

***Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held  
Via ZOOM on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 at 11:00***

***Present:***

		President
Mr N. Bryant	-	Chairman
Mr R. Ashby	-	Vice-Chairman
Mr K. Bowden	-	Secretary
Mr K. Scaggs	-	Treasurer
	-	Membership Registrar
Mr A. Selby	-	Boat Festival Officer
Mr B. Senior	-	Shore Festival Officer
Mr B. Senior	-	Press & Public Relations Officer
Mr M. Osborne	-	Social Secretary
Mr K. Scaggs	-	Competition Coordinator
Mr A. Smith	-	Fish Recorder

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

Mr Ted Entwistle, C. Williams, N. Cottington, G. Galbraith

A total of 19 full members were present together with 0 members of Affiliated Clubs.

***2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020:***

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Mr A. Smith, seconded by Mr G. Geogan, and accepted unanimously. The Minutes will be signed by the Chairman at first opportunity.

***3. Matters Arising:***

There were no matters arising.

***4. Executive Officer's Reports:***

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

Dear Members,

What a strange and unnatural year 2020 has been. I know many of you will hardly have fished at all and those that have will have had many of their plans curtailed.

I do hope you have not been hit too hard by the events of this year and any that have, recover speedily.

My sympathy and commiserations to you all.

I would normally have some words of congratulation for our competition winners but of course the competitions had to be cancelled.

Our committee has continued its work on behalf of the members, but alas to of little avail. However, they are still going to need your help and support in the future.

It appears there are still going to be effects of the pandemic running well into the year, but hopefully, as the vaccine roll out, things will be allowed to return to normal. Whatever that is.

I wish you all a very much better 2021, with the opportunity to meet and fish again, without restraints of 2020.

Tight lines and stay safe.

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

Firstly, I would like to welcome everyone to EFSA England's first ever virtual AGM here on Zoom and on behalf of the Committee thank you for joining us today.

May I please ask that we all take a moment to remember all those that are no longer with us, with a special thought for our President in his recent loss when Jean passed, also Thomas Matchett in July and Brian (Budge) Booker who left us just before Christmas and to send our condolences to their families that they have left behind. Let us bow our heads for a short moment.

Well, normally we would be having a vibrant AGM when we could all meet and share our fishing stories and experiences from last year and to be generating some enthusiasm for the pending years events and congratulating each other however, as we all know this pandemic has meant we had to cancel everything.

In respect of 2021's Championships and Festivals, it is looking increasingly uncertain as to what we will be able to organise and what other member sections will be able to host over the coming year also, so yes, it is extremely challenging for everyone. I am sure all the membership appreciates the difficulties in planning anything and trust you will all remain patient and understanding.

We not only have to consider what the rules surrounding Covid19 are regarding Social Distancing generally, but also on boats, arranging group events whilst considering all our membership getting to a venue, securing accommodation, and travelling. Together with the boat events requiring Andy to secure similar size boats in order to calculate costs depending on numbers, HQ Hotel when we also do not know how these will be at the time so you can see, a little bit daunting to say the least.

That said, we remain positive as a Committee and over the last 9 months we have held several Zoom meetings to keep on top of the changes that have taken place and looking ahead we will continue to monitor the situation and try to keep everyone informed. As you would have noted we have sent updated emails to members and the Website is now the best place to go to keep yourself updated also.

You will hear from our treasurer Keith later regarding the financial implication of not having the income from any events that does reflect on the bottom line however, I am pleased to say we have a strong balance sheet from all the previous years' work and effort in hosting events. We also appreciate that as members you have not had the enjoyment from participation in events whilst understanding we do have certain running costs that we have to maintain so on behalf of the Section I thank you for your continued support. Be assured we are still doing in the background and keeping close tabs on costs.

It would have been easy for me to say nothing and do a shorter report (not sure of that statement I hear you whisper) but this is your AGM and I feel it only right to keep you informed and to assure you that every member of the Committee is committed in doing just that. I must thank them all for their support also in going the extra mile when we know it is a difficult time.

