European Championship in Wales in November.

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

So here we are back in Poole to kick off another packed year, let's hope the flounder are more obliging than they were 2 years ago! It's hard to believe that I have been press officer for 3 years already and it looks like you will have to put up with me for another 3 years as no one else has stepped forward, any offers?

#### *Reports from 2013*

Thanks to Kim for the reports on the European Boat and Line championships held in Denmark.

Thanks to Paull for the reports on the English shore championships held on Dorset's famous Chesil beach and the European shore championships held in Holland.

Thanks to Jim Whippy for his report in boat fishing monthly covering the English Boat Championship and thanks to me for the reports on the fun fish event held on the Prince of Wales pier Dover, English Boat Championship held in Plymouth & the English species festival (flatfish) held in Weymouth.

2014 looks quite busy with events taking place in Poole, Sheerness, Dover, Weymouth, Torquay & Iceland, and as always, I ask you to take a few pictures if you are competing in any of these events and forward them to me at [m.bobbett97@btinternet.com](mailto:m.bobbett97@btinternet.com) I will then forward these to our website and the angling press if they are noteworthy fish.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2014

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

Well I hope we all catch plenty of high scoring fish this year and a few large ones as well. I have been sorting flights and hotel arrangements for Iceland in May with the help of Jan and Andy Smith, who have booked the coach from the airport to Olafsvik and back again. To date, there are 24 going - 20 anglers and plus 4 non fishing companions. We are travelling out on the Wednesday, hopefully practicing on Thursday, with the competition on Friday and Saturday and coming home on Sunday afternoon.

The English species this year is at Sheerness in the beginning of May for Rays (Thornback). This should be a good event as there are normally plenty of fish around this time of the year. This will be a bait supplied competition, squid and herring. HQ will be the Abbey hotel 01795 872873. Book early as this is bank holiday weekend and they are doing some good deals. If you are thinking of doing this event please let me know a.s.a.p as there has been a fair bit of interest and we may have to try and book some more boats.

Hope to see you all throughout the year.

***Competition Co-ordinator's Report:*** Mr Scaggs gave the following report to the meeting.

As we start a new year, EFSA England competitions entries have started to come in. We have moved into the modern banking world, where accounts do not have cheque books and electronic banking is the way. With quite a few members having started to use this method, it has been a great assistance in processing entries. Whilst I don't mind having to keep going to the bank to pay in cheques received, it does make the entry process easier and eliminates the problems of the bank returning unpaid cheques, if this happens it then impacts on other members of the committee.

Members are still not adding their membership number on the entry forms, 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 as this makes processing the entries a lot quicker.

You may have noticed on the updated entry forms that there are, now a number of tick boxes added. If members would please tick the relevant boxes so we can make sure that they are entered correctly. For example if you are over 65 like yours truly, then tick the box, don't be shy it comes to us all one day, it does help.

Apart from all that, may I wish you all a good year's fishing, and remember always to have fun too.

***Standing Committee Delegate's Report:*** Mr Bowden gave a brief report on S.C. matters –reports of which appeared in the October Newsletter. The next S.C.Meeting is scheduled to be held at Crawley in April.

## **5. Reports on Championships & Festivals in 2013:**

### **a) Fun Fish Competition - Dover:**

Mr Curtice gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the April 2013 Newsletter.

### **b) English Species Championship - Weymouth**

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the rearranged event and stated that a full report would appear within the next Newsletter in April.

### **c) English Shore Championship - Chesil**

Mr Curtice gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which would appear in the April Newsletter.

### **d) English Boat Championship - Plymouth**

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

### **e) European Species Championship – Italy**

Mr Bowden informed the meeting that the event was cancelled due to lack of entries.

### **f) European Shore Championship - Holland**

Mr Curtice gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the April 2013 Newsletter.

### **g) European Boat & Line Class Championships - Denmark**

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

### **h) Game Championship - Mexico**

Mr Bryant reported that only second-hand information had been received and hoped that a full report of the event would be available for publication in the next Newsletter and on the EFSA England website.



