

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020

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CHAIRMEN OF SELECTORS:

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Shore Section: Barrie Senior - Tel: 07964 723615 Email: badgesenior@gmail.com
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DIARY

2020

September 18th to 19th English Boat Championship, Weymouth.

October 28th to 31st European Shore – Kilmuckridge, Ireland.

November 6th/7th English Species – Penzance

2021

January 23rd EFSA England AGM – Crown Hotel, Weymouth.

January 24th Fun Fish Event, Spurdog, Weymouth.

April 9th/10th English Shore. Brighton Marina.

April 24th/25th English Species (Smoothound), Hayling Island.

May 9th/12th European Game Championship, Cape Verde.

May 21st/22nd European Species – Olafsvik, Iceland

June 19th/20th English Boat - Plymouth

September 18th/24th European Boat – Cobh, Ireland

TBA European Shore - Netherlands

EFSA England Members Update

I trust I find you all well and coping with the current lockdown that we and many others around the globe find ourselves in and that you are all staying well and safe.

Following my previous email update to the membership (copy within newsletter) I wanted to write to you personally to confirm a few details since the last EFSA HQ Meeting and a Special EFSA England Committee meeting that took place last weekend.

Within the Newsletter that will be published on the website in the coming days you will be able to find all the updated details of EFSA European events, EFSA England events with dates and current details. Some important decisions have been made by way of postponement, cancellations and re arrangement of many events. However, with the ever-changing circumstances with Covid 19 these arrangements may also be adjusted depending on agreed Government Guidelines.

You will see that the Danish Committee have made the decision to cancel the European Boat Championships in August, they also had a directive from their government that no gatherings of more than 50 people would be allowed before the end of August. I am pleased to say that the organisation is now looking to re arrange for 2022. The HQ Hotel has been superb and has arranged full refund to anyone that had pre-paid.

With respect to our English Boat Championships this year, the EFSA England Committee decided to cancel the event from Plymouth in June after discussions with the skippers. It was agreed to leave the deposits with them and look to re-schedule this event for 2021 and so this is now pencilled in for June 2021.

We also decided to inform EFSA HQ that we would be cancelling the European Species Championship that we were hosting in September from Weymouth, but we also decided to leave the boat bookings as they are and to re-arrange the English Boat Championships for these dates (18th 19th September). Obviously, this is all dependant upon whether charter fishing is permitted.

The Committee decided that we should support the skippers by leaving our bookings and deposits as they were as these are exceedingly difficult times for them and we hope they all pull through and one day get back to sea with us on board.

The English Shore Championships have been re arranged for Brighton on April 9th & 10th 2021 I am pleased to say and we do hope that this will one day be the event we all want it to be, successful and plenty of fish and to enjoy fishing from this fabulous venue.

The EFSA European Shore Championships for 2020 are still booked to go ahead in Ireland from 28th-31st October, and this again will be dependant upon any restrictions that might be in place. I know that this is being monitored by our Irish friends and we hope that they succeed in running a super event.

An important paper has been sent from the Angling Trust recently to try and influence the government to allow fishing to be a part of any changes in lockdown. I think this is a very important paper and trust, with our safety in mind, the Government will give it serious consideration. That said, I do feel that Charter Boat Fishing may take a longer time to resolve than shore or freshwater fishing, but I hope that this is the first step in getting us all out there once again.

All the other details and lots of current information is within the newsletter section on the website www.efsa-england.com and the Committee will be keeping this updated so that any relevant information is always there for you.

On behalf of all the Committee I wish you well over these trying times. I would also assume that by now everyone has stripped and serviced all their reels, rods and tackle boxes have been cleaned and overhauled and rigs re-made. Like me, I know you will now be chomping on the bit to get back onto the shingle, the sand and onto the decks of boats.

Stay positive. We know it will happen one day so stay safe, keep following the Government guidelines and look after yourselves and your families.

