

DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, BRYN LAVIS

Once again it is my pleasure to welcome you to the December newsletter in which the news of 2013 along with key events for 2014 is circulated to all members. My congratulations to all winners of awards, I look forward to be able to present these at our AGM and Members Championships weekend.

I'm sure that you will all join me in thanking your ever hard working committee who do a sterling job in ensuring that events run as smoothly as possible. I'll also take this opportunity to thank both Laurie Gray and Bob Nye, who have decided to retire from the committee, for all of the hard work that they have given, not only to their respective jobs within the committee but to all of their efforts.

At the same time I am delighted to announce that Kim Bowden stepped forward and offered his services as Treasurer to our club, this was received with pleasure from your committee and he has been co-opted into the role and will be up for full election at our 2014 AGM.

Kath Lavis and Di Byrne have stepped forward and offered to organise the Members and Affiliated Championships for 2014.

I will take this opportunity to advise and request that we are looking for members to step forward to join the committee. Anyone interested please contact our secretary, Di Byrne, so that we can put forward people for the AGM.

I have recently heard the sad news that Betty Levick has passed away. Betty (who was married to Alan Levick, who many of you will know was Treasurer for the club for many years) along with her good friend Jean Flores did a lot of fundraising for the club. I'm sure many of you will remember being "bullied" to buy raffle tickets at the AGM weekend. Our heartfelt best wishes and condolences go out to her family.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy, merry Christmas, a prosperous new year and look forward to meeting up with you in our events during 2014.

**Bryn Lavis
Hon Chairman**

NOTE FROM SECRETARY

The notes from the 2013 AGM are below but a few key points are:

The main discussion this year at the AGM was in connection with Juniors fishing the Members Champs. This was raised by the committee due to the fact that the Juniors Champs had not taken place for 2 years because of inclement weather. After a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken and the majority agreed that Juniors, over 14 with a parent/guardian, would be able to fish the Championship but would only be entitled to win awards/prizes for Juniors. The cost would be the same as adult members.

Following the AGM and Laurie Gray's resignation as Treasurer, Kim Bowden e-mailed us formally to say that he would be willing to take over the Treasurer's role. We met as a committee and have agreed to co-opt Kim onto the committee for this year so that he can go through the accounts with Laurie and once the annual accounts have been completed he will take over the role until the next AGM when members will vote for election of officers.

As you can see from the notes of the AGM, we also have vacancies on the committee for a Festivals Officer, Cup Custodian and Junior Development Officer. It is not necessary to live in the Plymouth area nor to attend our bi-monthly meetings as has been proved by Paul Sweetman who took over the Registrar role last year. Please contact any of the committee if you are interested in taking on any of these posts.

Both Records Officer, Kath Lavis and Secretary have also stated that they are looking to retire once their 3 year term is up so please consider whether you would be interested in taking either of these roles on in the future.

As you may remember I enclosed a form in last year's Newsletter asking members to send it back to me if they were still interested in receiving a newsletter. I have only received about 100 back (although I am sure there will be more once they realise they have not received a newsletter).

I am also going to send the newsletter, electronically to all the members that have provided me with an e-mail address. This will probably mean I have a busy time on my e-mails and phone when members realise they have not received a newsletter but, in the long term, this should save us a significant amount on postage.

**51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 28 JUNE 2013
AT THE MARINA CLUB, PLYMOUTH**

1. **Welcome to Members** – Our President, Mike Millman was unfortunately unable to attend the AGM but Bryn Lavis, Chairman opened the meeting at 19.00hrs by extending a warm welcome to all the members present. He also read out a report from the President saying that he regretted having to miss the AGM but it had been unavoidable. He went on to say that the British Conger Club was going through a difficult time and the low level of participation shows all too clearly a worrying trend.

He felt that cost played a big role for attendance at the Champs but there was also a decline in the number of eels being entered for club awards. He was concerned that if this continues would there continue to be a future for the club.

