

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2018

CHAIRMAN:

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CHAIRMEN OF SELECTORS:

Boat Section: Richard Russell – Tel: 01983 882133 Email: richardrussell1w@hotmail.com
Shore Section: Paull Curtice - Tel: 02380 879288 Email: paulcurtice@hotmail.co.uk
Game Section: Andy Smith Tel: 01273 880313 Email: smithad@aol.com

DIARY

2019

January 26th Annual General Meeting – Abbey Hotel and Conference Centre. Minster on Sea, Sheerness. ME12 2DA

January 27th Fun Fish Flounder – Medway.

May 2nd/4th European Shore – Akureyri, Iceland.

October 28th/31st European Species (Flatfish) Denmark.

June 29th/30th English Boat – Minehead.

September 9th to 13th European Boat and Line – Weymouth

November 22nd/23rd English Species (Cod) Mersey.

2020

August 10th to 15th European Boat and Line – Elsinore, Denmark.

2019 AGM Notification

The Annual General Meeting will held at the Abbey Hotel and Conference Centre. Minster on Sea, Sheerness. ME12 2DA at 11:00 on 26th January 2019.

Any proposals for the 2018 AGM must be with the Secretary by 30th November 2018. All proposals received shall be included in the Agenda under Special Business.

AGM 2019 Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
- 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018.**
- 3. Matters arising.**
- 4. Executive Officer's Reports.**
 - a) President E. Entwistle
 - b) Chairman N. Bryant.
 - c) Vice-Chairman R. Ashby
 - d) Secretary K. Bowden.
 - e) Treasurer K. Scaggs.
 - f) Membership Registrar G.Galbraith.
 - g) Fish Recorder A. Smith
 - h) Boat Festival Officer A. Selby.
 - i) Shore Festival Officer B. Senior
 - j) Press Officer B. Senior.
 - k) Social Secretary M. Osborne
 - l) Competitions Coordinator K. Scaggs.
 - m) Standing Committee Delegate K. Bowden.
- 5. Report on Championships/Festivals during 2018.**
 - a) Fun Fish Competition – Poole
 - b) English Species Festival Boat – Penzance
 - c) English Shore Championship – Chesil
 - d) English Boat Championship – Penzance
 - e) European Species Championship -- Weymouth
 - f) European Shore Championship – Italy
 - g) European Boat Championships – Iceland

6. Presentation of Fish of the Year Awards – Andy Smith

7. Election of Officers. (All 3 year terms unless otherwise stated)

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| a. Chairman | Nominee: | N.Bryant |
| b. Fish Recorder | Nominee: | A.Smith |
| c. Social Secretary | Nominee: | M.Osborne |

8. Election of Honorary Auditor. (1 year term)

Nominee Mr J. Knight

9. Events for 2019.

- a) Fun Competition -- Sheerness
- b) EFSA Species Championship -- Denmark
- c) English Boat Championship -- Minehead
- d) European Boat and Line Class Championships-- Weymouth
- e) European Shore Championship -- Iceland
- f) English Species Festival Boat -- Mersey
- g) English Shore Championship -- Brighton

10. Special Business.

11. Annual General Meeting 2020

Fish Recorder's Report.

We have had a decent number of entries this year. The only categories where we currently do not have entries are for boat caught flounder and pollack and Junior Fish of the Year

BOAT

Bass	Ray Barron	PM	13lb 13oz	
Black Bream	John Styles	Portland	3lb 13oz	
Cod	Dick Prosser	PM	18lb 13oz	
Conger Eel	Neil Cottington	PM	65lb 4oz	
Flounder				
Plaice	Jim Whippy	PM	3lb 1oz	
Pollack				
Ray – Blonde	Ian Burden	Portland	21lb 5oz	
Smoothound	Andy Smith	PM	19lb 8oz	
Whiting	Ray Goodwin	Portland	2lb 1oz	
Wrasse – Ballan	Dave McCune	PM	3lb 5oz	
Other by %				
Spurdog	Paul Roper	PM	18lb 8oz	154.17%

