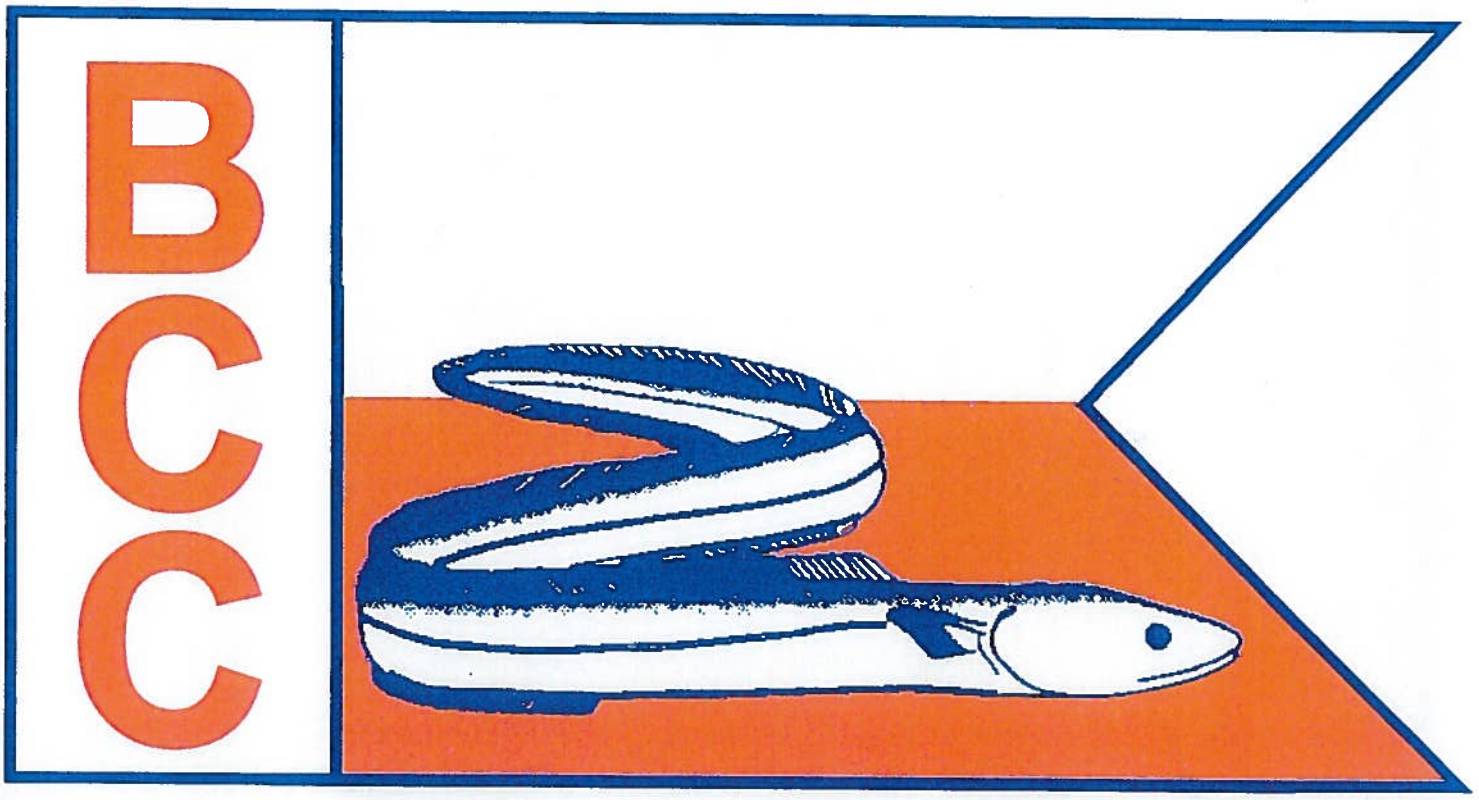
BRITISH CONGER CLUB

Founded 1962



2014 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, BRYN LAVIS

It seems a very short time since the last December newsletter went out, and again on behalf of your committee I thank all who took part in the organised events throughout this past year. However, with the general demise in member participation in our set competitions - the Members and Affiliated Clubs Championships - plus the registering of medal standard fish and the open boat and shore competitions I have to wonder if it is worth all the hard work the committee puts in.

