

## **Peter Peck 1925-2012**

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that our President, Peter Peck, passed away last week on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The following is a short compilation from recollections given by three of us who knew him both as a colleague and friend.

Peter was born in Cambridgeshire in 1925 and during the latter stages of the WWII he served in the Royal Navy as a rating with the Pacific Fleet and at one time was Fleet boxing champion in one of the lighter weights. After the war, he was Sales Director of the family business, Calor Gas. He was much travelled in this role and he recounted a tale to me when he decided that, much to the dismay of his father and other members of his family, he informed them that he was going to retire and go fishing. Peter was in his forties! Due to the constant world travel, he no longer knew what day it was, never mind what time zone he was in. The downside to this was that he had to give up the chauffeured Rolls Royce and the servants.

I didn't meet Peter until 1979 but Ted met him much earlier, so I'll let him take up the story.

I first met Peter in 1969 when EFSA was about eight years old and Peter had been one of its earliest members. At that time he was running his own marine chandlery business, Pex Marine, situated at the old Custom House on Poole Quay. At the same time he had a tackle manufacturing business, Pelican tackle, and several local tackle shops. He also oversaw three angling charter boats that operated from the quay in front of the chandlery.

Shortly after we first met, Peter sold his tackle interests to ABU and for some years he was an advisor to them, one of his duties being to accompany winning anglers on the ABU dream trips. I didn't get to know Peter well until 1970 when we were both fishing a competition at Dungarvan in Eire. As it happened, we were both staying at the same hotel and typical of the gentleman Peter always was, he invited me to join him at his breakfast table. From this, a friendship began which led to Peter introducing me to EFSA.

Continuing as an active member of EFSA England and EFSA HQ when the Section found itself in trouble with Officers resigning and questions being asked as to what had been going on in the Section's affairs, it was Peter who stepped forward to take on the Chairman's role, grabbing the Section by the scruff of the neck and overseeing its restructuring.

Peter was a founder member of the Sportfishing Club of the British Isles, being its initial Chairman in 1979. Parallel with this work, his EFSA commitments and earning a living, Peter undertook surveys on behalf of various African nations to assess the viability of sport fishing in their countries as a tourist attraction. He also did charitable work as a prison visitor.

Peter loved to fish, but while doing so he always found time to chat to his fellow anglers. He took time to enjoy his angling and the company he was in. Even with this relaxed approach to his fishing he still managed to demonstrate what a fine angler he was. He was runner up in a European Boat Championship in Norway, was the European Boat Champion in Plymouth 1994, the year he stood down as Chairman, and was also a member of the winning team during an EFSA game Championship out of Islamorada, Florida. This was a competition he was largely responsible for, as he was the Game Festival Officer for EFSA - a position he occupied for a number of years.

Peter took his roles as Chairman and later as President of EFSA England extremely seriously. He helped create Section rules and procedures. At meetings he always ensured that the procedures were followed and rules adhered to, but always with a deft touch that left anyone that might have been at fault, feeling comfortable.

A great raconteur, Peter always had an amusing tale to tell. He loved cartoons, particularly Road Runner and Tweety Pie and on game fishing trips to the USA he always had the cartoon channel on from 6 in the morning until we left to wherever we were going. This would be accompanied by a cup of tea that consisted of hot water that a teabag had been more or less waved over. Neil remembered a trip in Egypt when the tea was served with leaves floating everywhere. Peter gave the crewman a teabag to use and, you guessed it, the crewman broke open the teabag to make the tea.

Peter loved the sea and he had a number of boats over the years, among them a Fairy Huntsman, a Seaworker and more recently, an eight-metre Starfish - the Lady Margaret. With his youngest son John as skipper, he was, until a few weeks ago, still pursuing his favourite pastime aboard her.

Those of us who served alongside him on various Committees owe him a great debt in guiding us through the minefield of protocols, as his experience in such matters was invaluable. He would rarely tell you what to do, but would always advise as to what *not* to do and was always there if advice was required. There are so many memories, many of them very funny as his sense of humour was legendary – he loved a story.

We know Peter felt he had a full and satisfying life - a good innings, as he said recently. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and our angling community.

Peter's funeral will be held at Poole Crematorium on Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

Tony Hudson  
Ted Entwistle  
Neil Bryant