SHORE

Bass	Noddy Coan	Portland	11lb 6oz	
Black Bream	Kyle Bowler	Portland	2lb 4oz	
Cod	Kyle Bowler	Portland	7lb 7oz	
Conger Eel	Kyle Bowler	Portland	12lb 6oz	
Flounder	Alan Jones	Portland	1lb 15oz	
Plaice	Jack Butcher	PM	2lb 6oz	
Pollack	Mark Coles	Portland	3lb 6oz	
Mullet – all by %				
Thin Lipped	Reg Clough	PM	3lb 5oz	94.64%
Smoothound	Reg Clough	PM	6lb 3oz	
Whiting	Noddy Coan	Portland	1lb 7oz	
Wrasse – Ballan	Kyle Bowler	Portland	3lb 15oz	
Other by %				
Pouting	Kyle Bowler	Portland	2lb 3oz	145.83%

Overseas Fish of the Year

Guitarfish	Ivan Wellington	Portland	21lb 0oz	
Jack Crevalle	Ray Barron	PM	20lb 0oz	
Atlantic Blue Marlin	Kim Bowden	PM	800lb 0oz	

Conger Club Tankard

Junior Fish of the Year

Norman Witt Trophy

EFSA European Boat Championship - Iceland

Sunday 27th May and most of the England competitors were able to get out and wet a line after the proposed practice on Saturday was cancelled due to the high winds. As there was no pressure on what to catch, fun was had by all. A few nice fish were caught giving competitors a taste of what to expect for the Championship in the week ahead.

The practicing anglers were back just in time for a quick wash and then muster for the opening parade. This started at the Fish Market by the quayside and was led by a drummer along the sea front road to the "Klif", which is the local Community House. It is not worth mentioning the rain on the parade, as it was only light, especially compared with later in the week. There was a glass of wine or soft drink to welcome us before everyone took a seat ready for the opening ceremony. Helgi Bergsson of the organising committee said a few words, before introducing the Mayor of Snaefellsbaer, Kristinn Jonasson, who welcomed all to this area of Iceland and wished all good fishing and a good time. The EFSA Chairman Horst Schneider then gave an address and officially opened the 2018 Boat Championship. This was followed by a bowl of lamb stew, which is a speciality of Iceland, and very nice it was too.

Monday and the Championship got under way. Due to the number of boats available, the organisers had no option but to fish 2 sessions in a day with half the anglers fishing the morning for 5 hours, leaving harbour at 7 o'clock, and the other half fishing the afternoon, from 2 o'clock for 5 hours. Although it meant the afternoon fishing into the evening, it does not make a lot of difference, as it is almost 24 hours daylight at this time of year. As it happened, the half of us that got there for the 7 o'clock away were told that there was an hour's delay, so back to the accommodation for another cup of tea. Sure enough the wind lessened and at 8 o'clock the first anglers got away and the Championships were under way. Fishing was a lot harder than in previous years at the venue but there was still some good rod bending fish caught and interesting species. The species caught in reasonable numbers were cod, coalfish, redfish and dab and, in smaller numbers, catfish, plaice, whiting, haddock and small halibut. These scored, but under Icelandic law no halibut can be landed so had to be released immediately. After the morning session it was all change and the boats went out again for the afternoon session. In the afternoon the boats went to different marks and some bigger fish were recorded. When the results were in, there were 29 anglers on 100%! Of the boat winners there were 7 from England, Vernon Allen, Graham Lewis, Nigel Hearn, Andy Smith, Neil Cottington, Ash Currier and Mike Smith.

Tuesday and no one went to sea - most people being reluctant to leave their accommodation! Besides the horizontal rain the wind did not drop below a gale force 8 all day giving plenty of time to relax and tie different rigs in the hope of a better performance next time out.