At our AGM it was decided that the weighing of Conger Eels at sea would be permitted from next year, I am somewhat amazed that there have been no conversations on our web pages or phone calls regarding this change, either in support or against the idea.

I have to ask is the demise of activity one of two reasons:-

1. A general lack of interest in what the club is doing.
2. A general lack of support in following the lead from the chairmanship.

If it is reason 1, then there is not a lot that can be done, the interest will slowly wane until eventually there is no support. If, on the other hand, there is the feeling that the direction that is being taken at present is not wanted, then I as the present chairman, must be prepared to stand aside and welcome one of our members to take the club forward.

In order for this to happen I am prepared to stand aside and not seek re appointment to the office of chairman either before my 3 year term is up or certainly when my term is up for renewal. I have taken many an hour thinking about this and I have come to the conclusion that this is the best option for not only the British Conger Club as the club needs someone in the chair to support, but also for myself as I feel that the support that was in existence has drained away.

I therefore believe that action must be taken and taken quickly for this great club of ours to remain in operation and I welcome any discussion.

Ending on a cheerful note I wish you all a very happy, merry Christmas and a prosperous new year and look forward to meeting as many as possible in the near future.

Bryn Lavis
Hon Chairman

NOTE FROM SECRETARY

The notes from the 2014 AGM are below. Points of interest are:

As Bryn has stated, it was agreed that eels would be accepted for awards when they have been weighed at sea. Ideally we would like a photograph sent in with the entry and obviously need the form to be witnessed.

I am very pleased to advise that one of our members, Dave Ball, has agreed to take on the responsibility of Festivals Officer so we will be able to hold the Members Championships this year.

We still have a couple of committee posts which were still vacant:

Cup Custodian
Junior Development Officer

Secretary and Records Officer posts would also be coming vacant in 2016 so it is imperative that we have a fresh injection of committee members. It is not mandatory that you need to come from Plymouth, in fact if a group of people from another port were interested in taking on the roles then there was no reason why they could not run the club from a different city.

If you haven't found it yet we now have a **Facebook page** "British Conger Club". There are lots of photos on there, past and present. Go and have a look, comment, like and add some photos yourself.

Could I please remind members to let me have their up-to-date email addresses. The newsletter will then be sent electronically which will save on printing and postage. Many thanks for your help.

52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON
AT THE MARINA CLUB, PLYMOUTH

1. **Welcome to Members** – Mike Millman, President welcomed members to the 52nd Annual General Meeting. He reminisced about when he took his first office with Plymouth Sea Anglers as Records Officer and Mike Connolly, who was the Founder of the British Conger Club, was at that meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence – Apologies had been received from Andy Gibbs, Anthony Lambert, Fred Hayward, Ray Packham, Kevin Lavis, John Welstead, Joe Connolly and Tom Matchett.

3. Tributes to Deceased Members – The Secretary advised the meeting of the members who had sadly passed away since the last AGM – Les Spencer. 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 Paul Cashmore seconded that they were a true record of the 2012 AGM. This was unanimously agreed.

5. **Chairman's Report** - Bryn thanked all who have both attended this years AGM and also those that have entered into the members championships and also the committee for the sterling work they had done over the last year. A special mention of thanks to Laurie and Dot Gray and Bob Nye who retired from committee last year. And to welcome a new committee member in Kim Bowden who was co-opted onto the committee after last year's AGM in the role of treasurer. Also to Di and Kath who between them have jumped in and organised our Members and Affiliated championships for this year.

   Thanks also to Tony Allen who is maintaining our website, a task that is very important and rarely appreciated.

Bryn asked all the membership to consider taking roles on our committee to reduce the amount of work that a few are taking on. As reported in the past, new blood is the life of organisations such as ours and we are no different in needing this for the future. Bryn asked for all members to consider putting themselves forward, some of our committee have been involved for many a year, and sometimes like me they feel the need to not change things too much and ensure that our history is maintained. History I realise is in the past, we need to think about the future, it is with new and hopefully younger members on the committee that ideas for our younger members can be incorporated to take us into the future.