Mike went on to state that, conservation, as ideal as it may be, was killing the club and that it should be applied with common sense. The loss of a very small number of eels would have no effect on the population in general.

Mike mentioned the fact that changes to the management committee were looming and in the short term we would need to replace the Treasurer and Festivals Officer.

He asked members to support the committee as much effort was required to keep the club running. Mike ended by thanking all members who have supported this year's Championships and hoped it would be successful.

2. Apologies for Absence – Apologies had been received from Mike Millman, Andy Gibb, Alec Clough, Kevin Lavis, Chris Martin and Steve Bliss.
3. Tributes to Deceased Members – The Secretary advised the meeting of the members who had sadly passed away since the last AGM – Bob Brown and Derek Fraser. A few minutes of silent reflection was taken.
4. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the Agenda. Paul Sweetman proposed and Jim Grant seconded that they were a true record of the 2012 AGM.
5. **Chairman's Report** - Bryn Lavis opened his report by thanking all who have both attended this years AGM and also those that have entered into the members championships. And of course thanks to the sterling work that our committee on a yearly basis.

He recalled that over the past few years he had reported on a worrying trend that involvement and attendance to organised events has lessened, as before this tendency is mirrored with many other sporting organisations.

Try as the committee has, we do not appear to be arresting this situation, never mind turning the trend around. The British Conger Club can only be strong with support of the membership. To maintain support, not only do our events need attendance, we need feedback / recommendations from members in offering ideas for the future.

Bryn repeated his address from 2010 in that 'sadly as records show, attendance is down and there is very little correspondence to our committee with ideas being put forward for consideration. He felt that where correspondence is concerned, it has never been easier, with the internet facilities being such an easy way of communication and assured our membership, that all written (letter or e-mail) received by any member of the committee will be discussed during the bimonthly meetings so please send in your comments.

Bryn went on to advise that the committee has to undergo a change, there is indication from various committee personnel that they wish to relinquish their posts, and we as a club must look towards the future and ensure that we not only carry on, but look at ways in boosting our participation in our sport and this wonderful club. He wished the committee officers who have shown indication of retiring all the best and on behalf of us all a great deal of thanks for their involvement.

One fact that is evident is that history of committee meetings has shown that we do not need to sit down around a table for these meetings to happen, in the past this was needed as correspondence was very slow, now that we have the ever increasing formats with the internet services I believe that the committee does not necessarily need to "get together" so often. Changes were made last year in the registrar post being maintained by email and this has worked very well. Not all members who wish to get involved in running our club can or have the time to travel to Plymouth every other month, and we are deeply grateful towards those that have. It is time for us to consider operating our affairs on a more digital format and hopefully this may

encourage more members to get involved with both running our club affairs and more importantly taking the club into the future.

Bryn felt that his personal involvement having had the trust of the membership for so many years, and belief in upholding our fantastic history, does lead me to sometimes err on the side of caution and not want to take a chance on radically making changes to competitions etc. This could in effect stunt progress into new pastures, and therefore believed there was a need to review the chair post carefully. This post was up for re-election next year and Bryn was prepared to stand for a further 3 years, but then felt the club should be looking and considering someone taking on this role.

To close his address he asked members to remember it is not the committee that make this club the great organisation that it is, **it is the members**, so he asked that we all address the downturn in participation, encourage those who would like to put ideas forward, and join in consideration of volunteering and proposing new blood to join and take up posts on your committee and take the club into the future.

6. **Secretary's Report** – Di Byrne thanked everyone for attending and promised to keep the report short and sweet. Another quiet year. Special thanks to Paul Sweetman for taking on the post of registrar last year and also for the help of his lovely wife, Ali who has done a great job updating the database.

Following our request to life members in the last newsletter, Di was working on the response from them so that the database could be updated. Di advised that she would be sending the newsletter via e-mail to any members who had supplied their e-mail address in the past and requested that members advised her of any changes before the end of November. This should significantly cut down on the cost of postage.

