

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2006

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Dear Member

Welcome to the April Newsletter

Enclosed with this edition are two entry forms. The first is for the Individual Members competition in Arbroath in May and the other for the Cod Championships in Pittenweem in June.

Helsingborg, Sweden. Cod Championships January 2006

My thanks to Jim Henderson who has provided the following article.

Flying from Stanstead where the 5 of us (Robbie, Stu, Jay, Les & I) met up went like clockwork and at the other end there is a train service from the airport direct to the ferry terminus. You don't even leave the station. You go up stairs, get a ticket for the ferry and in 20 minutes you are in Helsingborg.

On leaving the ferry at Helsingborg, we had difficulty getting taxis to our hotel. The drivers wanted 400-500 kroner per taxi (about £45.00). After telling them that their charges were too high or words to that effect, Stu Clew managed to get a mini-bus for about 200 kroner. (I knew Stu would come in handy for something!) This was greatly appreciated as it was snowing and very very cold. The duty free was put to good (medicinal) use when we reached our hotel!

Fishing on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday was very cold indeed and you had to pirk with gloves on and well wrapped up as the temperature, with wind chill, was about minus 18 degrees. This coupled with fine rain or sleety snow made conditions very unpleasant to say the least. On Saturday, my glasses had to come off as they were completely iced over and that was with a cap on and my hood up.

At one point I changed over from using a multiplier to my fixed spool reel which was on my other rod lying on a hatch cover. I attached a pirk to it, opened the bale arm and cast. The pirk went a great distance – pity it wasn't on my line – the reel was frozen solid!

We did manage to catch a few cod each day to weigh in although they seemed a bit smaller than in previous years.

Robbie was top Scot and I was second – the best angler from each country has to sing a song at the presentation ceremony – well that's what I told Robbie!

Out of 392 anglers, Robbie finished in 20th place and I managed 30th. In the pairs, Robbie and I finished in 12th place.

Fishing in such freezing conditions was a new experience but if you are considering entering don't be put off as this year as the temperatures were well below normal for this event.

AGM Report

Our 35th AGM was held in the Atholl, Bankfoot on Saturday 11th March and the following is a résumé of the meeting produced by Mrs Walker.

The following Office bearers posts were filled:

Chairman (for 3 years)

Joe Connolly

Vice Chairman (for 3 years)

Robbie Robertson

On 28th February, Mrs. Jeanne Lambert had written to intimate her desire to resign as secretary because of her health problems. This resignation made it necessary to find a replacement for one year to complete the secretary's 3 year term for which Mrs. Lambert was elected to serve in 2004. Mrs. Walker said that, in view of the circumstances, she was prepared to stand for the vacant position and, as there were no other nominations, she was duly elected.

Secretary (for 1 year)

Mrs. Libby Walker

The following members were duly elected on to the Executive Committee: Joe Edward, Jim Henderson, Ian MacGregor and Dan MacKay. There being no other nominations from the floor, the members agreed that the newly appointed Committee should co-opt four more members to fill the remaining positions.

The following appointments were made for a period of one year:

Fish Recorder	Joe Edward
Auditors (2)	Carl Ferrier and Sandy MacDonald
Standing Committee Delegates (2)	Joe Edward and Libby Walker

Joe Connolly will continue to have responsibility for the Order of Merit results and Joe Edward will undertake the work involved as Supplies Officer.

The table laid out with all the trophies, medals and prizes was very impressive.

Monthly Fish Awards	20 in total	(but only 3 were collected by winners at the AGM)
Annual Fish Trophies	4	(but only 2 were collected by winners at the AGM)
Annual Fish Medals	5	(but only 2 were collected by winners at the AGM)
Annual Fish Prizes	5	(but only 2 were collected by winners at the AGM)
Competition Trophies	2	(none were collected by winners at the AGM)
Competition Medals	9	(none were collected by winners at the AGM)
Competition Prizes	9	(none were collected by winners at the AGM)
Boat League Trophy	1	(not collected by winner at the AGM)
Boat League Medals	3	(but only 1 was collected by a winner at the AGM)
Boat League Prizes	3	(but only 1 was collected by a winner at the AGM)
Royal Bank of Scotland Quaich for Top Scot at the European Championships		(but winner was not be present at AGM)

The chairman thanked Joe Edward for presenting the Monthly and Annual Fish awards and Joe Connolly for announcing the Competition trophies and medal recipients. The meeting congratulated the 3 members present who had achieved awards and especially Joe Dent who was the first recipient of the new Fish Recorder's Trophy. It was presented to Joe in recognition of his determined commitment to the sport of sea angling plus his support at EFSA events both at home and abroad. At almost 79 years of age, Joe drives all over Scotland to fish events. In 2005 he competed at 8 of the Boat League legs, the European Boat Championships in Denmark and the EFSA (Scotland) Shore Championships in Gibraltar AND each year travels all the way from Newcastle to attend the AGM. As Joe Edward said while presenting the trophy – "Now that's what I call Dedication!"

No motions of business had been received from members.

Before closing the meeting, Mrs. Walker thanked the Executive Committee for all the work and decision making they had carried out during the previous twelve months and also the four members who had attended the AGM – 3 from Inverness and 1 from Newcastle. She also expressed her deep dismay that the level of attendance of members at the AGM had been so low. This is the meeting where the membership can put forward their views, ideas and suggestions for the future of EFSA (Scotland) and collect the trophies they have competed so hard for. Equally important, by attending they show their support for the section and its Executive Committee.

I hope you find the above report useful.

I am not prepared to be as polite as Mrs. Walker whose comments above will form part of the AGM minutes.

I consider that the level of attendance at the 2006 AGM was nothing short of abysmal. Only 4 members plus 8 of the Executive Committee were there. If EFSA (Scotland) is to have a future, this must change. The lack of members attending is little short of an insult to those who have given of their time and efforts to organise events and administer what is, at the end of the day, YOUR ORGANISATION.

The lack of support is entirely down to **you** as a member of EFSA (Scotland)

Yes, I mean you – if you didn't bother to attend (or send an apology)

Make the effort

A I MacGregor
Newsletter Editor