



FISHERIES SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

48th Annual General Meeting,
University of Plymouth, Wednesday 29th July 2015

Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting

Present

Honorary Officers: Ian Winfield (President), John Pinnegar (Secretary), Rob Britton (Treasurer).

23 Members of the Society.

1. Apologies for absence

Iain Barber (Vice President) although connected via Skype.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting

Proposed by John Pinnegar (Secretary), seconded by Gary Carvalho, no votes against (voted by a show of hands).

3. Matters arising

None

4. FSBI President's report (Ian Winfield)

Ian Winfield highlighted the fantastically diverse range of participants at this year's symposium, also the generally younger audience. He mentioned that the FSBI is starting to think about its 50th Anniversary in 2017 and that he would welcome suggestions from members about how this milestone might be celebrated.

FSBI continues to enjoy excellent links with other Societies. Ian welcomed international guests from two sister societies. Continuing a long-standing arrangement with the American Fisheries Society (AFS), Donna Parrish was in attendance in her position as President of that organisation, while in a new development Shugo Watabe attended in his capacity as President of the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science (JSFS). Ian also welcomed two further colleagues from Japan. Shuichi Satoh attended the meeting in

his capacity as Chair of the International Relations Committee of JSFS and Yumi Terashima as Secretariat of the Editorial Office of JSFS.

Ian's report mainly focused on four general areas of FSBI activities: (1) publishing; (2) publicity; (3) Social Media, and (4) links with other societies.

The world of publishing continues to change rapidly and fundamentally. The arrival and proliferation of Open Access is necessitating that all publishers, whether they are commercial companies or learned societies or hybrids of the two, review their business models and try to anticipate how publishing patterns will develop. It is essential that FSBI get such things right because the finances of FSBI, and thus all of our activities, depend so much on the income generated by the *Journal of Fish Biology*.

The FSBI's publishers Wiley continue to be major national and international players in the Open Access debate and so are able to give us excellent information and wise council. They are also active with respect to the rapid changes taking place in digital publishing and we are delighted that an iOS 'App' for the *Journal of Fish Biology* was released earlier this year, the use of which incurs no charge for FSBI members already enjoying electronic access to this excellent and widely taken journal. In addition, we are pleased to have recently reached an agreement with Wiley that gives FSBI members a 35% discount off virtually all of their print books. Finally with respect to publishing, for many years FSBI has had various activities outside its main activity of publishing the *Journal of Fish Biology*. These have tended to come and go as opportunities and requests have presented themselves, without any overall strategy. The time is now right to put these activities on a more formal basis and so with effect from today we have decided to establish a Publications Committee to help Council oversee these diverse activities.

In 2014/15 FSBI have agreed to sponsor the production of two books: (1) a translation from Chinese of *Fishes of the genus Sinocyclocheilus in China* by Zhao and Zheng; (2) *Freshwater Fisheries Ecology*, by John Craig.

Publicity continues to be an active area for FSBI. We strongly believe that the FSBI have a tremendous amount to offer the international fish and fisheries research and management community and that we need to make this known both here in the UK and further afield. Consequently, FSBI have continued to develop our publicity activities and now have a range of posters, leaflets and other promotional items for use at conferences and elsewhere. Ian encouraged any members attending conferences to consider taking a few such materials with them and thus helping to spread the word.

Related to publicity and thanks to **Brian Hayden**, the FSBI is now well established in the world of Social Media. Our Twitter (@TheFSBI) and Facebook (TheFSBI) accounts have healthy followings (635 and 264 followers/likes respectively) and we keep a watchful and cautious eye on other developments in this area. After a 12 month trial starting in 2014, Brian's role as social media coordinator has now made permanent. Ian encouraged any members who use Social Media and who have not already done so to take a look and 'follow' or 'like' the accounts as appropriate.

Following the success of FSBI's hosting of the 6th World Fisheries Congress in Edinburgh during May 2012 and the enhanced international profile that it brought to us, Ian has devoted a substantial amount of time and energy to fostering international relationships. In particular Ian is pleased that we have been able to continue and strengthen our long-standing relationship with the *American Fisheries Society*, including our student exchange programme (this year Jeremy Higgs was in Plymouth and Dominic Andradi-Brown will shortly travel to Portland).

We now also have formal exchange agreements in place with the *China Society of Fisheries* and the *Japanese Society of Fisheries Science*, together with links with the *Canadian Conference For Fisheries Research* including a period of student exchanges (this year Stephanie Sabbagh was in Plymouth and Lauren Laing travelled to Ottawa). FSBI have also recently enjoyed numerous collaborations with the *European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission* and with the *Institute of Fisheries Management*. In addition to these specific international initiatives, throughout this period FSBI has continued to distribute a substantial component of its grant awards to many of its members resident outside the UK. We are also an active member of the *World Council of Fisheries Societies* and are keenly following, and supporting where appropriate, preparations by *The Korean Society of Fisheries and Aquatic Science* to host the 7th World Fisheries Congress in Busan during May 2016 (23-27th May 2016).