Stats for 2012/13:

Life members	668
Full members	114
Associate members	11
Senior Full/Associate	52
Juniors	11
Affiliated Clubs	28

Di finished her report by advising that she was up for re-election for a further 3 year term but that this would be her last term. She felt that she had done as much as she could for the Club and that it needed a new lease of life with more younger committee members who have some up and coming ideas on where to take the club. If anyone was interested in doing this job Di would be happy to talk to them about it.

7. **Financial Report** – Laurie Gray advised that the financial report was a summary of the financial position for 2011 and 2012 for comparison.

The committee started planning the celebrations almost a year in advance at which time it was agreed to use some of the reserve fund from our deposit account to a maximum of £2,500.

Laurie pointed out on the report that we actually used just under £2,000 reducing the deposit account to £13,000. He advised that the deposit account was with Standard Life which last year was taken over by Barclays and offering a reduced interest rate. It

was agreed that we would move the account and have chosen Santander which has earned £191 in interest.

Laurie also advised that our current Auditor had retired due to ill health and a new Auditor had been found but would likely be more expensive.

The report shows the continuing downward trend of subscriptions but many members have made donations to the club and this year it has continued. Laurie thanked all those who had made donations.

Finally Laurie advised the members that he wished to step down as Treasurer over the next 12 months and would be grateful for a volunteer to take over the role.

8. Acceptance of the Financial Accounts – Proposed: Steve Watson, seconded Ken Johnson . Unanimous approval
- 9 **Festivals Officer** – Bob Nye reported that Members Champs 2012 was a successful event with 50 fishing probably due to the subsidy agreed by the committee. This was down to 32 for the 2013 Champs.

Affiliated Champs 2012 was fished from Littlehampton and was also successful. The 2013 Affiliated Champs would be fished from Brixham but currently there were only enough entries for 2 boats. Anyone interested please contact him as soon as possible.

Bob announced that the 2014 Members Champs would be fished from Plymouth on 5/6 July.

Finally, Bob announced that he would also be stepping down and a replacement would be required. In the meantime, Kath Lavis and Di Byrne would keep the arrangements going.

- 10 **Records Officer Report** – Kath reported that there were only 15 fish entered for awards and that only 10 of the 21 trophies had actually been won.

Kath reported that medals awarded this year were:

5 x gold
3 x silver
1 x bronze.

11. **Election of Officers** –

Secretary	Di Byrne	majority agreed
Records Officer	Kath Lavis	majority agreed
Treasurer	Laurie Gray would continue for the next 6 months to pass on to a new committee member.	
Social Secretary	Ray Dower	unanimous
Vice Chairman	Ray Dower	unanimous
Festivals Officer	Bob Nye wished to step down. Volunteer still required. Kath & Di to take on temporarily.	

12. **Proposals**

There were no proposals.

13 Further Discussion at Chairman's Discretion

Bryn raised the issue of Junior Championships and the problem getting enough entries. The committee had discussed this at length bearing in mind members requests for Juniors to fish the main championships and felt that this should be discussed at the AGM.

Steve Watson felt that we should take a common sense approach to decide if Juniors are old enough.

Paul Maris commented that we needed to encourage juniors as they are the club's future. He suggested over 13's.

Ken Johnson raised the fact that he had asked at an AGM at least 2 times for Juniors to enter the Members Champs.

Bryn asked for a show of hands to approve whether Juniors of 14 and over should fish the Members Champs.

Result of vote was 17 for, 1 against (who suggested youngsters under 15), and 2 abstentions.

Bryn advised that we would check rules and advise membership via the website on whether Juniors will be invited to fish next year's Champs.

Steve Watson asked why we did not advertise the Members Champs - Committee felt that there were 2 reasons. One was that the event was a closed event to members and the other reason was that if it was advertised widely it could attract members of the anti-fishing movement.

A member felt that we are struggling to compete against fresh water fishing. Monthly magazines no longer want articles from sea angling clubs.