Day 2 of fishing was similar to first day with different species hard to find for many and anglers found the fishing harder - possibly due to the strong wind the day before. So with a maximum score of 200% there were now 8 double boat winners, including Nigel Hearn and Andy Smith. Close behind them were Ash Currier on 199.37% and Mike Smith on 197.73%.

Day 3 and it was all over for most. So it was fishing for fun and the teams, but also hope to maybe hook a big fish for one of the biggest fish awards. The problem for many was the size limits for fish to count and when you get a double shot of coalfish undersized followed by a haddock and whiting double shot again undersize, there's nothing to score and you realise the day is not going well. As with many of the fish, for instance whiting, on my boat about 10 were caught between the 5 anglers with just 2 over the minimum size. As with the whole Championship, many people returned to shore, with 80% knowing that one more fish, with the fish points and 15 species points, they would have been a boat winner!

Friday was a clear day, until the presentation later. At 1800hrs the presentation was held and now there were just the 3 people on a perfect score of 300%. In gold pin position was Peter Skudal from Norway, Scott Gibson from Scotland with the silver pin and from England it was Andy Smith who was proud to be presented with the bronze pin by the EFSA Chairman Horst Schneider. Just out of the pins in 4th was Ash Currier with a credible score of 299.37% and Nigel Hearn in 6th with 298.29%. England members won 3 of the best fish awards, Alan Bird with a 118cm coalfish, Rob Quinn with a 46cm redfish and Andy Smith with a Sculpin of 22cm. The 4 man team of Colin Searles, Nigel Hearn, Ken Smith and Marcus Wuest achieved the bronze medal, with anglers from Norway gold and silver to a team of Scots and Norwegians.

To conclude, Horst Schneider handed the EFSA flag to Kim Bowden, who received it on behalf of EFSA England, as we are hosting the 2019 European Boat and Line Championships. Kim said a few words of thanks to Iceland for ensuring that we all had a good week, despite the many challenges they had. Kim then extended a welcome to all to join us next year in Weymouth.

Following the presentation there was a buffet, but I can't comment too much on that, as by the time our end of the room went up, all the prawns and seafood was gone but the meat and potatoes that remained were very good. Then there was musical entertainment and time to talk of what could have been during the week and time to say farewells to the other anglers, until we meet again with a rod in hand.

European Species/Line 2018 - Weymouth

Saturday 21st July and the 64 anglers from 13 Sections made their way to the boats ready for the 0730 departure. The target species for this Championship was conger eel. There were two options as this was a Line Class as well as Species Championship. Using your own line meant entry to Species championship only, while using the 35-pound Ande braid supplied meant the possibility of two pins at this event. The majority of anglers elected to fish with the supplied braid. Anglers were given cuttlefish and several packs of mackerel as bait. It is usual when conger fishing to start the day by feathering for mackerel and have enough to last the day but the last couple of years mackerel have been scarce all along the South Coast. The boats did stop to feather for fresh mackerel but most anglers only had enough for a few each; so the supplied frozen bait was needed as well.

The 8 boats headed well offshore to their chosen wrecks, where they hoped to find a good number of eels, as well as some a big ones. The Species Pins would be awarded to the best catch of eels over the 2 days, the Line Class pins would go to the 3 heaviest eels over the 2 days. Fortunes among the boats were varied, with the anglers on some seeing up to 6 or 7 eels, while on other boats just a few eels with many anglers not managing to boat even one eel.

Back at port and over a pint, the talk was of how great a day some had while others had a job to understand where they went wrong. Such is conger fishing! Sometimes you are close to the wreck but just not at the section where the eels are feeding or, as with many wrecks, they do not hold large number of eels. When the scores were in it, was Pete Bailey with the best score on day 1 of 75 points. Many anglers were close behind with two on 65 points and two on 55 points. At the other end of the results table, ten failed to catch and another ten had one small eel for 5 points.

