

FISHERIES SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Minutes of the 87th Council Meeting

Linnean Society, Council Room, London

Thursday 10th April 2008 at 1100

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING.** The President, Felicity Huntingford (FH), took the chair and opened the meeting at 1100. The following were present: M. Kaiser (MK) (Vice-President), F.B. Eddy (FBE) (Secretary), R. Gozlan (RG), D. Quigley (DQ), I. Barber (IB), R. Britton (RB), Katherine Sloman (KS), J. Craig (JC) (Editor JFB), N. Maclean (NM) (Supplement Editor JFB), Paul Hart (PH), (Newsletter Editor). Nigel Balmforth (NB) and Silvana Marciano (SM) (Wiley-Blackwells) were present for part of the meeting. The agenda was adopted, (CM87.1).
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies were received from P. Jurajda (PJ), Maria Joao Collares-Pereira (MCP), Gordon Copp (GC), Chris Harrod (CH), Toby Carter (TC) and Victoria Braithwaite (VB).
3. **MINUTES OF THE 85th COUNCIL MEETING.** (CM87.3). The minutes were approved and signed by the President.
4. **MATTERS ARISING.** The President had received an appreciative letter from David Cole of Granta thanking the Society for gifts of crystal glass and whisky. The Wyn Wheeler grant has yet to receive applicants but since it is relatively new it should continue and be reviewed at the December meeting. There is a strong case to appoint some more Life Members and suggestions from Council are encouraged, to be discussed at the December meeting. The question surrounding paid advertisements on the Society web page was briefly mentioned and will be reviewed at the next meeting. The budget for symposia has remained at 10K for several years and an increase to 12K was proposed, subject to agreement by the Treasurer (GC). A student exchange programme with the Australian Fisheries Society, possibly extending to 2K per student, will be further explored. FSBI students attending Australian conferences of appropriate theme and timing would be encouraged to visit laboratories relevant to their studies (MK).
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT.** (CM87.5). Since the Auditor's report would not be available in time for the meeting a draft account was circulated (CM87.5). The final report would be available at the AGM in July. The President commented on the healthy state of the Society's finances and thanked the Treasurer for meticulous and efficient handling of the financial affairs of the Society.
6. **NEWS LETTER EDITOR'S REPORT.** There was no written report and as usual the Editor welcomes contributions. For convenient access by members and for the benefit non-members it was suggested that the newsletter should also appear as a pdf file on the website and the "hits" monitored. Appropriate issues of the Newsletter could contain a report from the President on recent Council business. The next Newsletter will contain notice of the next AGM at Cardiff on 23 July 2008. (**Action FH, PH**).

7. STUDENTSHIP COMMITTEE. (CM87.7a,b). This year the applications were of a good standard but there were fewer (13) compared to last year (15) and the previous year (21). Seven students were interviewed, 2 by telephone and the two appointments were considered to be of excellent quality. Anna Lewis's project is on otolith microchemistry at Southampton/CEFAS supervised by Clive Trueman and Ewan Hunter. Mathew Edenbrow's project is on behaviour in killifish at Bangor supervised by Darren Croft.

A major issue arising from the Discussion Document (CM87.7b) was conflict of interest e.g. a studentship committee member as a potential supervisor of an FSBI student. Advice from Stephen Claus of Martineu-Johnson (11.1.i in the new draft constitution) was the Councillors should not be barred from benefits provided by the Society. A Councillor who is a potential primary supervisor should not participate in the appointment process for that particular student and an independent assessor appointed instead for the relevant meeting. Participation by peripheral supervisors should be reviewed on a case by case basis and independent assessors appointed as necessary. A careful and detailed record of all proceedings is essential (MK).

Council approved the idea that upon appointment each student should be assigned to an appropriate Council Member as mentor. Interactions would be by email in the first instance. The main aim would be pastoral support rather than academic supervision of the project. RB and KS agreed to be mentors for the 2008 students. (**Action IB, KS, RB**). Students starting in 2008 will also be encouraged to attend one FSBI Symposium and can receive financial support (£500). If the theme is inappropriate to their subject, then a 15 minute presentation could be given in a session immediately before the AGM (**Action IB, GC**).

The AFS, through Glen Contreras, offers the exchange programme to the 2008 FSBI students (**Action IB, GC**).

On completion of their study, students should produce a summary or other suitably designed document for the Society's website to demonstrate benefit to the public interest. It was agreed that supervisors should produce a final output document.

8. TRAVEL. (CM87.8). Apologies had been received from PJ and the acting convenor DQ delivered the report. The number of applications was levelling but the total amount requested had increased. An increase in funding in future years may be necessary. Reports should include the name and address of the recipient. (**Action DQ, PJ, GC**).
9. RESEARCH GRANTS. (CM87.9). There were 16 applications in the January 2007 round of which the top two were funded.
10. FSBI Webmaster. (CM87.10). At this point NB and SM joined the meeting. This item was taken with item 13, Running FSBI Business through a Web Based Discussion Board. The recently redesigned website averaged about 650 hits a day. Recent additions to expedite FSBI business include a discussion forum and a secure site for confidential conduct of awarding medals. The President was greatly appreciative that Toby Carter had organised these with speed and efficiency. Toby is now head of department and remains willing to continue as webmaster even though his time is more constrained. It may be wise to start considering other options aiming to achieve a user-friendly site for Society business even if professional input is required. These operations could be overseen by Toby Carter. (**Action FH, TC**).