Paul Maris advised that Tony Allen, the web master was frustrated that he did not receive anything from members for the website. Could all members let him know of any successful fishing trips/photos.

George Weller asked for a vote of thanks to the committee.

- 14. Affiliations** – Di reported that subscriptions had been paid to EFSA and IGFA for 2013. Meeting agreed to continue with these affiliations.
- 15.** Bryn closed the AGM by thanking members for attending and their participation.

CALLING ALL TROPHY WINNERS

The presentation of trophies and awards will follow the AGM and we hope that as many winners will be able to join us and pick up their trophies. Such a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes working out the results, getting the trophies engraved and cleaned and setting up the room so to show your appreciation, if you possibly can, please come along to the AGM

INFORMATION REGARDING AGM AND PRESENTATION 2014

The 2014 AGM will be held at the Mayflower Sailing Club in Plymouth on Saturday 5 July 2014. Once again the date coincides with the weekend of the Members Championships which is being fished out of Plymouth next year. We have made this decision in the hope that we can attract a reasonable number of members to the AGM.

The presentation of awards for 2013 will follow the AGM. We look forward to seeing you there. A list of bed & breakfasts in Plymouth has been included at the back of the newsletter for your information.

Any proposals for the AGM needs a proposer and seconder and then should be sent to me (Di Byrne) before 28 February 2014.

There are no committee members up for re-election following their three year term. However, we have the following vacant posts and we are looking for some new committee members:

Cup Custodian
Junior Development
Festivals Officer
Treasurer

The Treasurer post is also up for re-election, however, we have co-opted Kim Bowden onto the committee with a view to him taking over the accounts from Laurie Gray at the end of this financial year.

If you are interested in taking up any of the posts on the management committee of the club please contact any of the committee members for a chat. We meet every 2 months and its not imperative to make it to a meeting as we can easily communicate through e-mail and phone.

MEMBERS CHAMPIONSHIP 2013

The individual Members Championships took place in Plymouth over the weekend of 29/30 June 2013. We were lucky with weather conditions and managed to fish both days. Only five eels were brought to the scales and all were caught on the first day. Overall a total of 112 eels were caught. The RNLI were presented with a cheque for £287 which was made up of donations for the Reg Quest Memorial cup and the pool for Sunday because no eels were weighed in.

Results for the competition are as follows:

Individual Champion

Jimmy Bond – 53lbs 9ozs

Runner-Up

K Richardson – 51lbs 4 ozs

Third Place

Joe Connolly – 45lbs 15ozs

Four Man Team Runners-Up

Golden Balls (K Bowden, P Sweetman, A Irwin and P Allen) – 680 points

Four Man Team Winners

Dynamix (F Hayward, P Cashmore, P Maris and D Hawkeswood) – 840 points

Total Aggregate Points – Saturday

K Richardson – 251 points

Total Aggregate Points – Sunday

Tie between M Banks and A Tonks – 160 points

Reg Quest Memorial for Most Returned Eels

Kim Bowden – 9 eels

Top Boat

Malcolm Jones – Sea Angler

MEMBERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

The 2014 Members Championships will be fished out of Plymouth over the weekend of 5 and 6 July 2014. The competition will be a 2-day event.

We will be running a pool at £5 per day and if not won all monies will be paid to the RNLI.

The Mayflower Sailing Club will be the Headquarters and registration and entry for teams will take place there on the evening of Friday 4 July 2014 from 6.00pm.

Boats will be boarded at the Plymouth Landing stage and we are working with Plymouth City Council to arrange discounted parking in the car park close to the Landing stage. Further information and directions will be given to you at registration.

We have not increased the cost of fishing the Championships this year. The cost is £130 which includes 2 days on a chartered angling boat and a buffet on the Saturday evening following the AGM and Presentation.

Juniors who are over 14, can fish with their parent/guardian at the same cost as seniors, at the discretion of the committee. However, they will not be able to win senior prizes but will have their own prize table.