Many thanks

Neil Bryant

Chairman EFSA England

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Crown Hotel Weymouth
Saturday 1st February 2020 at 11:00**

Present:

Mr E. Entwistle	-	President
Mr N. Bryant	-	Chairman
Mr R. Ashby	-	Vice Chairman
Mr K. Bowden	-	Secretary
Mr K. Scaggs	-	Treasurer/Competition Co-ordinator/S.C. Delegate
Mr A. Selby	-	Boat Festival Officer
Mr B. Senior	-	Shore Festival Officer/Press Officer
Mr M. Osborne	-	Social Secretary
Mr A. Smith	-	Fish Recorder

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

Tony Hudson Allen Jones Robin Amor Jim Whippy Peter Neale
Paul Parsons Richard Wheeler Dave Oliver Mike Smith Roy Shipway

A total of 39 full members were present.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019:

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Mark Smith, seconded by Richard Russell and accepted unanimously. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Executive Officer's Reports:

President's Address: Mr Entwistle gave the following report to the meeting.

May I say what a privilege it is to attend this AGM as your President. I note once again the Section has hosted a busy and successful programme of events during the past year that, as it included the European Boat Championships, meant a particularly busy time for the committee and all the helpers who contribute. Suffice to say they did another excellent job. Thanks also to all the sponsors who donated generously and helped enhance the whole competition.

The Section's Boat Championship at Minehead was another successful event with over 40 members attending. Particular congratulations to Andy Smith on his Gold Pin and Ken Smith, a real stalwart of the Section on his Silver and Richard Russell, who took the Bronze, must be walking round in circles with the weight on his lapel. The species competition on the Mersey was not so well supported with only nineteen anglers going afloat. But congratulations nevertheless to Gary Galbraith, Alan Porter, and Steve Bachelor who finished 1st 2nd & 3rd. They could not do more. Well done to all those who made the effort to attend.

I must commiserate, but also congratulate Kim on his 4th place in the Shore Championship in Iceland - just missing out on a pin is always galling. I understand the Section's Shore Championship had to endure some poor weather conditions, resulting in a change of venue, but congratulations to Paul Parsons on his win, also Reg Clough and Dave Lovelock, who were 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Our committee, all of whom gets my most sincere thanks, continues to work tirelessly on our behalf. I urge you to support them, whenever, however and wherever you can.

I hope the weather is kind to those fishing tomorrow, enjoy yourselves, have a safe journey home and all the very best to you and your families in 2020.

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

Well, another year has passed us by and I would like to welcome you all to the Section's AGM. This is the first to be held in Weymouth and it is good of you to have made the journey, especially as we've had to cancel the Fun fish event tomorrow. I am sure it would not have been fun. That said, we had a good entry and with the shore anglers participating I am certain we would all have enjoyed the day.

The Section had an eventful year with hosting the European Boat and Line combined event that went extremely well, and even with a boat breakdown we must thank our Secretary Kim Bowden who came to the rescue and assisted the engineers in getting the boat back out to sea. Considering that this was the first combined 5-day Championship with different rules for each discipline it threw up

several issues, but we got over them. However, EFSA HQ has this subject on the Agenda for the SC meeting in April to look again at the format of the event and to see what a good format might be for the future. So we will keep you all posted on this.

Many travelled to Denmark to fish the European Species event and from all the feedback, and once again Marcus headed up a very successful event and so I am pleased to say that we have been awarded the Species event for this year. This should be fun fishing for bream from sunny Weymouth and I know that Andy is giving some more detail on this later in the meeting.

On our 2019 home events, the English Shore went ahead in Brighton, albeit not on the selected venue and again the weather played its part in this, but as you will see from the report, Paul Parson took the gold with old favourites Reg and Dave Lovelock getting into the pins. Well done to all for supporting and I know Barrie has worked hard to go back there this year to try again Good luck to all. The European Shore followed closely in May and 11 of our anglers travelled to Iceland and a full report was given in the Newsletter.

The English Boat Championship returned to Minehead and whilst the weather was not super, the port did the Section proud in getting out there amongst the fish and I congratulate Andy Smith in getting a well-earned gold pin. It was also good to see some older chaps also getting in the pins with Ken and Richard, they still love it and still got it, well done to all. The English Species also went back to a previous venue of Liverpool, from years ago and whilst the numbers were down, the event passed well.

Looking ahead, you will all hear from Andy, Barrie and Kim on the forthcoming Home and European events throughout the meeting and I would just like to thank them for their continued work on behalf of the members as it is always good to see new venues for us to try. I appreciate we probably can't fish them all, but do try to fish as many as you can and bring along a non-EFSA mate maybe to try to encourage some new blood and talent to join us.