In closing I would like to congratulate all last year's Fish of The Year awards winners and I am sure that once we are all allowed to get back on a boat and on a shore where we want to be, that you get to enjoy our sport once again.

Please stay safe, stay within the rules, and let us all look forward to the next time we can all meet and have a beer, let alone go fishing. Thank you for being with us today and please take care.

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

Well, 2020 was indeed a strange year. This time last year we were unaware of the difficulties and disruption that was ahead of us and how widespread these troubles were going to be. Brexit was dominating the news and became just another problem to be taken on boards along with the major health issues that developed.

Everyone including EFSA has had to adapt to the new order of things. The Committee continued to monitor the varying restrictions that have resulted and adapted our plans for events accordingly. However, with the vaccine now being rolled out we hope that some form of reality will soon return. In adapting to the new circumstances, the committee have had to review how we conduct our business and as a result for example, we have been holding our meetings online which has proved a great success saving time, and travel costs and has proved much more convenient, so not all bad.

A program of events has been set out for 2021 and we hope that we may at least see some return to our scheduled competitions at some point during the year. It will be great to meet up again. In the meantime, and above all, stay safe and remain healthy.

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

Well, it's been a funny ole year for us all, and despite there being reports of light at the end of the tunnel, no one yet knows how long the tunnel is!

In 2020 initially there was hope, but it soon became apparent travel and competitions had to be cancelled with many rescheduled for 2021. Currently the events planned for 2021 are arranged, but as I am sure you are all finding, it is impossible to plan anything ahead with all the uncertainty.

Last year I had been in contact with the other Sections whose events were planned for that year and as updates were received these were relayed to our members via Facebook, group email, and our EFSA England website. The website is the place where any information and entry forms for the events is to be found. As far as keeping you informed, if you have entered an overseas event or informed me you were looking to fish it, I will ensure that you are sent updates to the event and any information we have on accommodation or travel. Iceland, for example this May, Andy Smith has a coach booked for travel from Reykjavik airport to Olafsvik. So, if event goes ahead, we will all be looking to travel as a group.

It just remains for me to hope you and your family and friends are keeping well and I am sure, like me, you are looking forward to when we can meet again. Also, to when we can meet up on a boat or the shore to fish, then retire to a tavern to sup ale and talk fishing and rubbish as we did in days of yore!

***Treasurers Report:*** Keith Scaggs gave the following report to the meeting:

The accounts for the year ending on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

I can report that this year all I can say is that we have had to cancel all the events which makes the following grim reading.

The overview for the year is as follows: -

- Membership income £ 1560.00,
- Affiliated Club income £ 200.00,
- Festivals Profit was £ -373.00.
- Bank Interest £51.00,
- Stock profit £ 15.00

This gives us an overall income for the year of £1453.00.

Expenditure for the year was £2483.00.

This resulted in an overall loss for the Section of £ -1030.00 for the year.

We the committee are always reviewing the Sections financial situation.

As for going forward we do not know how the coronavirus will affect the section this year and years to come.

**Membership Registrar's Report:** Mr Galbraith

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

As can be imagined on this strangest of years, entries were well down in 2020. Having said that, there were still some very good entries. Particular mention should be made of Paul Maris's 75lb 0oz boat caught conger eel, Nigel McLoughlin's 30lb 0oz blonde ray, Gary Geoghegan's 18lb 8oz Pollack, Rodney Whitewood's 11lb 8oz shore caught bass, Derrek Spear's 26lb 2oz shore caught conger eel, Alfie Lelliott's 13lb 2oz shore caught Smoothhound and Mike Lelliott's 37lb 0oz shore caught stingray.