Day 2 and we all set off again with hopes of a better day. It was all still to play for with the chance of getting a big eel to win a line pin. The format was the same as previous day - around Portland Bill to try for a few fresh mackerel then head out to anchor a wreck. Listening to the chat on the radio, it was evident that as on the previous day in was feast or famine - depending on the boat. It did not follow that boats that did well Saturday had a good day on Sunday.

Cliff Newbold had a great second day scoring 105 points, which was almost double the next mans score. This added to day 1 score of 35 gave him a winning score of 140 points to win the Species gold pin. Silver pin went to Ash Currier with 110 points and Pete Bailey took the bronze pin with 100 points.

The Line class pins were awarded to the heaviest eel s over the 2 days. Cliff Newbold added to his Species gold pin, taking the Line Class gold pin with the heaviest eel of the Championship, which was a conger of 64 pound caught using the 35-pound Ande

braided supplied for the event. Cliff also had one of 53 pound, but each angler was only allowed to enter his best conger. Pete Neale took the silver pin with 51 pound eel, and Ash Currier won the bronze pin with a 49.5-pound conger. Just out of the pins was Andy Selby with a 49-pound fish. There were a total of 366 Conger eels caught and released over the two days.

EFSA Game Championship 2018

Friday 14th September and all teams that entered the 2018 Game Championship meet at the Clube Naval in Ponta Delgada located on the Island of San Miguel, the largest in the Azores group of Islands. At 3 in the afternoon the team captains meeting was held with the organising committee which was the chance to ask any questions and to be told the arrangements for the week and the boat draw. After the meeting all competitors were welcomed at the Clube Naval where nibbles were laid on with a glass of wine which also allowed competitors to meet and renew friendships. Countries entered in this event were from 7 sections. Portugal (the hosts of Championship), Gibraltar, Ireland, Iceland, Switzerland, England and a barbarian team of England and Scotland.

Saturday 15th and the Championship got under way. The boats left harbour at 0800, but after a couple of hours it was decided to cancel the day as the stormy weather that was forecast for later came in early and as no fish were caught, this was not an issue. It was decided to also cancel the Sunday, but to still fish the 3 days of the championship from Monday to Wednesday when the weather forecast was better.

On the Sunday, the trip that was originally for Monday went ahead with a coach trip around the east part of the Island for all anglers and their wives. The main feature was Lago Das Fumas - a large lake in the crater of a volcano. Later in the day we visited Caldeiras Das Furnas - a small community where there were hot springs and clouds of sulphurous gas rising from the ground. At lunchtime we were all seated in the open air by the sea and the food we were told was typical Azores fare, which included small fried fish, a vegetable bean dish, chicken and potatoes, washed down with wine or beer, then coffee and a nice cake to finish.

Monday 17th and the Championship got under way. The fishing was all trolling, 4 or 5 rods were set up with the lures attached set at different distances behind the boat. The boat speed was set in the order of 7 knots with the lures skipping along the surface. This can be very dramatic when a marlin attacks as they hit with force from below so are largely out of the water. Once hooked, the battle begins with the average time to get to the boat about 1 hour as most were in the order of 350 to 400 kg., although a couple that were sighted by the skippers were estimated to be over 500 kg. This is why they take a while to land. On the first day there were 5 blue marlin recorded for 5 different teams. I can talk of the fish caught as it was only blue marlin and were worth 300 points. Other species of fish had different points, but none were caught.

