

FISHERIES SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Minutes of the 86th Council Meeting

Siemens Room, British Institute of Radiology, 36 Portland Place, London, W18 2AT

Wednesday 5th December 2007 at 1100

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING. (CM86.1). The President, Felicity Huntingford (FH), took the chair, opened the meeting at 1100 and drew Council's attention to changes in handling council business. Reporting matters should occupy the morning while items of policy should be debated in the longer period after lunch. The President welcomed a new council member Professor Maria Joao Collares-Pereira. The following were present: M. Kaiser (MK) (Vice-President), G.H. Copp (GC) (Treasurer), F.B. Eddy (FBE) (Secretary), R. Gozlan (RG), D. Quigley (DQ), I. Barber (IB), R. Britton (RB), Katherine Sloman (KS), Victoria Braithwaite (VB), Toby Carter (TC) (website), J. Craig (JC) (Editor JFB), N. Maclean (NM) (Supplement Editor JFB), Paul Hart (PH), (Newsletter Editor), C. Harrod (Belfast Symposium). Nigel Balmforth (NB) and Silvana Marciano (SM) (Blackwells) were present for part of the meeting.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies were received from P. Jurajda (PJ).
3. MINUTES OF THE 85th COUNCIL MEETING. (CM86.3). The minutes were approved and signed by the President.
4. MATTERS ARISING. Awards for outstanding young scientists (16). Council was concerned that giving a prize for the best paper by a young scientist was undesirable, since it would be impossible to distinguish the work of the young scientist from that of his/her supervisor. The President suggested that Council discuss further ideas for celebrating outstanding young scientists at the next meeting. Progress of the Encyclopaedia will be reported at the next meeting (NB). Developments in open access are being monitored by the Directors of Wiley-Blackwells and a paper from the Biosciences Federation indicated that scientific publishing must be properly funded or else learned societies may face demise. (13b and c).
5. TREASURER'S REPORT. (CM86.5x). The pre-circulated paper (CM86.5) has been replaced by an updated version containing revised income figures received from Wiley-Blackwells during the meeting (CM86.5x). This has been circulated to Councillors post-meeting. There has been some volatility in investments, but even so the Society's funds had shown some growth and yielded approximately the expected income of 3 – 4%. The President thanked the Treasurer for steering the Society through major changes in its financial structure. Many of the Society's activities including membership and mailing lists have in the past been handled with great competence by Granta Information Services and David Cole, the Director, retires this year. Acknowledgment of many years of excellent service will be marked with a letter of thanks and a gift for David. (FH, GC, FBE).
6. NEWS LETTER EDITOR'S REPORT. (CM86.6). The Editor welcomes contributions and the next Newsletter should remind members about nomination for medals (see 15),

while the Spring Newsletter should contain notice of the next AGM at Cardiff on 23 July 2008.

7. STUDENTSHIP COMMITTEE. (CM86.7). Advertisement of studentships has been changed to jobs.ac.uk since the type of entries suitable for the FSBI is now considered too expensive at Find-a-Ph D. The closing date for applications is 11th January 2008. There was discussion as to the best ways to demonstrate that FSBI studentships benefit the public interest and various forms of final output were considered. Councillors were invited to consider further and report at the April Council meeting, see also 12.
8. TRAVEL. (CM86.8). Apologies had been received from PJ and the acting convenor DQ delivered the report. He welcomed Maria Collares-Pereira to the committee and gratefully acknowledged the contributions of RB who has moved to the studentship committee.
9. RESEARCH GRANTS. (CM86.9). The number of applications was down compared to this time last year, but this may reflect peaks and troughs occurring over the years. The lack of applications for the Wyn Wheeler grant may be because it is as yet little known. It was agreed that it should remain open at least for the next year and should be well advertised to potential recipients. (VB).
10. FSBI Webmaster. (CM86.10). NB and SM present. Over the year visits to the FSBI site had levelled off and the new design for the site was nearing completion. Suggestions for operation of the site included links to the home pages of Councillors, images of Councillors, more information on existing studentships including a title and a brief summary of aims and achievements. The legality of paid advertisements on the site is to be investigated (GC, TC). The possibility of a “members only” area on the site, relating mainly to access to the Journal of Fish Biology, is to be further explored and reported to Council. (TC, SM).
11. JOURNAL OF FISH BIOLOGY
 - a) EDITOR’S REPORT. (CM86.11ai, aii). The report is to 20th November 2007 and over that period there was a good level of submissions, the rejection rate was 61% and the Editor continues to welcome papers on special topics. As from next year “Supplement” will be replaced by the title “Molecular and Cell Science” which will continue to be bound separately from the main journal but with merged pagination. The Book Reviews Editor, Peter Miller has retired and Council gratefully acknowledged his expert and committed contributions to the Society over the last 10 years. His replacement is Ian Winfield, CEH, Lancaster.
 - b) REPORT from Wiley-Blackwell Publishing. (CM86.11b). The level of subscription renewal was good, on-line subscriptions were up 10% while on-line usage was approximately the same as last year. The e-mailing of journal contents alerts to registered users showed an increase of 28% compared to last year (page 5) and the impact factor has increased slightly to 1.393. The attractiveness of the colour image package offered by J Fish Biol should be more strongly publicised (MK). NB had attended numerous conferences promoting Wiley-Blackwell journals, including J Fish Biol. Construction of a Fisheries Society poster for display at meetings is to be investigated (FH, FBE, SM). The feasibility and cost of an archive of J Fish Biol issues produced as a dvd to be investigated (SM, CH).