Ian conveyed the sad news that a long-standing colleague and good friend of the FSBI, Phil Hickley, had unexpectedly passed away. Phil had relentlessly served a number of the above societies during his working life, and was spending an early part of his 'retirement' acting as Guest Editor for FSBI 2014. To Phil's credit, the proceedings were duly published in great shape and on schedule in December 2014. He will be greatly missed by many colleagues around the world.

Ian expressed his great thanks to the many individuals who have worked tirelessly for FSBI over the last 12 months and over the 4 years during his term in office. Specifically, Ian issued his thanks to:

- Retiring FSBI Council member Colin Adams

- John Craig, Hilary Craig, Rosie Trice, Nigel Balmforth and colleagues on the editorial and publishing teams of Journal of Fish Biology
- Brian Hayden (Social Media Editor), Paul Hart (Newsletter Editor), Terry Langford (Publicity Coordinator) and Alan Pike (Web Content Editor)
- International Representatives Victoria Braithwaite (North America), Culum Brown (Australasia), Chris Harrod (South America, resigned), Jiashou Liu (China) and Paulo Pompeu (South America)
- Stephen Claus and Shirley Robinson of Brabners LLP
- David Sims and colleagues including Guest Editor Jim Ellis, who have worked long and hard in delivering Symposium 2015
- Present and past fellow Officers Iain Barber, Rob Britton (aided by Shirley Haider), Gordon Copp (aided by Elizabeth Copp), Brian Eddy and John Pinnegar

5. Message from the President of the American Fisheries Society.

Donna Parrish thanked the FSBI for inviting her, for hospitality shown by the Society and commented favourably on the international nature of the Symposium and the Society. The student exchange programme was clearly working well and an AFS student Jeremy Higgs was benefitting from this scheme. The President of the FSBI and a reciprocal exchange student (Dominic Andradi-Brown) were invited to attend the 145th Annual AFS meeting in Portland, Oregon (16-20 Aug 2015). Donna highlighted that the annual AFS meeting is usually a much larger meeting (and more generic) with a vast program (36 concurrent sessions, 2100 presentations) and between 1000 and 4000 attendees each year. Donna explained that the AFS has a staff of around 20, operating under Executive Director Doug Austen. The AFS publishes 6 journals.

Donna mentioned that the next World Fisheries Congress (WFC) will be in Busan, South Korea (now scheduled for 23-27th May 2016). This will be supported by the AFS and the FSBI. Donna has now been co-opted onto the organising committee and she stated that the committee were still accepting session proposals. She hoped to see as many people as possible from throughout the world, participating in the WFC.

6. Message from the President of the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science (JSFS)

Shugo Watabe thanked the FSBI for inviting him, and for hospitality shown by the Society. Dr Watabe suggested that he had worked on freshwater elasmobranchs in the past and that he was very much enjoying the conference.

Japan has had a very tough time over the past 4 years following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The fishing industry in particular was very heavily impacted,

and some of the best fishing grounds in the world were rendered unusable. In 2011 the FSBI kindly contributed to a relief fund that was set up to help university experimental stations and students to recover. Since 2011 fisheries have recovered by 80-90% but it has taken time. The JSFS expressed its sincere gratitude to the FSBI.

JSFS will be contributing significantly to the next World Fisheries Congress (WFC) in Busan, South Korea. The WFC has been held in Asia twice before (in Beijing, China in 2000 and in Yokohama in 2008). Dr Watabe encouraged FSBI members to participate in the meeting.

7. Honorary Secretary's report (John K. Pinnegar)

Number of Members July 2015 = 759 (588 in 2012). Administration of membership by Brabners, Liverpool is working very well. Membership has now recovered following a severe drop in 2007 due to administrative problems. Approximately 78% of members reside in the United Kingdom and Europe but there are also significant numbers in North and South America, Australasia and the Far East.

FSBI Studentship Committee - Committee chair: Nic Bury (Kings College). 10 PhD students currently on the books (including the 2 new ones). 18 PhD applications were received in the December 2014 round, of which 8 applicants were interviewed. The quality of applications was excellent and, following the short-listing and interview process, two studentships were offered to: (1) Agnieszka Magierecka, who will be registered at the University of Glasgow, her project title is: *Transgenerational effects of chronic environmental stress*; (2) Nick Jones, who will be registered at University of St. Andrews, his project is entitled: *Sophisticated social learning in fish: a candidate species for true imitations*.