Tuesday - and the weather was getting better all the time. It's worth mentioning that lunch was provided on all boats by the skipper. Some had sandwiches, some bread rolls with chicken or cheese, or the boat I was on today it was bread and a good cheese to start followed by a hot rice dish with duck and chorizo. And all washed down with a glass of wine. Very enjoyable while you wait patiently for some fishing action. On a personal note this was my first go at game fishing and today when it was my turn to the next strike I was fortunate enough to hook and fight a blue marlin. It was a 45-minute battle with a lot of winding of the reel only for the fish to take another run. The reels are loaded with a 1000 meters of mono about 100 pound breaking strain and when my fish was first hooked, after 3 or 4 minutes it almost emptied the reel of line and I could smell the drag washers of the reel such was the heat built up in them. It was certainly a sight to see this mighty blue marlin of an estimated 3.5 meters long and 350 to 400 kg in weight. It was all estimates as all fish were released at the side of the boat. At one point during the fight, all on the boat (including me) thought I had lost the fish as suddenly the line went slack, but it was the speed with which the marlin had swam up and across the water. I had been fighting the fish off the stern but when I reeled in the slack line it went tight with the fish still there out to the side of the boat. There were 3 marlin caught on 3 different boats which put 6 teams on 1 fish with the Swiss team out in front with 2 fish.

Day 3 and the final day and it could still be any team to win. There was only 1 marlin brought to the boat today, which put Gibraltar B on 2 fish with Switzerland. After the last day's fishing the presentation and gala dinner was held at the Clube Naval. All anglers were presented with a mug specially made for the event - a memento of the Championship. So with Gibraltar B and Switzerland on 2 fish each the first count back was applied which was who caught the first fish in the Championship. This gave Gibraltar B first place and the gold pin, with Switzerland in silver pin position. There were now 6 teams on one fish but with the same count back applied the England team of Andy Atkins, Richard Russell, Pete Bailey and Jack Challis took 3rd place and bronze pin, which, representing EFSA HQ, I was proud to present to them. The gala dinner followed which was a buffet with plenty to eat and plenty of wine or beer to drink. One of the nicest items to eat was a local fish called a forkbeard, which was very tasty and I just had to go for a second helping. At the end of the evening it was time to say au revoir, till we meet again at the next EFSA event.

Report by Kim Bowden

EFSA England Shore Championship 2018

This year's shore championship was fished over two days at Cogden on Chesil Beach on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th April with 21 anglers entered. Registration took place on the Thursday evening at Weymouth Sea Angling Club's HQ. Where over a drink or two we caught up with old friends and made some new ones.

Day 1 We met at The National Trust car park where we were greeted by Andy Selby who let us through the gate to allow us to drive down to the beach, courtesy of the National Trust, saving us the walk down with all our gear. With rain in the air, a strong wind blowing and surf beginning to roll up the beach discussions took place as to whether we should change the venue, but the majority thought it would be fishable so off we went. Stuart (Taff) Jones had arranged for three of his forces lads to peg the beach for us and act as stewards if required. Whilst this was taking place pegs were drawn and bait collected.

It was a hard fish with quite a few anglers not catching or only finding an occasional undersize fish. Back at the car park it was obvious that anyone with 2 or more fish was the likely day winner. In Zone A it was Paul Parsons who came out on top with three fish for 116 points to win the zone. Zone B was also won with three fish, Allan Jones taking the honours with 129 points and top angler on the day. Allan also had the longest round fish of the day, a pollack of 33 cm to win the days pool. The longest and only flatfish caught was a flounder of 29 cm, which took the hook of Dave Oliver to give him the pool win.

Day 2 We again met at Cogden but this time in better weather with the wind decreasing and coming from behind us and we even got some sun later in the afternoon. Although the fishing was easier the fish still did not appear in any numbers. At the end of the match all but three anglers had caught at least one sizeable fish. In Zone A it was close with two anglers having caught three sizeable fish. Allan Jones' three different species to Alan Porters' two gave him the edge winning the zone with 137 points. In Zone B it was Reg Clough who was the zone winner with three fish for 109 points. Gary Geoghegan in Zone A had the longest round fish of the day winning the pool with a dogfish of 57 cm. The winner of the flatfish pool also came from Zone A with Vernon Allen catching a flounder of 34cm. The only other flatfish of the day, again a flounder (29 cm), was caught by Keith Scaggs in Zone B.