After a lot of deliberation, the Committee decided to award the Norman Witt trophy to Rodney Whitewood and his 11lb 8oz shore caught bass. Freddie Lelliott was awarded the junior fish of the year for his 18lb 0oz shore caught stingray, Paul Maris was awarded the Conger Club Tankard for his 75lb 0oz boat caught eel and Ray Barron was awarded the Overseas Fish of the Year for his 45lb 0oz Roosterfish.

Although the year has not started well, I do hope that we can do some more fishing in and that I will be flooded with entries for 2021.

Stay safe and tight lines.

**Press & Public Relations Officer Report:** Mr Senior gave the following report to the meeting.

There was little to report on the website apart from keeping it up to date with the latest changes on the status of competitions as the rules relating to COVID-19 restrictions changed.

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

Well, this must be my shortest report ever with nothing to report on events due all being cancelled. Thank you to all the skippers and venues for transferring our deposits and bookings to 2021.

I just hope we will be able to stage our events in 2021.

Please all take care and Stay safe.

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

Unfortunately, like most other angling competitions the 2020 Shore match at Brighton had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. I have rescheduled it for the same venue this year. The European Shore Festival which was due to be held in Ireland was also cancelled for the same reason but has been rescheduled for October this year. Further information is contained in 2021 Events. Section.

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

For the European Species in Iceland, I know of many that have booked accommodation and that Andy Smith has a coach reserved, so when we know if this is likely to go ahead, I will look at flights so we all arrive at a similar time.

***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.

Now members are using the electronic banking system to pay for their competition entries, it has made the process much easier and has eliminated the payment problems.

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; also have an enjoyable and successful time.

***Standing Committee Delegate's Report:*** The Chairman invited Mr Marcus Wuest EFSA HQ Secretary to address the meeting.

Mr Wuest said that the last meeting of HQ was via zoom and the Next HQ meeting, Standing Committee meeting and AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> April will be via Zoom so that will be interesting with the number and different country Sections taking part, full details will be sent out soon.

## **5. *Reports on Championships & Festivals in 2020:***

### ***a) Fun Fish Competition –Weymouth.***

Cancelled

### ***b) English Shore Championship – Brighton Marina***

Cancelled

c) *English Boat Championship - Plymouth*

Cancelled

d) *European Boat & Line Class Championships – Elsinore, Denmark*

Cancelled

e) *European Shore Championship - Ireland*

Cancelled

f) *English Species Championship – Penzance*

Cancelled

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

Andy Smith read out the Awards for 2020 and said that Kim Bowden will look to hand or post the awards to the winners.

<b>FISH</b>	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>
<b>BOAT</b>			
Bass	Ray	Ashby	9lb 2oz
Black Bream	Andy	Smith	3lb 3oz
Cod	Kim	Bowden	16lb 8oz
Conger Eel	Paul	Maris	75lb 0oz
Flounder	Kim	Bowden	11lb 1oz
Plaice	Barrie	Senior	3lb 4oz
Pollack	Gary	Geoghegan	18lb 8oz
Ray – Blonde	Nigel	McLoughlin	30lb 0oz
Smoothhound	Alan	Bird	18lb 4oz
Whiting	Alan	Bird	11lb 14oz
Wrasse – Ballan	Dave	McCune	5lb 0oz
Other by %			
Greater Weever	Gary	Geoghegan	11lb 12oz
<b>SHORE</b>			
Bass	Rodney	Whitewood	11lb 8oz
Conger Eel	Derrek	Spear	26lb 2 oz
Flounder	Derry	Meyers	2lb 1oz
Plaice	Floyd	Wellington	1lb 7oz
Mullet –all by %			
Thin lipped mullet	Matthew	Lavis	2lb 6oz
Smoothhound	Alfie	Lelliott	13lb 2oz
Whiting	Lee	Dowdell	11lb 5oz
Wrasse – Ballan	Ray	Goodwin	3lb 3oz
Other by %			