Participation in entering captures of eels is continually falling, this is very evident by the number of trophies that are awarded here tonight. The reporting of captures is extremely important for all of us, the news of good catches and sizeable fish inspires many of us to get out there for a piece of the action. It also promotes us in a good way, all I can ask is that we all report our captures, Bryn believes that a great percentage of us carry mobile phones, all modern phones take surprisingly good photographs and I am sure that all of the angling correspondents such as Mike Millman (in the locality of the South West) would welcome news so that they can promote our club in the press. Tony Allen would be most grateful of news to put on our website. (suggested perhaps we can introduce some kind of award for the best photograph submitted by a member).

To close he asked that members remembered it is not the committee that make this club the great organisation that it is, **it is the members**, so reiterated to all to get involved, put ideas forward, consider volunteering / proposing new blood to join and take up posts on your committee and take the club into the future.

6. **Secretary's Report** – Di advised that she would be keeping her report short and sweet. She thanked everyone for attending and reported that nothing particularly unusual had happened since the last AGM.

The newsletter was sent via e-mail to all members who had supplied email addresses. There were some that were no longer current but she would be doing the same for the 2014 newsletter. This would help the club save costs on printing and postage. She asked any members who have email addresses or have changed their email addresses to let her know so that the database could be updated.

Di went on to say that her main concern was the need for more committee members, most importantly a Festivals Officer. Many of the committee were already doing 2 or 3 jobs. For example Kath was Records Officer, in charge of accessories and Cup Custodian as well as jointly running the Festivals with the Secretary.

Di stressed to members that if no-one came forward to take over the Festivals Officer role there was a danger that the competitions would not run the following year.

7. **Financial Report** – Kim reported that the club was still in a good financial position but there was a deficit of approx. £600 per year. Kim advised that he would be looking carefully at expenditure to try to reduce costs over the coming months. He asked if anyone had any question on the accounts.

Rikki Kelly asked why there was such a big difference in cost between the two Championships. Kim explained that the Championships were subsidised on the year of our 50th anniversary.

8. Acceptance of the Financial Accounts – Proposed: Paul Maris, seconded Allan Mason . Unanimous approval

9 **Festivals Officer** – Kath reported that the Members Champs 2013 was fished on both days with 112 eels caught. Jimmy Bond was Individual Champ, Ken Richardson was runner-up and Joe Connolly came third. A cheque for £287 was given to RNLI.

2013 Affiliated Champs were cancelled completely due to inclement weather.

10 **Records Officer Report** – Kath reported that it had been another poor year for fish entries even though she had heard of a number of bigger eels being caught be members. Only 15 fish were recorded. A total of 3 medals had been won, 3 Fish of Month for individual members and 3 for Affiliated Clubs.

11. **Election of Officers** –

Treasurer	Kim Bowden	unanimous
Festivals Officer	No nomination	
Junior Development	No nomination	

The Secretary reiterated to the meeting that if a Festivals Officer was not found there was a distinct possibility that the Members Champs would not take place in 2015.

12. **Proposals**

There were no proposals.

13 **Further Discussion at Chairman's Discretion**

The President drew attention to the low number of fish being weighed in during the year due to conservation principles and said that he and the Chairman were in agreement it is a problem that needs addressing and quickly otherwise the club faces a difficult future and it could grind to a close in as little as five years.

Whilst believing that the organisation's major trophies should ideally be won by fish brought ashore and weighed on official scales accurately, it is clear that few members are not willing to do this, so it is time to move forward and to allow trophies to be won by fish weighed at sea (WAS) to a specific criteria that will be established.
A photograph should be submitted with the claim form ideally showing the fish in association with the scales. Exceptions would be a claim for a Record eel and the Members Championship heaviest eel. These fish must still be brought ashore and weighed before witnesses on land bound accredited scales. Trophy winning fish weighed at sea would have WAS in the engraving. A fish of identical weight brought ashore and weighed on land would have trophy precedent.

Malcolm Jones advised that he weighed fish at sea reasonably successfully but agreed that if claiming a record the eel would have to be brought ashore.

Paul Maris agreed we need to move towards accepting weighing fish at sea but the members needed to bear in mind that when tag and release was brought in for Marlin, 1000lb + fish increased 10 fold.

Andy Simpson felt that the variance in weight was considerable when weighing at sea. He suggested the criteria for winning trophies was changed. He wondered how many boats had the ability to weigh fish at sea.