As you know, we have also gone digital with our information both on our website and Facebook, but we also still produce two printed Newsletters a year. Whilst this is a cost to the Section, the Committee are always monitoring this but for now we will continue with them as they are. We have added in pictures and coloured it up a bit and so I trust you still find them useful as we always send the entries and other separate details along to make your life a little easier.

I would just like to say that the Committee did have a very busy year especially with hosting the European Boat, but they rose to the challenge and everyone worked to support each other to make sure the competitors had a good time. Remember this is all voluntary work and if any of you wish to get more involved, please let us know, as I am sure we will find a little something for you to do!

Our Treasurer will be reporting on the financial year figures and you will all note that we made a very handsome profit on the Europeans plus some on the other events held. Be assured this was mainly due to the support we received from sponsors, keeping a check on overheads plus trying to give back where we could to make it a better experience. There are the times we break even, so to have this cushion it helps us to run the Section and to also invest in the future and keep subscriptions as they are.

Almost there. I know I do go on but in closing I would like to thank everyone who works within the Committee or just outside. We all know who they are and on behalf of the Section Membership we thank you and hope that you continue to look after us! I also thank you the Membership for supporting the Section and the events.

Thank you again for attending today and I will close in wishing you all another great year enjoying our sport and competitions.

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

It's been another busy year for the Section The European Championships in Weymouth proved yet again to be a great success and although I was on wedding duties with my youngest daughter at the time, to well-oiled Committee machine once again came up trumps and ensured everything ran smoothly. Congratulations to all concerned.

2020 looks again to be a busy year and the Bream Species Championships in Weymouth promises to be a particular highlight. I look forward to assisting the Committee in the year ahead and hope to see you all at the various events.

Good fishing.

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

Throughout the last year I have been in communication with other Sections regarding both our own and other European events and have also managed to do a bit of fishing when the weather allowed. As with having to cancel the Funfish this year, the weather is getting more and more uncertain with each passing year. We may all have to take up shore fishing where if you can stand against the wind - you can fish!

Reports on events in 2019 and those to come this year, are covered in the agenda. It is worth mentioning here that for European events it is good if you let me know well in advance if you are intending to fish them so that I am able to inform you of any updates as they come in, and also to keep other Sections informed of expected English entry so they can judge the support for the event. In finishing just remains for me to wish you all good health and good fishing with fair weather for 2020.

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

I can report that this year the weather gods were almost kind to us, as we only had to cancel one event. The overview for the year is as follows: -

- Membership income of £1,630.00
- Affiliated Club income of £240.00
- Festivals Profit was £6,760.00
- Bank Interest was £109.00
- Stock profit was £60.00
-

This totalled to give us an overall income for the year of £8,799.00. Expenditure for the year was very similar to the previous year at £2,963.00 that resulted in an overall profit for the Section of £5,836.00 for the year. As Treasurer, I will not be recommending a raise in the membership fees at this time, but we as a Committee are always reviewing our financial situation.

The Accounts for the year ending 31st October 2019 were submitted for approval under separate cover.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Steve Bachelor, seconded by Neil Cottington and accepted unanimously.

Membership Registrar's Report: Mr Galbraith informed the meeting that the current membership was as given below.

Present Membership is as follows,

Life Members 67 (including 38 suspended)

Annual Members 85

Affiliated Clubs 12 – as given below

Bexhill Sea Angling Club	Bisley & District SAC	British Conger Club
Christchurch & District F.C.	Individual Boat Anglers Club	Portland Angling Club
Regents Brooks SAC	Rod Benders SAC	S.C.B.I.
Western Wight A C	Weymouth Angling Society	Worthing

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

We had a decent level of entries this year with most categories being filled, apart from boat caught Cod and Flounder, shore caught Bass and junior fish of the year. This is the second year in a row that no boat caught flounder has been entered and with the drop in stocks, we may need to look at an alternative category. In the Boat categories, a particular mention should be made of Ray Barron and Rod Adamson's conger eels of over 90lb, Jim Grant's Blonde Ray of 32lb, Ian Burden's Ballan Wrasse of 6lb 5oz and Pete Bailey's Undulate Ray of 21lb. In the Shore category, Derek Spear's conger eel of 34lb, Steve Barnaby's 17lb 3oz undulate ray and Derry Meyer's 6lb 1oz ballan wrasse are all worthy of mention. The Overseas fish of the year was a choice between Jim Whippy's Greater Amberjack of 50lb and Barrie Senior's 130lb Tarpon and the Committee voted unanimously for Barrie's Tarpon.