Any winners from last year - .don't forget to send your money off vouchers in with your entry.

The entry form is at the back of the newsletter.

AFFILIATED CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

Unfortunately the Affiliated Championships 2013 was cancelled due to inclement weather.

AFFILIATED CHAMPS 2014

The Affiliated Championships 2014 will be fished out of Plymouth over the weekend of 6 and 7 September 2014. Registration will take place on Friday 5 September at the Mayflower Sailing Club. The weigh-ins and presentation will take place at the Boathouse Café.

The booking form with further details can be found at the back of this newsletter.

INTERPORT COMPETITION

This competition runs from 1 June to 30 September and is very simple to enter. All you need to do is phone Kath Lavis, Records Officer (01752 785917) and inform her that you are going fishing, your team member and which boat you are fishing from. After the trip all you need to do is call her again letting her know the weights of your best eels.

You can only fish this competition once a year but if your trip is cancelled you can let Kath know and re-try another time. Any eels caught can be weighed at sea and do not need to be brought ashore to weigh.

SHORE COMPETITION

This competition runs from 1 October to 30 November. You can fish anywhere from the shore at any time during this period and send in your entry in the usual way but make sure you ask for the fish to be entered into the Shore Competition.

RECORDS OFFICER REPORT

Please note that the results below are only up to 16 November so could change. If you have any queries please contact Kath Lavis, Records Officer and she will check her records.

THOMPSON MEDAL WINNERS TO DATE

GOLD		
Alec Clough	76.0	Wreck
BRONZE		
Ray Packham	62.0	Wreck
Paul Maris	55.2	Wreck

FISH OF THE MONTH AWARDS

Personal Members

Month	Angler	Weight	Boat/Shore
June	Jimmy Bond	53.09	Wreck
Sept	Alec Clough	76.0	Wreck
Oct	Simon Gavey	28.4	Shore

Affiliated Clubs

Month	Angler	Weight	Boat/Shore	Club
Apr	Ryan Hendra	37.05	Shore	Cornish Federation
June	Danny Rose	57.11	Reef	Hastings & St Leonards
Sept	Steve Carroll	64.0	Reef	Hastings & St Leonards

INTERPORT COMPETITION

Paul Maris and Sid Smith – Average weight 42lbs

JUNIOR AWARDS

KD Trophy – Best Junior qualifier - Thomas Powell – 63lbs (Reef)

Maureen Trophy – Most Species - Matthew Lavis

QUARTERLY COMPETITIONS

Quarter 1	Matthew Lavis	Flounder	3-7
Quarter 2	Matthew Lavis	Garfish	1-12

PROVISIONAL RESULTS FOR TROPHY WINNERS (AS AT END OF OCTOBER) –FINAL CONFIRMATION WILL BE AFTER 14 JANUARY 2014.

If you think there is any omissions/errors below please contact Kath Lavis to advise.

ANGLER	WEIGHT	BOAT/SHORE
Angling Magazine – Heaviest Eel by a Member		
Alec Clough	76.0	Wreck
Bill Shapland – Heaviest Eel by a Lady		
Not won		
Our Unity – Best Achievement by a Lady		
Not won		