11. JOURNAL OF FISH BIOLOGY

- a) Editor's Report. (CM87.11a). Over the first quarter of 2008 there was a good level of submissions but an increase in page number for 2009 was not envisaged. The time between acceptance and publication is now about 3 months. The Editor is encouraging Special Issues and the first on microarrays will appear in June. Subsequent topics include reproductive physiology, conservation and biology of eels. There is interest in purchase of Special Issues as single items, **to be investigated by NB and MK**. The publishing process, now with Wiley-Blackwells continues smoothly. The Editor extended special thanks to the production editor Tanya Kneller, who is on maternity leave, and has been replaced by Fiona McLeod. The Society wishes to express appreciation of Tanya's excellent service through a letter from the President. **(Action FH)**. FSBI Briefing Papers on the web have proved to be successful, but they do tend to show different styles and formatting. The Vice-President (MK) suggested that through Wiley-Blackwells they could be format edited to a uniform style and be clearly identifiable as FSBI productions. **(Action MK, NB)**.
- b) Report from Wiley-Blackwell Publishing. (CM87.11b). A successful year under the banner of Wiley-Blackwells was reported (SM) with increases in impact factor, downloads and profits for the Society. Membership is now managed by Wiley-Blackwells and to date there are 466 membership renewals but further renewals are expected in the period to July when the membership year closes. The advantages of on-line abstracts in Chinese (or other languages) of key papers in the Journal **will investigated (NB)**. Developments in open access are constantly under review by Wiley-Blackwell and a further updating seminar can be arranged for June (NB, FH).

12. SOCIETY ADMINISTRATION. (CM87.12a,b,c,d,e.). The new draft constitution was introduced by the President and the responsibilities of elected councillors (or trustees) were emphasised. Specific tasks on Council are performed by Guest Councillors e.g. Editor of the Journal, Newsletter Editor for as long as required. Their input to a wide range of council business is greatly valued but they do not vote on council matters. Elected Councillors are required to be fully aware of the regulations set out by the Charities Commission (CC3, *The Essential Trustee, what you need to know*, CM87.12d) and confirm by signing the accompanying form and returning it to the Secretary. Since the Society is a charitable organisation it is important to identify ways to benefit the public and the President encourages suggestions. **(Action FBE, Elected Councillors)**.

13. REVISION OF THE SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION. This item was taken under (12), Society Administration.

14. BRIEFING PAPERS. A paper on "Non-native freshwater fish" is in preparation (RG) and the President invited topics for future papers.

15. SYMPOSIA. (CM86.15a,b,c, d).

Cardiff, 21-25 July 2008, AGM 23 rd July. Arrangements for the Symposium are well in hand and Alan Pike has agreed to be Guest Editor. Administration is in the hands of Pace Projects. (IB).

Leicester, 13-17 July 2009, AGM 15th July. Preparations for the meeting progress well and Carl Smith has agreed to be the Guest Editor. (PH).

Belfast 2010. The paper from CH indicated satisfactory preparations with organising committees in place and organisation by Pace projects. Ian Winfield will be the guest editor.

Proposals for the 2011 Symposium were invited by the President, to be discussed at the next meeting of Council.

The Symposium at Exeter was successful, was within budget and received good feedback. It attracted 76 delegates and the meeting ended with an open-ended discussion on non-native fishes. The organisers pointed out that there were several instances, mainly from overseas, where posters were accepted but failed to translate into registrations.

16. WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS/WORLD COUNCIL OF FISHERIES SOCIETIES. (CM16a,b).

The Society will be represented by FH and MK at the 5th World Congress in Japan in September 2008 where we are hosting a workshop on Welfare and Fisheries. Funds have been requested for travel and for running an e-mail conferencing facility.

6th World Congress 2012. Sandy Scott has agreed to help further the Society's bid to hold the Congress in Edinburgh in May 2012. A deposit of £50,000 is required by October to secure the Edinburgh Conference Centre and later the Society would contribute about £300,000 to progress arrangements. These proposals were approved by Council.

17. MEDALS. (CM87.17). The President reminded Council that the FSBI Medal was awarded for scientific excellence and promise. Criteria for the Beverton medal included outstanding contributions to research, excellence in contributions to the scientific community including teaching and/or administration and outstanding communication of fish biology. For this year's Beverton medal it was considered difficult to focus on particular criteria and Council decided to vote on overall excellence of the nominees. In future, the Society would institute one or more senior medals to recognise the different areas of contribution and suggestions were invited by the President. The high standard of all the nominees received favourable comment from the President and the Medals Committee had narrowed the field to three nominations for the FSBI medal and four for the Beverton medal. Voting at the meeting was by secret ballot and those receiving most votes were Steven Cook for the FSBI medal and Paul Hart for the Beverton medal. **(Action FBE, FH).**

18. COLLABORATION with other fisheries societies. (CM87.18).

American Fisheries Society. The President had invited the President of the American Fisheries Society, Mary Fabrizio to the Cardiff Symposium. Glen Contreras (AFS) and IB have been in communication about the student exchange programme.

Australian Fisheries Society. There will be further exchanges with Heather Paterson about a possible student exchange programme. **(Action FH).** See 3 Matters arising.

19. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2008 AGM. (CM87.19). At least 4 new councillors are required to replace retiring councillors and a list of nominations from Council was agreed. **(Action FBE).**

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. The President suggested proposing Dr Peter Maitland for the Carl R Sullivan Award of the AFS, Council approved proceeding with the nomination. **(Action FH).**

21. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. Monday 1st December at the Royal Astronomical Society.

FB Eddy Honorary Secretary