The Norman Witt trophy was a close run thing but the overall fish of the year was awarded to Derry Myers for his excellent 6lb 1oz shore caught Ballan Wrasse. Thank you for all your entries and particular thanks to Portland Angling Club for all their entries, but particularly in the shore caught category. It would be great to have some more entries from other affiliated clubs. We have already had some good entries for 2020 but please keep the entries coming in and here's hoping for some more good fish in 2020.

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

As always, I would like to thank you all for the support I've had from the committee and members after an extremely busy year, but especially to Keith and Jan who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make my job as Boat Festival Officer so much easier.

Our two main events this year are the English Boat Championship in Plymouth where we look forward to fishing the many reefs and banks around the famous Eddystone Reef. Our English Species will return to Penzance (Haddock & Cod). Our last English Species event of 2019 was to be held at Penzance, but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the weather. Hopefully, the weather gods will look upon us more favourably in 2020 when the haddock fishing at that time of year is normally superb.

I would like to remind members that our HQ hotel in Penzance (The Lugger) and its sister hotel have a 48hr no charge cancellation policy.

Our big one this year will be the European Bream Championships returning to Weymouth in September. The HQ hotel is the Crown Hotel, which is situated on the Quay and have looked after us superbly during previous Championships. If The Crown is full, it has sister hotels all centrally based that can fulfil your accommodation requirements.

As with all our events once your entry has to be sent to Keith and he will send confirmation of entry with the HQ hotel details.

Again I would like to reiterate to members to get your entries in early as places are limited on all our events. We are finding fewer boats each year and very few ports now have more than five boats. Entries must be received by close of entry and failure to do this makes our Competition Co-ordinators job difficult and can result in costs for the Section.

Looking further ahead to future events for 2021, we are looking at Newquay for our English Boat and Hayling Island (Smoothound) for our species event.

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 Senior gave the following brief report to the meeting.

The 2019 English Shore Championship was held at Brighton in April. The plan was to fish from the Marina Arm however the bad weather prevented this and the match was fished from the beach. Despite the awful conditions a variety of fish were caught with Paul Parson taking top spot and the gold pin. We are going to try again this year. Many thanks to those who helped with the bait and pegging the beach.

For the European Championship held in Akureyri, Iceland England had a good turnout with eleven anglers fishing. Although the fishing wasn't as good as expected some nice fish were caught. Kim Bowden finished in a creditable 4th place with the England B team of Kim Bowden, Allan Jones, Jerry Knight, Tony Porritt and Barrie Senior coming 2nd in the National Teams event.

Press Officer's Report: Mr Senior informed the meeting that all reports and photographs had been published on the EFSA England website, but that he had been unable to submit them to other magazines or papers last year.

Social Secretary's Report: Mr Osborne gave a very brief report to the meeting outlining his role during 2019.

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

As we start a new year entries have started to arrive for this year's competitions so remember to get your entries in early as places can fill up fast. With more members now using the electronic banking system to pay for their competition entries, it has made the process much easier and has eliminated most of the payment problems. However, I would like to remind members yet again that we still do need a completed entry form so that we can tie up entries with the amounts received on the bank statements. These can be emailed or posted to me, but please do not send them as a phone picture because they do not appear clearly and are dark which makes them hard to read.

If we have to cancel any competition in future then we will refund entry fees less any expenses occurred within the event. Apart from all that, may I wish you all a good year's fishing and also have an enjoyable and successful time.

Standing Committee Delegate's Report: The Chairman gave a brief report on what had happened during the previous year and explained to the meeting how the Standing Committee conducted its business. Mr Bowden added that Championships for 2021 and beyond are as listed in the Newsletter.

5. Reports on Championships & Festivals in 2019:

a) Fun Fish (Fatfish) Competition – Medway.

