

# FISHERIES SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Minutes of the 88th Council Meeting  
Royal Astronomical Society, Monday 1st December 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), G. Copp (GC) Treasurer, R. Gozlan (RG), D. Quigley (DQ), I. Barber (IB), Katherine Sloman (KS), Ian McCarthy (IM), V. Kovac (VC), Maria Collares-Pereira (MC), Ingrid Ahnesjo (IA), Joanna Grabowska (JG), J. Craig (JC) (Editor JFB), N. Maclean (NM) (Supplement Editor JFB), P. Hart (PH) (Newsletter Editor), C. Harrod (CH) (Belfast Symposium), Nigel Balmforth (NB) and Silvana Marciano (SM) (Wiley-Blackwells). The agenda was adopted.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies were received from R. Britton..
3. MINUTES OF THE 85th COUNCIL MEETING. (CM87.3). Amendments to the minutes. 16, addition to the last sentence, "The Society would contribute and expect to recover at least £300.000". 17, Cook altered to Cooke. The minutes were approved and signed by the President.
4. MATTERS ARISING. The President's suggestion to appoint more Honorary Life members was supported by Council and recommendations with a short paragraph of justification should be sent to the Secretary in time for the April 2009 meeting. The issue of paid advertisements on the Society's web pages awaits advice from the Society's charity law advisor, Stephen Claus (**action GC**). Tanya Kneller received a letter of appreciation and thanks from the President.
5. TREASURER'S REPORT. Volatile markets had reduced the Society's reserves by about 30% to £1 million, but there were significant gains from a budget surplus and VAT returns. The Treasurer reassured Council that the financial structure of Society is designed to address foreseeable obligations. On the advice of the Auditors, the Society insured to cover the burden of responding to HM Customs and Revenue, and a VAT inspection of the Society's finances is in the hands of the Auditors. All other aspects of the Society's insurance were transferred to a broker specialising in Charities. The President and Council thanked the Treasurer for continued efficient management of the Society's finances. \*
6. NEWS LETTER EDITOR'S REPORT. There was no written report and the Editor welcomes contributions. The Newsletter now appears on the web pages and it is planned that past issues will be posted. The President intends to contribute a brief account of Council proceedings in the next Newsletter (**action FH**). Contributions from Ph D students should be encouraged and as should book reviews of general interest (**action CH, book reviews Editor Ian Winfield, JC**)
7. STUDENTSHIP COMMITTEE. The call for studentship applications is now on-line (jobs.ac.uk), deadline 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Two students David Boyle and Nic Graham have completed their studies, both have post-doctoral positions aboard and this good news should appear in the Newsletter (**action FH, IB, PH**). Student profiles now appear on the Society's web-pages (TC). It is in the best interests of all concerned if

students complete within three years although in exceptional circumstances, extensions may be granted. Extensions of 6 months are available to NERC funded students making a reasonable case and the implications of the Society following this route were discussed. Council's opinion was that requests for extensions should be fully justified and that mentors could have an early role in expedition of problems. Mary Ledlie requested suspension of her studentship for 1 year and the outcome of a meeting between the student, her supervisor and her mentor in January will be reported to Council in April (**action IB**).\*

8. TRAVEL. The number of awards for 2008 is 19, not 10, as shown in the report. Funds are sufficient for current operation of the committee.\*
9. RESEARCH GRANTS. Discussions with Martineu Johnson had resolved problems in distribution of papers to committee members. Since there were no applications for the Wyn Wheeler award, the funds were directed to research grants. \*
10. FSBI Webmaster. Items 12 and 13 was included with item 10. The web site is an increasingly important medium for communicating with the Society and web traffic significantly increased in 2008. Examples include the e-conference for the World Fisheries Congress in Japan and the activity associated with studentship awards. This good work by the Webmaster was gratefully acknowledged by Council, at the same time recognising that duties in his institution allow little scope for further major developments. These include a web-based e-mail discussion board for Council business and an efficient site for running the 2012 World Council of Fisheries Societies in Edinburgh. It was proposed that a professional web provider be engaged and that Toby Carter would oversee operations. Council was invited to provide details, specifications and costs (up to 7K) of suitable providers at the April meeting (**action GC, MK, TC, FBE, Council**). \* and paper from FH and TC.
11. JOURNAL OF FISH BIOLOGY
  - a) Editor's Report. The Editor reported good progress for 2008 with over 900 submissions to date. The cost of single items of the Special Issues is to be investigated (**SM**).\*
  - b) Report from Wiley-Blackwell Publishing. The report for the Journal of Fish Biology, presented by SM, included many positive items including increased circulation and a good renewal rate by subscribers. Subscriptions by members are preferred by direct debit and the paperwork will be circulated in the near future. It was agreed by Council that the web page on the Wiley-Blackwell site should positively identify with The Journal of Fish Biology (**action GC, SM, NB**). Electronic versions of the Journal poster are to be available for viewing by Council (**action FBE, SM, NB**). The President thanked the Editor and the Wiley-Blackwell team. \* Interim Publishers Report (SM).
12. SOCIETY ADMINISTRATION. This item was addressed in item 10. The new proposed constitution was circulated for approval by the membership in early November The closing date for responses is 15<sup>th</sup> December.
13. RUNNING FSBI COUNCIL BUSINESS THROUGH A WEB BASED DISCUSSION BOARD. This item was taken under item 10.
14. BRIEFING PAPERS. A paper on "Non native freshwater fish introductions" by Rudy Goslan is complete and will be sent to independent reviewers by MK. Copies will also