Presentation The presentation was held at Weymouth Sea Angling Club's HQ in the evening where Andy Selby had set everything up and arranged a raffle with proceeds being donated to The National Trust. After the raffle the awards presentation was made by Barrie Senior and Kim Bowden. Allan Jones was presented with the gold pin, Paul Parson with the silver and Dave Lovelock with the bronze. Barrie Senior thanked the anglers for attending, Andy for arranging the use of Cogden and supplying the bait, Taff's lads for pegging the beach and Kim, Keith and Jan for their help with organising the event and then got told off later for omitting to thank Billy Short and Weymouth Angling Club for allowing us to use their premises.

Results

Top three individuals

1st and gold pin to Allan Jones 2 zone points
2nd and silver pin to Paul Parson 6 zone points on count back
3rd and bronze pin to Dave Lovelock 6 zone points on count back

Zone Winners

Day 1 Zone A Paul Parsons 116 fish points
Day 1 Zone B Allan Jones 129 fish points
Day 2 Zone A Allan Jones 137 fish points
Day 2 Zone B Reg Clough 109 fish points

3 Man Drawn Team

Stuart Jones, Paul Parsons and Paul Curtice with 29 zone points

Full results on the EFSA England website.

European Shore 2019 Iceland

This event is being held in Akureyri, Iceland, 1st to 4th May. It was held at this same venue previously in 2012 so some of you will have fished it before. Full details of the programme are on the website, but at the time of writing no entry form is currently available. This will go onto the website as soon as received. Anyone thinking of entering this event please contact me and I will ensure you are kept in the loop with information on the event. Entries have to be with me by January 30th 2019.

Kim Bowden

European Species 2019, Langeland Denmark.

This event is being held out of the port of Spodsbjerg on the island of Langeland between 28th and 31st October. We will be fishing for flatfish and if you have fished there before will know there can be some very good catches. The HQ hotel is the Rudkobing Skudehavn which is located as you drive on to the island. On the other side of the island is the port of Spodsbjerg where the boats leave from and there are plenty of houses to rent around this area at a very reasonable rate for the week. To drive there is about 750 miles once you cross the channel from the UK. Alternatively, fly to Copenhagen, rent a car and drive 140 miles to Langeland. Program and entry form are on the website or contact me for more information. Entries for this event have to be with me by 30th March 2019.

Kim Bowden

Boat Festival Officers Report.

This year has seen really good attendances at the Boat events and it's so good to see new members and old faces returning. We have one more major event this year, which is the English Species fishing for haddock in Penzance. We are fishing Friday and Saturday due to the travel distance and this has gone down well with the members. We fish Friday and Saturday next year when we fish the Mersey.

Next year sees us fish a new venue for our AGM/Funfish weekend, which will be the Medway for Flatfish, which will be mainly Dabs.

Our English Boat in 2019 returns to Minehead and Our Species Event returns to Liverpool to fish the Mersey for Cod.

Our big one next year is the European boat and Line Class Championship, that make a welcome return to Weymouth.

For 2020 we will be looking at Penzance for our English Boat and Weymouth for a Big Fish Species Event.

The AGM Hotel is; The Abbey Hotel & Conference Centre, Minster, Sheerness, Kent ME12 2DA. Tel 01795 872873

English Shore 2019

This event is proposed to be fished at Brighton Pier in either April or May, but at the time of compiling this Newsletter, the details had yet to be confirmed. As soon as everything has been finalised, the details and entry form will be put onto the EFSA England website. So keep an eye on this.

AGM Attendance notification.

Please delete whichever statement does not apply.

- a.) This is to confirm I shall be attending the AGM and request that seating is made available.

- b.) This is to confirm that I shall not be attending the AGM and request that my apology for absence is given to the meeting.

Name (please print):

Date:

Completed forms should be returned by 10th December 2018 to:

Kim Bowden, 12 Padnell Road, Cowplain,
Waterlooville Hants, PO8 8DZ.

Alternatively, Email to kimbowden@ntlworld.com