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the May Newsletter and on the EFSA England website.

b) English Species Festival - Mersey

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which will be given in the April 2020 Newsletter and on the EFSA England website.

c) English Shore Championship – Brighton

Mr Senior gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the May Newsletter and the website.

d) English Boat Championship - Minehead

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the November Newsletter and on the EFSA England website.

e) *European Species Championship Langeland, Denmark.*

Mr Bowden gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which will be given in the April 2020 Newsletter and the website.

f) *European Shore Championship - Iceland*

Mr Senior gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the May Newsletter and the website.

g) *European Boat & Line Class Championships – Weymouth*

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

6. *Presentation of Fish of the Year Awards.*

The President, assisted by Andy Smith, made the following presentations.

BOAT

Bass	Nigel McLoughlin	BCC	10lb 0oz
Black Bream	Matt Osborne	PM	3lb 5oz
Cod	No entries		
Conger Eel	Ray Barron	PM	Over 90lb
	Rod Adamson	PM	Over 90 lb
Flounder	No entries		
Plaice	Dave McCune	PM	3lb 15oz
Pollack	Stephan Baker	PM	14lb 8oz
Ray – Blonde	Jim Grant	PM	32lb 0oz
Smoothound	Ian Burden	Portland	18lb 0oz
Whiting	Alan Painter	PM	3lb 5oz
Wrasse – Ballan	Ian Burden	Portland	6lb 5oz
Other by %			
Undulate Ray	Pete Bailey	PM	21lb 0oz 131.25%

SHORE

Bass	No entries		
Black Bream	Noddy Coan	Portland	2lb 0oz
Cod	Paull Curtice	PM	9lb 8oz
Conger Eel	Derek Spear	Portland	34lb 0oz
Flounder	Tony Swain	PM	2lb 8oz
Plaice	Dave Vye	Portland	2lb 0oz
Pollack	Andy Stone	Portland	2lb 6oz
Mullet – all by %			
(Thin lipped)	Pete Wood	Portland	1lb 6oz 39.29%
Smoothound	Noddy Coan	Portland	9lb 8oz
Whiting	Phil Rolls	Portland	1lb 15oz
Wrasse – Ballan	Derry Meyers	PM	6lb 1oz
Other by %			
Undulate Ray	Steve Barnaby	West Wight	17lb 3oz 143.23%

Junior Fish of the Year No entries

Overseas Fish of the Year

Tarpon Barrie Senior PM 130lb 0oz

Conger Club Tankard Ray Barron Over 90lb
Rod Adamson Over 90 lb

Norman Witt Trophy Wrasse – Ballan Derry Meyers 6lb 1oz

Short Adjournment

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.

Position	Nominee
Treasurer	K.Scaggs
Press Officer	B.Senior
Membership Registrar	G.Galbraith
Competition Coordinator	K.Scaggs

Acceptance of all the above were proposed by Cliff Williams, seconded by Steve Bachelor and accepted unanimously.

8. Election of Hon. Auditor:

Mr J.Knight was proposed as Hon Auditor by Paull Curtice and seconded by Bryn Lavis. As there were no other nominees, Mr Knight was duly elected for a one-year term of office.

9. Reports on Championships & Festivals for 2020:

a) Fun Fish Competition – Weymouth

Mr Selby informed the meeting that, regrettably, the event has had to be cancelled due to strong wind forecasts.

b) European Species (Bream) – Weymouth

Mr Selby informed the meeting that the Section nominated to hold the event has had to withdraw and so EFSA England have taken it on to be held out of Weymouth with a target species of Bream. He informed the meeting that a meeting was to be held following the AGM to establish the final details in the hope that a brochure and entry form could be made available within the next couple of weeks.

c) English Boat Championship – Plymouth

Mr Selby informed the meeting that all details are on the website and that it was hoped that boarding would take place at Locker's Quay close to the Premier Inn Hotel. Registration and presentation would be taking place at the Premier Inn in the Marina Bar back room.