**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:

<b><i>Vice Chairman</i></b>	Nominee Mr R.Ashby
<b><i>Fish Recorder</i></b> (2 year term)	Nominee:Mr A.Smith
<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>	Nominee:Mr P.Hart
<b><i>Press Officer</i></b>	Nominee:Mr M.Bobbett
<b><i>Membership Registrar</i></b>	Nominee:Mr G.Galbraith
<b><i>Competition Co-ordinator</i></b>	Nominee:Mr K.Scaggs

Acceptance of all the above were proposed by T.Hudson, seconded by N.Cottington and accepted unanimously.

**8. Election of Hon. Auditor:**

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

**9. Reports on Championships & Festivals for 2014:**

a) Fun Fish Competition – Poole: Mr Selby gave details of the event that was due to take place the day after the AGM. A full report will be in the next Newsletter.

b) European Species Championship (Cod) – Iceland:

Mr Bowden reported that there were 17 to 19 entries from the Section. He thanked Mr Osborne for the work done on arranging the transport for the group.

c) English Boat Championship – Torquay: Mr Selby informed the meeting that there were only four boats available (40 places) and reminded members that late entries to the event could well be disappointed as he would not be able to get in any outside boats in at short notice. Mr Selby also added that a good deal had been arranged with the hotel.

d) European Boat & Line Class Championships – Weymouth: Mr Bryant informed the meeting that arrangements were on schedule and that an excellent deal had been made



with HQ hotel. Mr Selby also informed the meeting that another major sporting event was to be held in Weymouth the same weekend as the start of the Championships and that accommodation and parking in Weymouth would be difficult for those who are considering staying in the town and have not already booked.

e) European Shore Championship. Mr Curtice informed the meeting that he was still awaiting information on the event from EFSA Wales, but that it would be posted on the EFSA website as soon as it became available.

f) English Species (Rays) Championship– Weymouth: Mr Osborne advised the meeting that it would be both uptide and downtide fishing with bait provided and reminded the membership to book early to avoid disappointment.

g) English Shore Championship: Mr Curtice informed the meeting that he was struggling to get confirmation of a group deal from the Grand Burstin hotel in Folkestone. The venue would be Dover Breakwater, weather permitting and that the event would take place on Friday/Saturday. In the event of bad weather, the venue would be Samphire Hoe. Mr Curtice also advised the meeting that there was an age limit of 16 years old on Dover Breakwater due to insurance limitations.

## ***10. Special Business***

No items were received for discussion.

***11. Annual General Meeting 2015.*** A date and venue was to be confirmed later in the year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 13:00.

## **Poole Fun Fish (Flounder) January 19th 2014.**

Piscary headed towards Brownsea Island and fished 150 yards from the shoreline and after two casts Neil Cottington was winding up his first flounder (and his fellow anglers on the boat). His rig was two down with four glass red real beads. Neil Bryant changed over to the same rig cast and had a fish within a few minutes. He cast out again and caught another. And that was that - he spent the rest of the day waiting for another bite.

Steve Spencer and his son were also using the same beads and caught a fish each. The only one with a different rig was Ashley Currier, who used black and fluorescent beads.

Strongbow headed towards a deeper mark near a large bed of slipper limpet. The skipper often dives this area and has noted numbers of larger fish in the deep area (over 7m) whereas the smaller fish tend to shoal towards the top of the bank. Strangely, they seem to avoid the area with the slipper limpets.

The anglers on the sandbank side took 3 fish within the first hour but the action then slowed as the tide slackened. Various style rigs were used including; 2 up paternoster, float, the "Denmark rig" that is basically 1 up 1 down with a pirk in-between, and 2 down flowing trace. There appeared to be more fish caught with rigs that contained yellow either beads or rig tubing - but yellow was the colour.

Our Gemma turned right out of marina then fished a bank just off main channel in around 2-2.5m of water. Various rigs were used, some tried float fishing but with little success, others 2 hook flowing traces or as Kim with a 2 up paternoster, though once cast out they would have been on the bottom, Kim did have beads and small spoon on his rigs, but as related to Mr Bryant, Kim accredited his catch of 3 down to the size 2 Sesame hooks he was using!

The skipper said he very often uses no bling just a hook on the trace and catches ok. More a case of try and cast it around a bit and bait up often before the crabs eat all the bait.

The majority of the beach anglers headed to Baiter Park as there is easy access to the fishing grounds and a wall that allows comfortable fishing, Reg and Jan managed 3 fish between them from the wall area. Dave Lovelock headed to Rockley Park – an area is a little harder to find a suitable swim, but the gamble paid off for Dave as he managed to beach 5 nice flounder to secure him not only top shore angler but also top rod for the day.