Stingray	Mike	Lelliott	37lb 0oz
<b>Junior Fish of the Year</b>			
Stingray	Freddie	Lelliott	18lb 0 oz
<b>Overseas Fish of the Year</b>			
Roosterfish	Ray	Barron	45lb 0oz
<b>Conger Club Tankard</b>			
	Paul	Maris	75lb 0oz
<b>Norman Witt Trophy</b>			
Bass	Rodney	Whitewood	11lb 8oz

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>Vice chairman</b>	Nominee	Mr R. Ashby
<b>Sectary</b>	Nominee:	Mr K. Bowden
<b>Shore Festival Officer</b>	Nominee:	Mr B, Senior
<b>Chairman of Selectors Boat</b>	Nominee:	Mr R. Russell
<b>Chairman of Selectors Shore</b>	Nominee:	Mr B. Senior
<b>Chairman of Selectors Game</b>	Nominee:	Mr A. Smith
<b>Selectors Boat</b>	Nominee:	Mr N. Bryant, Mr R. Barron, Mr A. Selby
<b>Selectors Shore</b>	Nominee:	Mr P. Curtice
<b>Selectors Game</b>	Nominee:	Mr R. Russell, Mr K. Bowden

Acceptance of all the above were proposed by Mr T. Porritt, seconded by Mr M. Bobbett, and accepted unanimously.

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

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

9. **Reports on Championships & Festivals for 2021:**

a) Fun Fish Competition – Spurdog, Weymouth.

Cancelled.

b) English Shore Championship – Brighton Marina

Mr Senior said the 2021 English Shore Festival is due to be fished at Brighton Marina on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April subject to any government restrictions that may in place at the time. Entry form and further details are available on the EFSA England website.

c) English Species Championship (Smoothhound) – Hayling Island

Mr Selby advised the meeting that this event will be held at Hayling Island targeting Smoothhound. There has been a change in boat moorings and charter boats will no longer depart from Northney Marina. The new boat departure point will be advised when you receive your confirmation of entry.

This is a bait supplied competition and in your bait pack you will receive Squid and the New Devon Crab Cart an amazing bait that just about catches everything especially Smoothhounds. Should you want further information on how to use the Crab Cart speak to the team at Weymouth Angling Centre or see South Devon Crab Cart facebook page.

A new HQ will be advised soon, please see EFSA England Facebook or Web site.

d) EFSA Game Championship, Cape Verde

Mr Bowden said that there is just one team from England as limited space, this is rescheduled 2020 event.

e) European Species – (Cod and Coalfish), Olafsvik, Iceland

Mr Bowden informed the meeting that some accommodation had already been booked and that anyone not yet entered, but wishing to go, please make him aware so he is able to update individually as information comes in relevant to this event.

Mr M. Wuest added that he had recently talked with Iceland Committee member and they said hope to decide by mid February if the event is to go ahead or needs to be cancelled.

f) English Boat Championship – Plymouth

Mr Selby informed the meeting that we are returning to Plymouth in June to fish the grounds around the famous Eddystone Reef. We will be using the Premier Inn again for our base. Full details will be sent on confirmation of entry.

g) European Boat Championship – Cobh, Ireland

Mr Bowden informed the meeting that information and entry form were on the website. Cobh is a place many of us know well and as this event is September 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> hopefully it will go ahead. The following week is the European Shore so many of us will be staying 2 weeks to fish both.

h) European Shore Championship –Kilmuckridge, Ireland

Mr Senior informed the meeting. The 3-day European Shore Festival is scheduled to be fished at Kilmuckridge, Ireland from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The brochure and entry form are available on the EFSA England website. Entries to Kim Bowden by 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

## **10. Special Business**

Although no Special Business was formally notified the Chairman invited all participants at the meeting in turn to say a few words if they wanted to. The general feeling from most was how good it will be when we can meet up in person and fish together once more.

## **11. Annual General Meeting 2022.** A date and venue will be confirmed later in the year.



There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:10 hrs.