d) European Boat Championship – Elsinore, Denmark

Mr Bowden informed the meeting that it was expected that there would be 15 EFSA England members participating and although not many had entered yet, almost all had booked their travel and accommodation. He also stated that if anyone else was considering entering that they should contact him as soon as possible so that they could be included in the group arrangements. Andy Smith informed those present that a coach had been arranged from the airport to the venue

e) European Shore Championship – Ireland

Mr Senior informed the meeting that the Championship would be held at Kilmuckridge in Ireland from the 28th to the 31st of October. Details are not yet available but will be posted on the Section's website as soon as they are received from Section Ireland. Mr Bowden added that the brochure and entry form are still not available, but that as soon as they arrived details would be put on the website and forwarded to all those likely to be attending.

f) English Species Festival - Penzance

Mr Selby informed the meeting that HQ would be the Lugger Inn. He also informed the meeting that those booking accommodation here could cancel any rooms booked up to 48 hours before the due date without incurring any cancellation costs in the event of the Championship being cancelled due to bad weather.

g) English Shore Championship - Brighton

Mr Senior informed the meeting that the event would be held at Brighton Marina on the 8th and 9th of May and that all details and entry form can be found on the Section's website. He added that the intention was to fish the Brighton Marina East arm and that Registration and Presentation would be held at the Brighton Marina Yacht Club.

10. Special Business

None notified

11. Annual General Meeting 2021. A date and venue was to be confirmed later in the year. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:50 hrs.

Future Competitions in 2020

To reiterate the information given earlier in this Newsletter, on our website and Facebook pages, the English Boat at Plymouth is cancelled as is the European Boat in Denmark and the European Species in Weymouth.

The English Boat Championship is now moved to Weymouth on Friday/Saturday 18th/19th September.

The European Shore in Ireland and the English Species in Penzance are still planned to go ahead as publicised.

European Shore Ireland, if looking to fish this Championship please email Kim Bowden at kimbowden@ntlworld.com and let me know so I can then send any updates as I get them, to keep you informed.

For all other updates, please refer to the website.

Kim Bowden

English Species Championship 2019 (Cod & Rays)

The evening registration for the event took place on Thursday 21st November at the HQ venue, the Yacht Club located in the Liverpool Marina by Coburg Wharf where we would board the boats for the event. There was plenty of parking close by at a reasonable rate of £5 a day for the competition days so a great venue for ease of access.

Friday 22nd and the first day of the Championship and there were only 19 anglers fishing the event so just 6 or 7 on each of the 3 boats. The word was it would be mainly a cod event as the rays that were in good numbers just a week or two ago had vacated the river. It was a relaxing start with the boats loading at 08:30 hours and this was because the tide was such that the lock gates did not have enough water over the lock sill to allow the boats out. Once out into the river it was a short run to the fishing areas so lines down at 0900 for what was going to be about 8 hours actual fishing as there was the tidal constraint on the lock opening. It depended on which boat you were on as to whether you found cod straightaway, or had a bit of a wait. Most of the cod were in the 30 to 40cm range. This was a measure competition and while most fish were returned alive several people retained a few for the table. The anglers were well looked after with plentiful supply of tea and coffee and much appreciated were the hot pasties or sausage sandwiches that the skippers supplied around lunch time - very welcome at this time of year. The bait supplied was 5 wraps of lug worm and 2lb of squid, though it soon became apparent that worm with maybe a small amount of squid took most fish. The weather was better than forecast with just a light shower late in the day. At the end of day 1 it was Gary Galbraith in the lead with 9 cod for 782 points, with Alan Porter and Rod Adamson both on 8 cod for 766 and 708 points respectively. There was a total catch of 86 fish, all cod apart from just a couple of rays, with everyone catching at least one cod.

Saturday 22nd and Day 2. Due to tide height we did not board the boats until 0915 hours. Format was similar to the previous day, but tea on our boat was not so good in the morning as our skipper filled his water container, but left it by the tap in the marina. So, at slack water we had a move with a detour to one of the other boats for water for the kettle and normal plentiful hot drinks were resumed in the afternoon. Again, the forecasted rain did not materialise and the day warmed up a little. Today's catch was similar to yesterday with 78 fish caught again almost all cod with a couple of rays.

Once back in from fishing it was a wash and change with the presentation at the Yacht Club scheduled for 2000 hours. The presentation was preceded by the raffle - the only chance for many not to go home without a prize! After thanking the skippers and the venue, Andy Selby read out the results with Kim Bowden presenting the prizes and the pins to the top three.