The scores on the day were pretty even, top boat was Strongbow with 9 fish closely followed by the beach anglers with 8 then Piscary with 7 and Our Gemma with 6.

So the conclusion is you need to use either a two hook flowing trace, a Denmark style 1 up 1 down, 2 up paternoster or a 3 hook flapper rig and the rigs must have either yellow, red, orange or no beads + spoons and pirks or rig tubing or no bling at all!

Report by Martin Bobbett

## Results

1st	Dave Lovelock (Shore)	5 fish = 5lb
2nd	Kim Bowden (Boat)	3 fish = 4lb 5oz
3rd	Mike Smith (Boat)	2 fish = 3lb 3oz
4th	Gareth Croft (Boat)	2 fish = 3lb 1oz
5th	Neil Bryant (Boat)	2 fish = 2lb 11oz
6th	Reg Clough (Shore)	2 fish = 2lb 9oz
7th	Mark Smith (Boat)	2 fish = 2lb 8oz
8th	Neil Cottington (Boat)	2 fish = 2lb 2oz
9th	Richard Russell (Boat)	2 fish = 2lb 1oz
10th	Steve Spencer (Boat)	1 fish = 1lb 14oz
11th	Jan Peach (Shore)	1 fish = 1lb 10oz
12th	Ash Currier (Boat)	1 fish = 1lb 2oz
13th	Matt Osborne (Boat)	1 fish = 15oz
14th	Marcus Wuest (Boat)	1 fish = 14oz 2drms
15th	Luke Allen (Boat)	1 fish = 12oz 6drms
16th	Haydn Spencer (Jr) (Boat)	1 fish = 11oz
17th	Andy Smith (Boat)	1 fish = 6oz

### **EFSA European Shore Championships Heikenszand Holland 2013.**

This year the Annual EFSA European Shore championship was hosted by EFSA Holland using beaches in the Zeeland area.

The Dutch organisers set out to provide anglers with a package that would be low budget but retain good quality accommodation and well-organized matches with excellent bait and on beaches that could provide a good opportunity of catching reasonable numbers of fish.

In all, 11 anglers from the English Section set off on a very blustery weekend with cancelled ferries and torrential rain along with 75 other anglers travelling into Holland. These included EFSA members from Italy, Germany, Belgium, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Iceland and of course, Holland.

On arrival, accommodation consisted of very comfortable holiday chalet style houses that could accommodate up to 6 people in each. The organising committee ensured that each was stocked with a welcome pack of essential and some not so essential but nice groceries! This included a pack of Amstel beer per competitor so this was a very nice surprise!

Competitors were welcomed officially the next evening in the campsites bar restaurant which was ideal for the purpose. Free beer and bites were on offer whilst the organising committee welcomed us all to the competition and explained how the competition would be run. We did the necessary paperwork with zone selections and being a seasoned veteran of these competitions I believe that this time seemed to go that bit easier than normal. Perhaps it's the Dutch more relaxed approach to bureaucracy – whatever it was we all enjoyed ourselves for the evening and looked forward to the competition starting the next day.

The competition was fished over five zones which is the normal format for the European Shore Championship, with a Dutch angler acting as a steward to ensure that pegs were drawn fairly prior to anglers moving onto the beach. The bait was issued and consisted of lugworm, rag worm, maddies and fresh razor fish. Again the quality of the bait was first class and offered an angler a range of options to tempt that fish!!

The first day proved to be a hard work for many anglers with fish hard to find on some pegs. The catch mainly consisting of whiting, flounders and dabs. The Italians flew out of the blocks and with their long continental style rods with low diameter lines enabling them to fish at extreme range. The Irish team members were also doing well and these teams led the field for the remainder of the competition. Our own section teams got off to a poor start and struggled to find the form to catch up.

On the second day we were fishing a new beach with new hopes for all. Again the fishing appeared to be patchy with some pegs delivering good catches with Dutch and Italian anglers appearing to do well. It was the Irish team anglers that seemed to be quietly progressing in building the points. For most of our section anglers, the second day proved as difficult to find fish as the first with the additional wind and weed in some sections making life difficult. There were bass to be added to the species tally due to the rougher conditions bringing them into feed.