Solitaire Cup – Heaviest Single Handed		
Paul Maris	55.2	Wreck
Scampi Cup – Heaviest from Reef		
Not Won		
Shore Trophy – Heaviest from Shore		
Simon Gavey	28.4	Shore
Fuller Cup – Heaviest from Own Boat		
Not Won		
Saltwind Cup – Heaviest by Life Member		
Alec Clough	76.0	Wreck
Moore Rosebowl – Heaviest by a Junior		
Not won		
Associates Cup – Heaviest by an Associate Member		
Not Won		
Ben Neville Cup – 50lb Test Line		
Not Won		
Clive Stone – 30lb Test Line		
Not Won		
Bob Bates – 20lb Test Line		
Not Won		
Eileen Hunkin Memorial Cup – Heaviest Qualifier - Boat		
Tony Bird	70.0	Wreck
Ray Rush Memorial Cup – Heaviest Qualifier - Shore		
Not Won		
Sea Angler Trophy – Heaviest by Affiliated Club Member		
Steve Carroll	64.0	Hastings & St Leonards
Top Boat – Heaviest Eel from a Member		
Graham Hannaford	76.0	Size Matters
Skippers Wheel – Most Qualifiers		
Not Won		
Electric Blue – Heaviest Eel Weighed At Sea		
Sid Smith	43.0	
Nikaria Trophy – Most Returned Eels by Skipper		
TBC		
Geoff Flores Trophy – Most Eels Returned by a Member		
TBC		

EFSA Entries

Results will not be known until January 2014

If you think any of the above results are incorrect please contact Kath Lavis on 01752 785917 or by e-mail lavis784@btinternet.com and she will be able to check the information.

Reminder to anyone sending in a Specimen Fish Forms to the Records Officer

Could you please make sure that all the details are completed (eg. weight, where caught, date, which award you are entering the fish for etc) and also get your form witnessed. The forms can be sent to Kath Lavis by e-mail lavis784@btinternet.com or post. The form should be received within 14 days of capture of the fish.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

A quick reminder to all Straps about their quarterly competition. Any specie of fish can be entered and there is a prize for each quarterly winner. All you need to do is catch a fish, get it weighed and send details to Kath Lavis, Records Officer (address at the front of the newsletter)

REMINDER TO ALL STRAPS
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND JOIN A FRIEND
FOR £2.00 (BUY ONE GET ONE FREE)
SEE MEMBERSHIP FORM IN BACK OF NEWSLETTER

CLUB RULES

1. **Club Name.** The club shall be known as the “British Conger Club” incorporating the “Conger Club of Great Britain”. The aims of the club are to foster and develop interest in this form of sea angling throughout the country, to improve the techniques used in Conger fishing and to encourage conservation of the species.
2. **Business of the Club** shall be conducted by a Management Committee of not less than eight and not more than ten, of which the Secretary and Treasurer shall be two. Five members, including the Secretary or Treasurer shall form a quorum.
3. **The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee** shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting to serve for three years and shall be eligible for re-election. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by an election at the Annual General Meeting of members whose names have been proposed and seconded, not less than Ten (10) days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt any member to the Committee should it be deemed necessary.
4. **The President** shall serve for a term of three years and thereafter shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
5. **The Annual General Meeting** shall be held at a venue and on a date decided by the Committee.
6. **The Club Headquarters** shall be in premises selected by the Committee.
7. **Membership** to the British Conger Club shall comprise of Life, Full, Associate and Junior member categories. All applications for, and admission to, the British Conger Club will be at the discretion of the Management Committee.
8. **Anglers seeking qualification** for Full membership must produce proof that he or she has caught a Conger Eel of the weight specified in the Club’s Bye-Laws and substantiated by two responsible witnesses. Associate membership shall be open to all, subject to the approval of the Committee, but such Associate membership shall be non-voting at the Annual General Meeting.
9. **Subscription Fees** shall be: Full and Associate members - £20 per annum. Life membership shall be available upon a payment of £200 and £100 for Senior Citizens

attaining the age of sixty (60) years. Members will only become eligible for life membership once they have paid annual subscriptions for at least five years.

- a. Senior Citizens having attained the age of sixty (60) years shall pay 50% of the annual subscription rates.
- b. Junior members rates will be £2 and membership into the Junior section known as Straps will be available from the age of six and up to their eighteenth birthday.
- c. Affiliated Club membership of the British Conger Club will be upon payment of £30 annual subscription.
- d. All subscriptions shall become payable upon admission to the British Conger Club. Thereafter annually from 1 January and must have been renewed by 30 April otherwise the member will be deleted from the Club register and will need to apply for re-registration and membership to previous status. Members unpaid for more than one calendar year will have to pay the previous year's annual subscription rate for that year and the current year's annual subscription rate in order to be re-registered to previous status or re-qualify for membership as per Club Bye-Laws.
- e. Subscription rates will only be amended by recommendation of the Management Committee, approved by the Annual General Meeting of members and become effective from 1 January of the ensuing year.