Bryn felt that we had to accept that exaggerations would happen.

Rikki Kelly felt that the club needed a higher profile and asked who was responsible for doing this in the club. Bryn explained that we do not have a Press Officer but in the past Mike had tried on many occasions to send reports to the magazines but they were not accepted.

Ken Johnson raised a question regarding the Champs and whether if the first eel was 65lbs does the angler have to put smaller eels back? This was what he had been told at previous Championships.

It was confirmed that it was entirely up to the angler whether they brought in smaller eels and that the eels would be weighed unless they were under the minimum size.

Mick Roberts thought the idea was that Skippers kept in contact and only the biggest eels were brought back.

Bryn agreed that we would encourage conservation but it is the anglers final decision on whether to bring the eels in.

A lively discussion followed and with just three exceptions the meeting voted in favour of these changes to be made to the bye-law which allows the new rule to come into immediate effect.

It was asked whether a photo of the eel could be mandatory. Bryn confirmed that the committee would discuss criteria at a management meeting.

Members felt that Skippers did not promote the club with the exception of Plymouth because they are in the home of conger fishing.

Members at large will have the opportunity to make their views known through the club's website. The number of fish recorded was at its lowest level in 2013 and so far this year less than six fish have been notified to the club.

Paul Maris also stressed that a big problem within the club was the lack of youth which is the club's future.

Bryn agreed that this is a big problem and we are looking for a Junior Devleopment Officer to promote the club to schools etc.

14. **Affiliations** – Di reported that subscriptions had been paid to EFSA and IGFA for 2014. 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 2015

The 2015 AGM will again take place at the same time as the Members Championships and will be held at the Mayflower Sailing Club in Plymouth on Saturday 27 June 2015. The presentation of awards for 2014 will follow the AGM. We look forward to seeing you there.

Any proposals for the AGM needs a proposer and seconder and then should be sent to me (Di Byrne) before 28 February 2015.

The following committee posts are vacant and if anyone would be interested in taking on one of them please let Di Byrne know:

Cup Custodian
Festivals Officer
Junior Development

MEMBERS CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

1st Chris Goddard 59-13

2nd Alec Clough 47-5

3rd Joe Connolly 44-11

Day 2 Aggregate Chris Goddard 260pts

Reg Quest (most eels returned) Anthony Lambert & Tony Irwin - 6

1st team. Golden Balls.....Paul Sweetman, Kim Bowden, Phill Allen, Tony Irwin. 722pts

2nd Team Guildford City.....Mick Doody, Chris Goddard, Peter Thatcher, Roy Hebburn 620pts

Top boat. Aces High.....Ian Holman

Optional Pool (day 2) Chris Goddard £185

As day 1 was not fished it was agreed that the pool money would be donated to the RNLI. This, added to the total donated for the Reg Quest Memorial Trophy, gives a balance of £305. Many thanks for the generosity of the anglers.

A special presentation was made to Jim Henderson on the occasion of his 85th birthday and the fact that he didn't catch anything. A crabbing bucket and a hand Line together with a club tankard.

MEMBERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

The Members Champs will take place over the weekend of 27/28 June 2015. Headquarters will be the Mayflower Sailing Club. An entry form can be found at the back of the newsletter.

AFFILIATED CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

Only 3 teams of 2 fished the Affiliated Champs. The weather was kind and they managed to fish both days.

Team Winners	Super Rods – Rikki Kelly/John Welstead – 986 points
Runners-Up	Urmston A – Tim Kevill/Simon Leon – 977 points

Best eel – Dave Wiltshire – 62-8

There were 60 eels caught with only one brought to the scales.

AFFILIATED CHAMPS 2015

Further discussion is taking place regarding how and when to run the Affiliated Championships following the extremely poor attendance in 2014.