The heads of anglers might have gone down and the misery's descended but the normal banter of our Celtic and Anglo friends and the good food and hospitality at the "on site restaurant and bar" ensured that never happened. Weary, battered but not defeated our section anglers rallied for the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> day the organising committee faced a dilemma that they needed to re-use the venue on day 1 due to the poor weather conditions, which had created a safety issue. So last minute changes and re-pegging with a shift up the beach to create new safe zones, adjustments to timings and we were fishing. This was by far the best nights fishing and things went much better for our section members. Everyone seemed to find some fish and a number of individuals managed good zone positions. Sadly it was to prove too little too late from a competitive point of view but was excellent for anglers who could enjoy catching a variety of fish in good conditions.

The last day was spent cleaning up and packing vehicles with any last minute shopping or just plain rest and recuperation for some of our older members (so that's most of them!). We then donned our uniforms and made our way to the prize giving dinner and presentation.

Well, considering how low the price was to enter this competition, the high quality of the accommodation, the excellent bait we probably thought this would be where the cuts would show. However this was not the case. Again, members were issued with tokens for free beers and were treated to a fine meal.

The presentation ceremony was conducted with medals and some prizes awarded to anglers by local dignitaries and chairman of EFSA Holland. The individual winners were:

Gold Pin winner Arjan Rijnberg (Netherlands)  
Silver Pin Winner R. Miserendino (Italy)  
Bronze Pin Winner Volker Claus (Netherlands)

#### **National Teams:**

Gold Medal Ireland A  
Silver Medal Italy A  
Bronze Medal Netherlands A

#### **4 Man Open Team:**

Gold Medal Paull Curtice; Dave Lovelock; Steve Lewis; Tommaso Reni  
Silver Medal Brian Booker; Paul Hart; Bjorn Hansen; Alexander Dorow  
Bronze Medal Frank Koop; Arjan Rijnberg; William Clark; Shay O'Neill

#### **Seniors (OAPs!):**

Gold Medal Dave Lovelock  
Silver Medal Reg Clough  
Bronze Medal Shay O'Neill

**Junior Angler:** Gold Medal Daniel Tucker

Quite a few of our members made it into the prizes and enjoyed being gonged. It was a great occasion and the Irish team who we have seen come so close in the past (always the bridesmaid!) had fished an excellent competition and got their just reward. Much partying went on with our Dutch hosts way past the small hours.

On a personal note I have been to most of the European Shore Championships since 1992 and this competition was one of the best run - if not the best ever. I think year on year sections have learnt lessons from other sections running the competition and shared them to good effect. What is particularly remarkable around this competition was that the Dutch Organisers kept the cost to a minimum but still delivered a fantastic competition. Thanks to Miranda, Clarinda and their Frank's for organising the competition and making us so welcome in their country.

Report by Paull Curtice

### **Weymouth Species Festival 16-17th November 2013**

So here we are some 8 months later than planned, the weather looked a lot better than it did back in March, but the forecast for the fishing was a little less optimistic. A few of the competitors had booked a practice day on-board one of the boats booked for the weekend but returned with little to show for the day out.

#### ***Day 1 Saturday***

A slight change to the advertised start had meant many competitors had either missed breakfast or had to make last minute arrangements to change their alarm clocks and awake early enough to eat before rushing to make the 7am assembly for the 7.15 boat departure - although this was delayed following a little confusion with the boats. Once sorted, the 5 boats departed for the mussel beds to try to capture a plaice or two whilst the tide was suitable.

After around 1 ½ hours loosing rigs, only a few plaice had been caught and as the tide was increasing and the drift quickening, the skippers decided it was time to try for a turbot or two. Four of the boats headed for the Shambles bank to try for the turbot and brill whilst Meerkat headed to Chesil beach to try for a few dabs.

The sport was as slow with only a few turbot and the odd brill showing on most of the boats. On Supanova, Marcus failed to add any more fish to his fine 51cm plaice caught early on whilst Graham Lewis decided that a large cocktail bait might be the answer, which paid off with a fine turbot. Martin pulled off a real Man United moment by bagging a 39cm turbot minutes from lines up. Barrie will never know if this was the one that he missed only seconds before!