- 10. **Suspension of Members.** The Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel any member who shall infringe any rule, or whose conduct shall, in their opinion, be prejudicial to the Club. The member will have the right to appeal.
- 11. **Special General Meetings** of the Club may be called at any time by a requisition to the General Secretary signed by more than twenty (20) members, but no business shall be transacted other than that for which it is called, and not less than twenty (20) members shall form a quorum other than the Committee. The notice convening the meeting shall be sent by post, stating the business to be transacted, at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting.
- 12. **Bye-Laws** shall not be altered without the sanction of the Annual General Meeting but the Management Committee may, at any time, issue additional Bye-Laws.
- 13. **Any Proposed Alterations** to these rules shall be notified to the General Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting and shall only be adopted if sanctioned by two-thirds of the members present or represented by postal votes.
- 14. **The Season** will end on 31 December and the new season will commence on 1 January each year.
- 15. **A Junior Member** is a member under the age of eighteen (18) years.
- 16. **The Accounts** of the British Conger Club shall be reviewed on an annual basis by an independent financial auditor who will prepare a statement to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of members.

17. **Website** The British Conger Club operates a website at www.britishcongerclub.org.uk which is controlled by a webmaster appointed by the British Conger Club. The content and copyright of this website is the property of the British Conger Club.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Trophies shall be competed for annually by members of the British Conger Club.
2. Members may win more than one trophy in any season.
3. Appeals by competitors to be lodged with a Committee member of the British Conger Club within thirty (30) minutes of the announcement of results. The decision of the Committee will be final.
4. When entering fish for a Line Strength award a member must submit thirty (30) feet of the line used, together with the official entry form. The line to be submitted within twenty-eight (28) days of the capture of the fish, as per Bye-Law 8.

BYELAWS

1. **Qualification.** In order to become a **Full Member** of the British Conger Club applicants must provide evidence of the capture, by fair angling methods, of a Conger Eel 40lbs or over, wreck fishing from a boat, 30lbs or over, reef or open-ground from a boat, 25lbs or over, from shore, harbour wall, jetty or pier.

Note 1 – In the interests of the conservation of the species, the Club will allow fish to be weighed at sea or estimated for **new applicants** qualifying fish and will accept fish weighed at sea for **full members** Thompson Medal, Interport Competition and Fish of the Month claims, only if they are certified by two responsible persons, one of whom should be the boat skipper if caught from Wreck or Reef marks.

Note 2 – If an exceptionally large fish ie. over 60lbs is caught then this must be weighed ashore to be eligible for the **Eileen Memorial Cup** which is awarded for the heaviest qualifying boat caught conger. Similarly, the **Ray Rush Cup** is awarded for the heaviest qualifying shore caught conger so fish that appear to be in excess of 30lbs must be weighed ashore to be eligible for this award.

- 1a. All fish being entered for all other Club Trophies and Awards must exceed the **Minimum Qualifying Weights** of 25lbs Shore, 30lbs Reef or Open Ground and 40lbs Wreck and must be weighed on dry land using scales that have been certified for accuracy during the previous twelve months by the recognised authority for the area.
- 1b. Entries will also be accepted and confirmations sent by e-mail, however, the same information that is included on the Specimen Fish Form is required together with names of witnesses
2. **Associate Members.** As well as Full members, an Associate member may compete for Club Trophies and Awards providing that the fish entered is of the **Minimum**

Qualifying Weight so that the Associate member can thus transfer to Full member status.