12. SOCIETY ADMINISTRATION. (CM86.12). Transfer of Society administrative matters from Granta to Martineau-Johnson prompted a review of the charitable aims of the Society and of how the activities of the Society could be organised to achieve maximum public benefit. A subscription of about £10 would open membership to almost all interested members of the public while access to the journal might involve a separate payment, the amount and administration to be negotiated with Wiley-Blackwell. Council was reminded by the President that this route was the only option and that the Society should follow the legal advice on Charity Law offered by Martineau-Johnson. Council was asked to report at the next meeting with further ideas on how the Society can direct its activities towards benefit of the public.
13. REVISION OF THE SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION. (CM86.13). A number of points in the draft version of the revised constitution were identified by the President, including quorum numbers at the AGM and at Council, the term of office and voting rights of co-opted and invited councillors, the legality of business conducted electronically and the status and responsibilities of Councillors. These points will be referred Martineau-Johnson for their advice. Vested interests of Councillors must be declared in advance of decision making meeting and Councillors should be aware of the Nolan Principles (FH, MK, FBE).
14. RUNNING FSBI COUNCIL BUSINESS THROUGH A WEB BASED DISCUSSION BOARD. (CM86.14). Advantages of such a system were outlined by the President and the response of Council was general approval. Some trial topics were suggested (see 15). Such a system had already been set up the day before by the Webmaster and there was discussion about suitable features for inclusion. The long term stability of the Webmaster's system (simply.com, a Namesco company) was discussed and cost is likely to be about £400 pa.
15. MEDALS (CM86.15). The President suggested modifications of the descriptor of the senior medal, the Beverton medal. Recipients could be outstanding contributors to research or they could be recognised for contributions to the discipline in areas such as communication or administration. Recipients need not be members of the Society and separate medals could be awarded to reflect outstanding contributions in different areas. It should be recognised that the awarding of medals is a good way to enhance the public profile of the Society. In seeking candidates the President suggested that the membership should receive an invitation by e-mail to identify and briefly introduce possible candidates. Responses would be considered by a sub-committee of Council who would invite supporting details and the cv of the strongest candidates. A short list of ideally 3 would be put to Council for the next stage of selection. The sub-committee of Council would be the President, Vice-President, 2 members of Council and a Life Member of Council, although the option to include a student or post-doctoral member remains open. Honorary members of the Society are T.Bagenal and J. Thorpe
16. BRIEFING PAPERS. (CM16). The paper on Climate Change (CH) is complete and awaits conversion into a review paper (or possibly two) for the Journal. The proposal by the Treasurer that £3000 be allocated for this task, delivered on submission of the paper, with a further £1000 for the open access option in the Journal was approved. CH was absent from the room during these discussions. The President invited councillors to propose further topics for briefing papers.

17. SYMPOSIA.

Exeter 2007. Council thanked the organisers for an excellent Symposium and the efficient administrative services of Pace Projects (Tricia Ellis-Evans) were gratefully acknowledged. There was a small positive balance (AB).

Cardiff, 21-25 July 2008, AGM 23rd July. Further advertisement of the Symposium is in progress, 64 abstracts have been received so far, and there is good progress in appointing key speakers and the guest editor. Administration is in the hands of Pace Projects. (IB).

Leicester, 13–17 July 2009, AGM 15th July. Good progress in organising the budget, accommodation and a guest editor was reported. (PH).

Belfast 2010. The last week of July was suggested as the most suitable time. The American Fisheries Society and Japanese Fisheries Society had been approached for contributions and the organiser hoped to include as many as possible whilst keeping to the traditional format of FSBI Symposia. A committee will be set up to help the organiser with the extra work demanded by this symposium. In view of rising costs a review of the budget of £10,000 for Symposia was suggested. (CH, GC, FH).

18. WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS/WORLD COUNCIL OF FISHERIES SOCIETY. (CM18a,b).

World Fisheries Congress Edinburgh 2012. Input to the Congress by the Society was generally approved by Council, although it now seems unlikely that Inigo Everson can continue to represent the Society's interests. It was suggested that Sandy Scott should be approached as a replacement (FH). There should be full understanding of the facilities offered by the conference organisers (MK).

19. COLLABORATION with other fisheries societies. (CM86.19).

American Fisheries Society. Representation by the Society at the "Fish Diversity" conference at Denver in 2009 was discussed and action, including sponsoring one of the FSBI students, is required by March 2008. The Exeter Symposium was attended by Shane Vatland, a student sponsored by the American Fisheries Society, and a letter of thanks and appreciation has been received.

Australian Fisheries Society. A similar student exchange system involving the Australian Fisheries Society has been suggested by Heather Paterson and financial implications are to be explored (GC, IB).

20. PREPARATIONS FOR THE AGM. (CM86.20). At least three vacancies will occur on Council at the AGM in July 2008 and Councillors are asked to invite nominations. So far there are 2 nominees willing to stand for election.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. The Society's archive papers currently located in Cambridge, Dundee and Leicester should be transferred to the Birmingham offices of Martineu-Johnson where there is storage space (FBE, GC, PH and Inigo Everson).

22. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. Thursday 10 April 2008, at the Linnean Society.

FB Eddy Honorary Secretary