The FSBI holds an annual competition (in March) open to any student member wishing to apply for an undergraduate summer internship. This will be the fifth year of the FSBI internship programme, but only eight applications were received by the 31st March deadline. So far, this scheme has been largely under-subscribed. The FSBI will provide a grant of £200 (c. €236) per week up to a maximum of £1600 (i.e. 8 weeks) towards subsistence and travel expenses. We expect that 8-10 awards will be made each year.

FSBI Research Grants Committee - Committee chair: Andrew Gill (Cranfield University). Three rounds of applications each year (Jan, May and Sept). 17 valid applications were received for the January 2015 round, totalling £70,829. The top 3 proposals (17.6%) were funded totalling £9,783. No Wyn Wheeler awards (aimed at retired or retiring scientists) were awarded in 2014/15. FSBI research grants are open to all members,

irrespective of their nationality. In 2014/15 59% of applications came from UK members, 20% from other EU countries, 14% from North America and 7% from other countries.

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Proposals received</i>	<i>Proposals funded</i>	<i>% funded</i>	<i>£ Requested</i>	<i>£ Awarded</i>	<i>Wyn Wheeler grants awarded</i>
Jan 2015	17	3	17.6	£70,829	£9,783	0
Sept 2014	17	4	23.5	£ 68,249	£10,317	0
May 2014	29	2	6.9	£124,894	£10,000	0
Jan 2014	15	4	26.7	£67,490	£17,403	0

FSBI Travel Grants Committee - Committee chair: Colin Adams (Glasgow University).

The primary purpose of FSBI Travel Grants is to enable researchers to present their work at international meetings other than the FSBI annual conference. Grant competitions are open to any member of the Society, regardless of their geographical location. Four rounds of applications each year (March, June, September, December). 21 Travel grants (£18,100) were awarded in 2014 (compared to 23 in 2013). The March 2015 round received 15 applications (for a total of £11,419), 8 were funded (costing £6565) – a success rate of 53%.

Sponsorship - During its history, FSBI has sponsored a number of ‘external’ activities. Over the past year we have received many more requests than was previously typical. In 2014 more robust protocols were put in place, including a new template/form and a maximum request of £5000. During 2014 FSBI have agreed to sponsor: (1) ‘Below the waterline’ film on British freshwater fish (£1,500); (2) The 5th International Otolith Symposium at Paguera, Spain (£4,200); (3) ‘Insights from Behavioural Science to improve Fisheries Management’ workshop (£5,000); (4) Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conference (£2,250); (5) NoWPas 2015 workshop (£1,500); (6) Translation of a book on Chinese cave fish, by a suitably qualified postgraduate student.

Communication - The FSBI website is the primary route through which we reach our members. In 2014/15 considerable effort has been dedicated towards the development of electronic application forms. The FSBI website editor is Alan Pike. The FSBI Newsletter is published quarterly and contains general interest articles on the activities of members. The FSBI newsletter editor is Paul Hart. An FSBI Twitter feed (@TheFSBI) and Facebook (TheFSBI) page were launched in January 2014. The FSBI social media editor is Brian Hayden.

In 2015, the FSBI will create a new 'publications committee', to be chaired by the vice president, with 2 members of Council, Editor in Chief of JFB, and a publishers representative. The purpose of this committee will be:

- To identify and evaluate on behalf of council, medium to long-term publication opportunities for the FSBI.
- To identify, and advise council on, changes in the business operation of JFB, and other FSBI publications.
- To create and maintain strong and responsive links between council, publishers (most particularly those of JFB) and the editorial team.
- To manage strategic change for the society in all its publications

Medals - Excellent nominations were received for all three medals, and the following were duly selected as recipients for 2015:

- **Beverton Medal** – awarded to a distinguished scientist for a lifelong contribution to all aspects of the study of fish biology - with a focus on ground-breaking research. **Ian Cowx (University of Hull)**
- **Le Cren Medal** – awarded to individuals who have made a lifelong contribution to all aspects of the study of fish biology and/or fisheries science, with a focus on conservation, training or public understanding. **Gordon McGregor Reid (Director, Chester Zoo)**
- **FSBI Medal** - awarded to younger scientists (< 40 years old) who are deemed to have made exceptional advances in the study of fish biology and/or fisheries science in recognition of their achievements. Kathryn Elmer (University of Glasgow)

Future FSBI Symposia

FSBI Symposium 2016 (Bangor, Wales) – Fish, Genes and Genomes: Contributions to Ecology, Evolution and Management (Convener: Gary Carvalho & Paul Shaw, University of Bangor)

2017 is the 50th Anniversary of the FSBI. The society is considering a slightly broader symposium, covering multiple themes. Members are invited to suggest possible theme session ideas for the 2017 event, as well as venue suggestions.

Questions from the audience

Looking at the Council – does it need a better gender balance? (Currently there are 3 women and 11 men). Ian Winfield commented that the FSBI are certainly aware of the

issue, and that we will try to maintain some gender/subject balance as we recruit 4 replacement members of Council in 2016.