3. Only Conger that satisfy the conditions of these rules and have been submitted on the official entry form can be accepted, either for competition for the challenge trophies or for Full Membership and the Secretary shall see that all details are recorded in the Clubs Register of Members.
4. Handlining of fish in any form is prohibited and only rod, reel and line may be employed in the capture of fish. Another person may, however, take hold of the trace once the fish has been brought within reach for the purpose of capture or release.
5. During the playing of a fish the angler must not rest the rod on a boat gunwale or rod rest. Neither must the rod, reel or line nor any part of the equipment be attached to the boat, or any object ashore in the case of the beach angler, nor any part of the structure in the case of pier or harbour angler.
6. Club burgees should be flown on the boat in which the member is fishing and should be removed when the member leaves the boat.
7. Members should notify the Fish Recorder (by forwarding a Specimen Fish Form) of all fish of qualifying weight, or over, within twenty-eight (28) days of capture except for fish caught in the month of December, when fourteen (14) days will apply, in order to allocate Trophies and Awards and to notify the membership in advance of the Annual General Meeting.
8. For the purpose of awards, a Junior is a member who has not reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday at the time of any competition or festival.
9. **Minimum Weights** for Conger in the British Conger Club Boat Championships is 40lbs (forty) from wreck and 30lbs (thirty) from reef. Fish obviously under this size should be returned to the water alive. The competitor will be awarded 25 points/lbs for each eel returned to the water.
10. **Minimum Weights** for Thompson Medals are as follows:

Boat Captured

55lbs and over – Bronze
65lbs and over - Silver
75lbs and over – Gold

Shore Captured

25lbs and over – Bronze
35lbs and over – Silver
45lbs and over - Gold

11. **Trophies.** All trophies that are required to be returned to the Cup Custodian must either be delivered by hand or forwarded by Securicor or the like to ensure their safety.
12. An angler will only formally become a member once a membership number has been issued.

Remember – if you have had a good day's angling and would like to share it with club members, send a note and any photos to the webmaster (e-mail address on the inside front cover) and get it included on our website.

AND FINALLY – a huge thanks to all the members who have actively supported the club this year. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and successful 2014.

May all your catches be large ones!!!

Di Byrne
Secretary

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation in the Hoe & Barbican area.

Lamplighter. 103 Citadel Rd, The Hoe, Plymouth. PL1 2RN. 01752 663855

Tudor House, 105 Citadel Rd, The Hoe, Plymouth, PL1 2RN. 01752 661557

Four Seasons Guest House, 207 Citadel Rd East, Plymouth. PL1 2JF 01752 223591

Seymour Guest House, 211 Citadel Rd East, Plymouth, PL1 2JF 01752 667002

Brittany Guest House, 28 Athenaeum St, Plymouth, PL1 2RQ 01752 262247

Rainbow Lodge, 29 Athenaeum St, The Hoe, Plymouth, PL1 2RQ 01752 229699

Athenaeum Lodge, 4 Athenaeum St, The Hoe, Plymouth, PL1 2RQ 01752 665005

Citadel House Hotel, The Hoe, Plymouth. PL1 3AU 01752 661712

Casa Mia, 201 Citadel Rd, East, Plymouth, PL1 2JF 01752 226742

Berkeley's of St James, 4 St James Place, Plymouth, PL1 3AS 01752 221654

Kynance House, 113 Citadel Rd, Plymouth, PL1 2RN 01752 266821

The Firs Guest House, 13 Pier St, West Hoe, PL1 3BS 01752 262870

Beeches Guest House, 177 Citadel Rd, Plymouth, PL1 2HU 01752 266475

Mayflower Guest House, 209 Citadel Rd, Plymouth, PL1 2JF 01752 667496

Ashgrove House, 218 Citadel Rd, Plymouth, PL1 3BB 01752 664046

Barbican Reach, 225 Citadel Rd East, Plymouth, PL1 2NG 01752 590469

Caledonian Guest House, 27 Athenaeum St, Plymouth, PL1 2RQ 01752 229052