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 10 October 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		
Andy Matthews	83-6	Wreck
SILVER		
Paul Maris	65-0	Wreck
Nigel McLoughlin	68-0	Wreck
Terry Rapson	66-0	Wreck
BRONZE		
Chris Goddard	59-13	Wreck
Alec Clough	57-0	Wreck
Simon Gavey	32-0	Shore
Steve Nunoo	55-0	Wreck

FISH OF THE MONTH AWARDS

Personal Members

Month	Angler	Weight	Boat/Shore
Jan	Simon Gavey	25-12	Shore
July	Chris Goddard	59-13	Boat
Aug	Nigel McLoughlin	68-0	Boat
Sept	Andy Matthews	83-6	Boat

Affiliated Clubs

Month	Angler	Weight	Boat/ Shore	Club
July	Chris Goddard	59-13	Boat	Guildford SAC
Sept	Dave Wiltshire	62-8	Boat	Urmston SAC

INTERPORT COMPETITION

No Entries

SHORE COMPETITION

Simon Gavey – 32-0

QUARTERLY COMPETITIONS

Matthew Lavis	Ling	18-14
Matthew Lavis	Cod	22-3

PROVISIONAL RESULTS FOR TROPHY WINNERS (AS AT END OF OCTOBER) – FINAL CONFIRMATION WILL BE AFTER 14 JANUARY 2015.

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		
Andy Matthews	83-6	Wreck
Bill Shapland – Heaviest Eel by a Lady		
Sallie Date	53-6	Wreck
Our Unity – Best Achievement by a Lady		
Not won		
Solitaire Cup – Heaviest Single Handed		
Paul Maris	57-3	Wreck
Scampi Cup – Heaviest from Reef		
Not Won		
Shore Trophy – Heaviest from Shore		
Simon Gavey	32-0	Shore
Fuller Cup – Heaviest from Own Boat		
Not Won		
Saltwind Cup – Heaviest by Life Member		
Paul Maris	60-8	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		
Claire Walton	74lb 8oz	
Ray Rush Memorial Cup – Heaviest Qualifier - Shore		
Not Won		
Sea Angler Trophy – Heaviest by Affiliated Club Member		
Dave Wiltshire	62-8	Urmston SAC
Top Boat – Heaviest Eel from a Member		
Ocean Warrior	David Elliott	
Skippers Wheel – Most Qualifiers		
Not Won		
Electric Blue – Heaviest Eel Weighed At Sea		
Nigel McLoughlin	68-0	
Nikaria Trophy – Most Returned Eels by Skipper		
TBC		
Geoff Flores Trophy – Most Eels Returned by a Member		
Paul Maris	84 eels	

EFSA Entries

Results will not be known until January 2015

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 FOR ONLY £2 PER YEAR
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	**Shore Captured**
55lbs and over – Bronze	25lbs and over – Bronze
65lbs and over - Silver	35lbs and over – Silver
75lbs and over – Gold	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 2015.

Best wishes

Di Byrne
Secretary

SUBSCRIPTIONS RENEWAL 2015
And Membership Updates

Membership Number ☐

Annual Subscription renewals are due on 1st January each year and should be paid by 30th April (as per Rule No 9)

	Annual Membership Fee	**Tick Box**
Full & Associate	£20.00	☐
Senior Citizens (over 60 yrs)	£10.00	☐
Juniors (under 16 yrs) – Straps	£2.00	☐
Life Membership currently available	£200.00	☐

Please complete all sections below to ensure all our information is accurate.

First Name: ☐ Surname: ☐

Address: ☐

☐

Town: ☐ County: ☐

Post Code: ☐ Phone ☐

DOB: ☐ E-Mail: ☐

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "THE BRITISH CONGER CLUB" AND SEND TOGETHER WITH THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRAR, PAUL SWEETMAN, 61 FOXES MEADOW, COTTERIDGE, BIRMINGHAM, B30 1BQ. PLEASE RENEW PROMPTLY.

WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR RENEWAL.

AFFILIATED CLUBS RENEWAL 2015

Annual Subscription renewals are due on 1st January and should be paid by 30th April (Rule No 9)

Membership Number

CLUB NAME:

CONTACT NAME:

ADDRESS:

TOWN:

POST CODE:

PHONE NO:

E-MAIL:

NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN YOUR CLUB (INFO ONLY)

RENEWAL/JOINING FEE OF £30.00 ENCLOSED

£

A STAMPED ADDRESS ENVELOPE WOULD BE APPRECIATED
PLEASE SEND YOUR CHEQUE (MADE PAYABLE TO "THE BRITISH CONGER CLUB" TOGETHER WITH THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRAR AT:
61 FOXES MEADOW, COTTERIDGE, BIRMINGHAM, B30 1BQ