Internships – a member suggested he hadn't heard about the scheme before, and that it needs more publicity. Could the FSBI move the submission date later in the year, as many students don't know what they want to do this early in the term.

8. *Journal of Fish Biology*, Editor in Chief's Report

There were 1097 papers submitted to the *Journal of Fish Biology* during 2014 (1115 in 2013). These comprised 1037 offered for the regular issues, six Review Papers, 20 for the Special Issue for the FSBI Symposium (Hull), three for the Special Issue on Killifishes, nine for the Special Issue from the Ninth Smolt Workshop, 16 for the Special Issue on Metabolic Rate in Fishes, six for the Special Issue on Brazilian Ichthyology. These special issues continue to attract a large number of review papers.

The Guest Editor for the 2015 Symposium *The Biology, Ecology and Conservation of Elasmobranchs* at the University of Plymouth is Jim Ellis from CEFAS.

The number of pages published in the Journal in 2014 was 2983, and the number of articles was 286. The Journal's 2 yr impact factor in 2014 was 1.658 (1.834 in 2012).

John Craig thanked all the Editorial Team, Wiley-Blackwell's staff and our Editorial Manager advisers for their considerable efforts and excellent help and support.

9. Honorary Treasurer's Report (Rob Britton)

The annual accounts were signed-off by the external auditors in June 2015. The financial condition of the Society at the end of 2014 was outlined in the detailed accounts distributed at the meeting. Total assets (less liabilities) were £1,835,634, total income in 2014 was £422,747; total expenditure in 2014 was £379,529.

Total income was £422,747 in 2014, which represents a slight increase from the corresponding figure in 2013 (£383,130), but is somewhat similar to the 2011 value (£421,279). This increase was due to one-off extra income from the journal. As in previous years, income was dominated by profits from the *Journal of Fish Biology* (about 85%, £358,563). Investment income (£45,522) was 11% of total income, broadly the same as the 2013 proportion. Membership income (£13,519) remained at around 3%, which represents a recovery from the dip to 1.4% in 2011, but not quite a total recovery to the 4.5% of 2010. The investment policy of the Society is to manage its investment holdings on a 7 to 10 year basis with a view to returning a yield of £35k per annum. This

was achieved comfortably in 2014. The Investment Portfolio as of 31 December 2014 amounted to £1,465,039 compared to £1,464,271 in 2013.

Total expenditure in 2014 was £395,223 of which 93% (£353,229) was charitable expenditure, representing an increase over the 2013 proportion and a return to a similar value reported for 2010, with management & administration costs (non-charitable) making up the remaining 10.4% (£41,494). The largest proportion of charitable expenditure (47.3%, £167,358) was dedicated to supporting studentships. Other major items of charitable expenditure included research grants (8.1%, £28,958), subsidy for members' subscription to the *Journal of Fish Biology* (8.8%, £31,036), representation expenses (7.1%, £25,218), travel grants (5.4%, £19,329), membership expenses (5.5%, £19,575), newsletter and website expenses (2.8%, £10,135), internships (4.5%, £16,000) and sponsorship (5.4%, £19,420).

In the next 12 months the Society plans to:

- Maintain new PhD awards at current levels
- Continue to fund new research grants at current levels
- Maintain increased sponsorship of activities that further the Society's constitutional objectives

Acceptance of the treasurer's report was proposed by Ian Winfield (President), seconded by Terry Langford, no votes against (accepted by a show of hands).

10. Appointment of Auditors

J.R. Watson & Co

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

Eastgate House, 11 Cheyne Walk, Northampton NN1 5PT

www.jrwatson.co.uk | Tel: 01604 630745 | Email: northampton@jrwatson.co.uk

Acceptance of the nominated auditors proposed by Rob Britten (Treasurer), seconded by Ian Winfield (President), no votes against (accepted by a show of hands).

11. Election of Council Members

- Colin Adams (Glasgow University) to retire from Council as of July 2015
- Philip McGinnity (University College Cork) is Council's nomination to replace him

Acceptance of the nominated council member proposed by Ian Winfield (President), seconded by Gary Carvalho (Vice-President elect), no votes against (accepted by a show of hands).

12. Election of Honorary Officers:

- The President (Ian Winfield) is due to retire in July 2015 at the Plymouth Symposium and Council's nominations for this vacancy is Iain Barber (current Vice President).
- Council's nominations for the incoming Vice President is Gary Carvalho.

Proposed by Ian Winfield, seconded by Francis Neat with unanimous support in favour, none against and no abstentions (show of hands).

The FSVI expresses it's sincere thanks to Ian Winfield for his exemplary service.

13. Any other business.

None

J K Pinnegar Honorary Secretary, June 2016