Gary Galbraith was still in top place adding a further 8 fish for total score of 17 fish for 1,438 points to take the gold pin. The silver pin went to Alan Porter who maintained his second place by adding another 6 cod to make a total of 14 fish for 1,230 points. Steve Bachelor also ended up with 14 fish but for 1,164 points to take the bronze pin.

Best cod went to John Traynor with a 70cm fish weighing 8lb 2oz. The top boat over the 2 days was Bad Boyz Charters skippered by Aaron Smith.

Other winners were:

Seniors Richard Russell;

2 Man Open Gary Galbraith and Mark Smith;

4 Man Open Kim Bowden, Richard Russell, Andy Smith and Barrie Senior

4 Man Executive Andy Smith, Gary Galbraith, Rod Adamson and Steve Bachelor.

European Species Championship 2019 (Flatfish)

Eighty anglers from a total of ten countries fished the 2-day Species Championship at Spodsbjerg on the Danish Island of Langeland. Target species were plaice, dab and flounder with a possible chance of other flat fish. On the Monday anglers went out for a practice having collected their bait from the Angelcentrum tackle shop. There was a strong cold breeze blowing and the likelihood of showers which fortunately didn't materialise until the boats were heading back in. Some of the boats found the fishing was harder than in previous years with anglers struggling to get double figures of counting fish, but some found reasonable numbers of fish. Other species caught were small cod, whiting, scorpion fish and a few jumbo mackerel. Monday evening was registration and the opening ceremony at the Hotel Skudehavn, Rudkobing. The organisers provided further information on the fishing program and took questions to clarify the rules. It was also a gave plenty of opportunity to catch up with the many friends from the other Sections.

Day 1 Tuesday 29st October and the anglers made their way to the harbour and parked in the large free car park nearby. The anglers boarded one of the six large boats taking part to draw positions and ready themselves for the days fishing. The wind had eased overnight and it was a sunny, but cool day. All boats had to fish in the same area and headed right out of the harbour going South to fish in the shallower water inshore. The Scandinavians who fish these waters regularly began to pull ahead on most boats and maintained their lead throughout the day. With each fish under 40cm scoring 1 point and fish over 40cm scoring 10 points at least one or two of the bigger fish were needed to be competitive. At the end of the day it was the Swedish Benny Johansson in the lead with 30 fish of which 4 were over 4cm to give him 66 points. Several anglers had 40 plus fish but no large ones. Matt Osborne was top Englishman in 14th place with 19 fish for 37 points. On our return to port it was time to socialise with pizza and beer provided by the organisers and discuss how the day went.

Day 2 Wednesday, the second day of the Championship and the plan was similar to day one, with all boats fishing the same ground but straight out from the harbour over towards the island of Lolland. Most anglers improved on the number of fish caught but catching the big fish was again crucial. Many of the English anglers improved their catch from day 1 with scores around the 40 plus points but it was still the Swedes and Danes out in front. Mike Smith was top Englishman on the day in 9th place with 35 fish for 62 points. Benny Johansson was again top on the day with 35 fish of which 9 were over 40cm to give him 116 points. The total number of flatfish caught in the competition were 3721, most were released with a few being kept for the table.

Day 3 Thursday was a reserve day, just in case one of the previous days had to be cancelled. However, as this was not needed some of the English anglers took the opportunity to go sightseeing while others chilling out or doing more fishing. This well-run Championship finished off on the Thursday evening with a fine gala dinner and the presentation.

Richard Russell was the top Senior with Kim Bowden in second spot. Richard was also in the winning Executive Four Man team

The overall winner was Benny Johansson from Sweden, second was Cees Vader from Denmark and third was Linus Nilsson from Sweden.

EFSA England Positions

- 15 Mike Smith
- 17 Richard Russell
- 18 Kim Bowden
- 28 Matt Osborne
- 32 Barrie Senior
- 37 Cliff Newbold
- 40 Dick Prosser
- 47 Paul Hart
- 49 Andy Smith
- 52 Brian Moss
- 54 Vernon Allen
- 62 Pete Bailey
- 65 Ken Smith
- 67 Billy Cann
- 72 Neil Cottington

The full results are available on the EFSA England website.