Lyle tried an old technique of dragging a weight to slow the drift, the brill/turbot failed to respond however, but it proved to be a good way of catching dogfish. Although Flamer missed out on the plaice, he made up for it by finding 8 turbot for his anglers with Bill Cann taking top spot with 4 turbot. Meerkat's gamble on the dabs proved fruitless as none were caught - well you never know, the gamble might have paid off. Still, the sun shone and the wind stayed slight.

## Day 2

As the executive teams were accidentally let out of the bag everyone knew who they were fishing with and against, still it would be just as easy to blank today as it was yesterday, as they say it ain't over till...

Sunday saw a cold overcast start as the 5 boats headed off to the mussel beds to try again for those allusive plaice. Not sure how the other boats fared but Al's spirit found plenty of snags as some of the crew lost 2, 3, 4 + sets of expensive spoons, beads, booms, weights, pirks, etc (I'm sure the local divers could sift through the snags and hold a second-hand sale at the quayside)

Off to the Shambles to have another go for those turbot and brill. This time all 5 boats fished the same area, joined by a local trawler who steamed up and down between the banks for the whole day, although at one stage I thought someone had called in the navy to move him along as a naval frigate left port.

Have you ever noticed how much effort most of us put into our bait preparation and presentation, cutting mackerel into thin strips, trimming off excess meat, lightly hooking the ½ fillets all in an attempt to make the bait look as natural as possible is the right way to go? Well not if you ask Graham Lewis it's not! With half hour to go Graham repeated his patent pending turbot bait, a cocktail of mackerel, prawn and worm which was snapped up by a turbot almost immediately. Not fazed by this, he walked around to the other side of the boat, smoked a cigarette, re-baited, walked back to his position, dropped over and caught another one! Half the anglers on board reeled in and tried to replicate Graham's bait.

So a big thanks to Supanova, Meerkat, Al's Spirit, Flamer and Top Cat for trying their utmost for us, as they always do, plus a big thank you to Weymouth Angling Society & Weymouth Angling Centre.

<b>RESULTS</b>	1st	Mike Smith	167 (4 fish)
2nd	Andy Wells	144 (3 fish)	
3rd	Billy Cann	143 (4 fish)	
4th	Ash Currier	125 (3)	
5th	Martin Bobbett	117(3)	
6th	Graham Lewis	115(3)	
7th	Geoff Morris	106(3)	
8th	Marcus Wuest	86(2)	
9th	Robbie Robertson	83(2)	
10th	Dave Bennett	81 (2)	
11th	Matt Osborne	77(2)	
12th	Gary Galbraith	74(2)	
13th	Keith Scaggs	48(1)	
14th	Steve Batchelor	44(1)	
14th	Tony Swain	44(1)	

16th	Pete Bailey	43(1)
16th	Rob Quinn	43(1)
18th	Kevin Clark	42(1)
19th	Paul Hart	41(1)
20th	Chris Pucher	40(1)
21st	Barrie Senior	39(1)
21st	Dave Clark	39(1)
23rd	Andy Selby	37(1)
24th	Alan Bird	36(1)

All the other anglers failed to record a scoring Fish (38 Entered)

**Day One Winner** Billy Cann 143 pts

**Day Two Winner** Mike Smith 87pts

**4 Man Open**

Gary Galbraith , Mike Smith , Ash Currier , Martin Bobbett 483pts

**2 Man Open**

Martin Bobbett & Ash Currier 242pt

**4 Man Drawn**

Billy Cann, Mike Smith, Rob Quinn, Barrie Senior 392pts

**Life Member** Mike Smith 167pts

**Senior** Dave Bennett 81pts

**Longest Flatfish** Marcus Wuest 51cm

**Top Boat** Flamer

Report by Martin Bobbett



## **EFSA English Section Shore Championship 27<sup>th</sup>/28th June 2014 - Dover**

The fishing venue for the Championships will be at Dover on the Southern Breakwater.

The Match HQ will be at the Grand Birstin Hotel in Folkestone.

EFSA England has been offered excellent rates at the hotel with £27 per person per night which gives you bed, breakfast and evening meal in the standard accommodation. To take advantage of these rates you must ring and reserve on 0871 2210191 and you will need to quote [EFSA 260614](#) when making your booking.

Entry form and more information on the Website

## **EFSA English Boat and Species Championships**

At the time of going to press, no firm dates for these events have been fixed as arrangements are still on-going with a view to ensuring that the dates do not clash with other events. Please refer to the EFSA England website for date confirmations. In the near future.