SPECIAL STRAPS MEMBERSHIP FORM
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership Subscription: £2.00

Please complete all sections below to ensure all our information is accurate:

Your Details

First Name:		Surname:	
Address:			
Town:		County:	
Post Code:		Phone:	
DOB:		E-Mail:	

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO "THE BRITISH CONGER CLUB" AND SEND TOGETHER WITH THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRAR, PAUL SWEETMAN, 61 FOXES MEADOW, COTTERIDGE, BIRMINGHAM, B30 1BQ

MEMBERS BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS - PLYMOUTH
27/28 June 2015
Membership Number

I am a fully paid up member so please reserve me a Charter Boat place at a cost of £130.00 for both days

Signature:		Date Sent:	
Surname:		Christian Name:	
Address:			
Town:		County:	
Post Code:		Phone No:	

Junior:

Age:

I would like to fish with the following member/s: _____

_____

PLEASE NOTE THAT A MAXIMUM OF THREE MEMBERS ONLY CAN BE ENTERED TOGETHER TO FISH ON THE SAME BOAT.

Juniors of 14 or over may fish the Championships with a parent/guardian at the discretion of the committee.

The 2015 Championships Headquarters will be the Mayflower Sailing club, Elphinstone, Plymouth

Send the completed form together with your cheque payable to "THE BRITISH CONGER CLUB" to Dave Ball, 7 Trentham Road, Hartshill, Nuneaton, CV10 0SN

A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 1 APRIL 2015

ENTRY FOR NIKARIA TROPHY
FOR SKIPPERS WITH MOST NUMBER OF RELEASED EELS
(OPEN TO ANY CHARTER OR PRIVATE BOAT SKIPPER)

Please complete this form with the number of eels returned to sea after each trip and return to Kath Lavis, 47 Rigdale Close, Eggbuckland, Plymouth, PL6 5PR by no later than 30 January 2016

NAME OF SKIPPER	NAME OF BOAT	DATE OF TRIP	NO OF EELS RELEASED	WITNESS (HEAD OF PARTY)	ADDRESS	TEL NUMBER

ENTRY FOR GEOFF FLORES BRONZE
MOST RETURNED EELS BY A MEMBER

Please complete this form with the number of eels returned to sea after each trip and return to Kath Lavis, 47 Rigdale Close, Eggbuckland, Plymouth, PL6 5PR by no later than 30 January 2016

DATE OF TRIP	NO OF EELS RELEASED	DATE OF TRIP	NUMBER OF EELS RELEASED

OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT – Mike Millman
29 Reddington Road, Higher Compton, Plymouth, PL3 6PS
Tel: 01752 515907

CHAIRMAN – Bryn Lavis
47 Rigdale Close, Eggbuckland, Plymouth, PL6 5PR
Tel: 01752 785917 E-mail: lavis784@btinternet.com

VICE CHAIRMAN AND SOCIAL SECRETARY - Ray Dower
76 The Mead, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 4HT
Tel: 01752 344715 E-mail: patrick.r.dower@sky.com

TREASURER – Kim Bowden
12 Padnell Road, Cowplain, Waterlooville, PO8 8DZ

SECRETARY - Di Byrne
2 Drake Court, 264 Citadel Road, Plymouth, PL1 2PY
Tel: 01752 223815 E-Mail: diana@byrne2230.freeserve.co.uk

REGISTRAR – Paul Sweetman
61 Foxes Meadow, Cotteridge, Birmingham, B30 1BQ
Tel: 0121 459 9387 E-Mail: geronimo1031@yahoo.co.uk

FISH RECORDER AND CUP CUSTODIAN - Kath Lavis
47 Rigdale Close, Eggbuckland, Plymouth, PL6 5PR
Tel: 01752 785917 E-Mail: lavis784@btinternet.com

FESTIVALS OFFICER – DAVE BALL
7 Trentham Road, Hartshill, Nunneaton, CV10 0SN
Tel: 02476 399522 E-Mail: daveball_eaga@yahoo.co.uk

WEB SITE MANAGER – Tony Allen
E-Mail: webmaster@britishcongerclub.org.uk
Web Site: HTTP://britishcongerclub.org.uk