be available for Council and the President thanked Rudy for this important contribution. Briefing papers, including past issues, should have an individual format identifying them with the Society. The cost of about £420 per paper was approved by the Treasurer and Council (**action GC, SM, MK**). It was suggested by some Councillors that effective publicity for briefing papers and other activities of the Society would be best performed by a “Society Press Officer” (see item 18). The President invited topics for future papers.

#### 15. SYMPOSIA.

Cardiff, 2008. The report for the Cardiff Symposium awaits final accounts from Pace Projects.

Leicester, 13–17 July 2009, AGM 15<sup>th</sup> July. So far 81 abstracts have been received, Carl Smith has agreed to be the Guest Editor, most key note speakers are in place and further sponsors are sought. (PH).

Belfast 2010. “Fish and Climate Change”. There is good progress, accommodation has been secured and the call for abstracts will be sent in mid-2009. Ian Winfield will be the guest editor.\*

2011. A Symposium on “Fish diversity and conservation” was proposed by Rudy Gozlan and Rob Britton at Bournemouth. The president mentioned that Andy Turnpenny of Jacobs Aquatics enquired about organising a symposium with the Society on a theme relating to control of fish behaviour in dams and managed waterways. There was discussion as to how this might fit in with the Society’s plans for symposia.

#### 16. WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS/WORLD COUNCIL OF FISHERIES SOCIETIES.

The Society was represented by FH and MK at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Japan in September 2008. The President presented a paper on aquatic welfare and the Vice President sought views on the subject through an e-conference before the meeting. More than 100 registrations yielded about 10 contributions, all offering useful comments. Declan Quigley was independently at the conference and contributed views on marine stewardship.

6th World Congress 2012, Edinburgh. The Society’s bid to host the congress was successful and arrangements with the organisers and the Convention Centre are in hand. Sandy Scott has agreed to oversee some of the tasks which include publicity, posters, sponsors, publishers, trade stands satellite meetings and student orientated sessions. The FSBI Symposium for 2012 could be held as usual in July or it could be brought forward as part of the Edinburgh congress. The President will report at the April meeting (**action FH**). \*Paper from FH and MK and The Presidents list of tasks.

17. MEDALS. The procedures set up in 2008 will be used in 2009 and the committee is FH, MK, KS and IB. The appropriate pages on the web site will be activated in January by TC.

#### 18. COLLABORATION with other fisheries societies.

American Fisheries Society. This year’s FSBI students are applying for honorary membership of the AFS. Our contact in the AFS, Glen Contreras is retiring we look forward to organising student exchanges with his successor.

Australian Fisheries Society. Opportunities for progress remain open, see also item 14, Briefing Papers and publicity.

19. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2008 AGM. Suggestions for new councillors should be sent to the Secretary, including their name, address, their willingness to seek election and a brief summary of their suitability and interests. The Secretary and Treasurer complete 4 years office in July 2009 and are eligible for re-election for a further 4 years.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

A proposal from John Thorpe for joint WSCS-FSBI sponsorship for a translation and joint publication the book Behaviour, Migrations, Distribution and Stock Abundance of Sturgeon Fishes in the Volga-Caspian Basin has just been received and will be discussed at the April meeting.

Access to electronic application forms for grants and other activities financed by the Society was unsatisfactory and committee conveners were asked to peruse these issues with Martineu Johnson.

21. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009

FB Eddy Honorary Secretary

\* Reports, documents submitted.