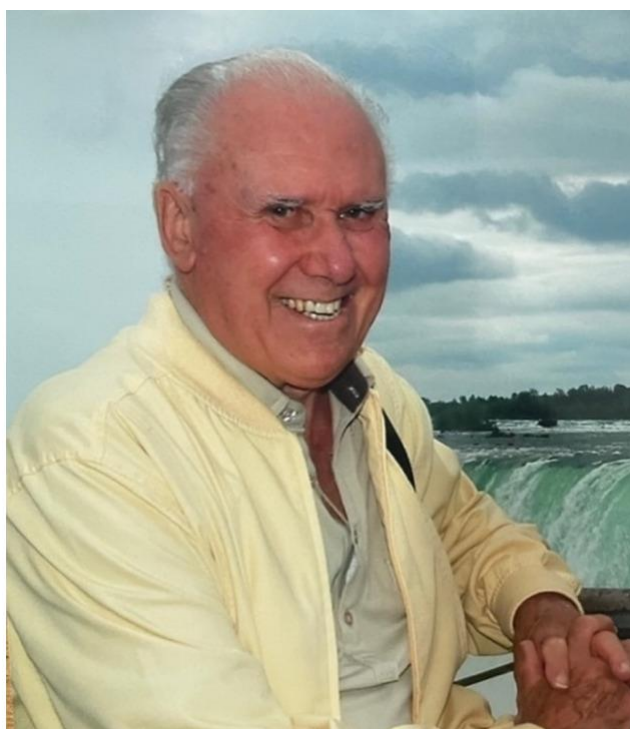




NEWSLETTER - 2023



2023 marked the passing of Mike Millman.

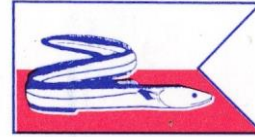
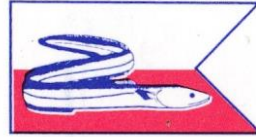
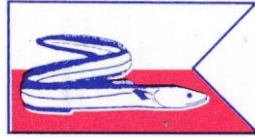
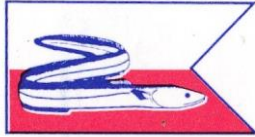
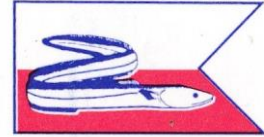
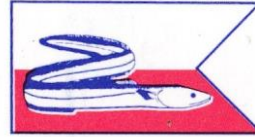
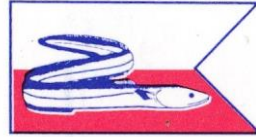
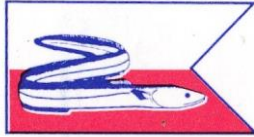


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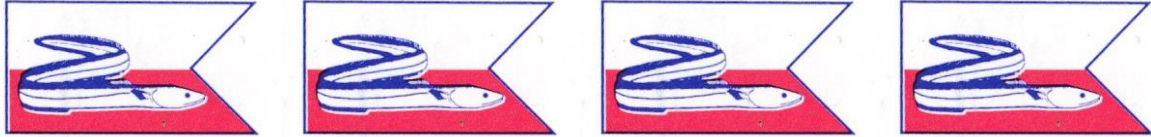
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BRITISH CONGER CLUB COMMITTEE 2021

PRESIDENT	Paul Sweetman
CHAIRMAN	Dave Ball
SECRETARY	John Bellamy
TREASURER	Kim Bowden
REGISTRAR & MERCANDISE	Alison Sweetman
RECORDS OFFICER	David Lee
FESTIVALS OFFICER & CUP CUSTODIAN	Michael Doody
PRESS OFFICER	Neil Cottington





A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I met Mike Millman in the late 1980's.

He had an enviable reputation as a fine angler. I spent time with Mike and began to realise...the knowledge, experience and understanding of not only our pastime.... but about life.

For many years Mike had been the conduit for promoting sea angling and championing the south west of England. He has for decades and was still producing engaging and thought provoking articles for the national angling magazines and newspapers until his passing.

In the early 1960's Mike and other conservation minded anglers decided to form an angling organisation to elevate one single species to the top of the sporting fish list's.

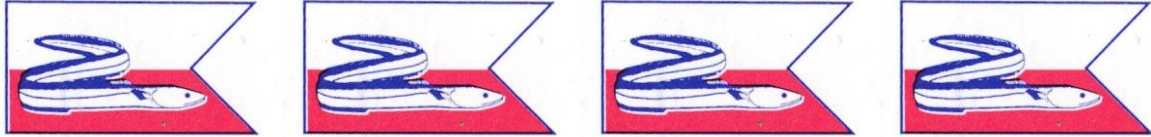
I am now President, the last office Mike held of the organisation he created...and I'm humbled to tread in his footsteps...

Mike has held every office within our club, he played a pivotal role in the introduction and organising of the Junior section, he wanted to ensure that we encouraged and assisted young people to embrace a pastime that they would have a passion for, for a lifetime.

He recently stepped down as president after a 56 year association, he was granted honorary life membership in recognition of all his enormous efforts over the years, only the second time this has been granted in 60 years.

I am proud to call Mike my friend and angling companion.

Paul Sweetman
BCC President



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hi All, and welcome to the BCC newsletter for 2023.

Well, what to say about 2023, on the plus side Covid was no longer an issue so we all rapidly booked our charter boats in the expectancy of getting loads of happy days fishing. Unfortunately the weather stepped in to thwart us again, I think 23 was the worst year for winds I have ever known, seemingly two out of every three trips booked was blown off. We even lost the members champs, both days being cancelled due to the winds. I don't know if the weather is down to global warming or just a freak year but it seems more and more that people are waxing lyrical about 'the good old days'. Either way let's hope for better for 2024.

The members comp this year is 13th & 14th July, due to boats being sold and skippers dropping out we are currently still trying to recruit boats for the comp, I will of course keep you informed as we progress.

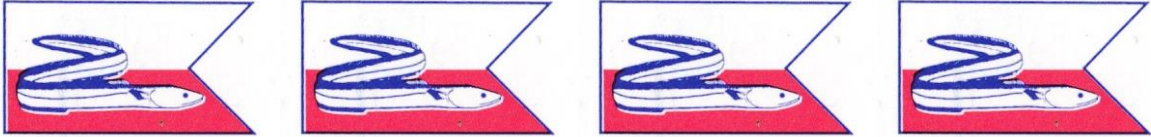
The biggest loss of 2023 was the death of Mike Millman, I'm willing to bet every sea angler in the country had heard of or read something by Mike, a brilliant historian and writer, his depth of knowledge of our sport was unsurpassed. A former Chairman and President of the BCC he will be sorely missed, I would suggest we will not see his like again.

I hope to see many of you this year, hopefully afloat !

Tight lines to one and all.

Dave Ball.

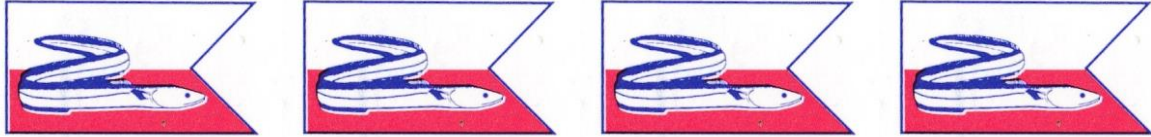




SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello BCC members, here's looking forward to a new year and further opportunities to get out into the deep waters of the Channel and catch a few decent eels. Unfortunately the weather didn't allow to fish our Championship last year so let's all say a prayer or two to the weather gods and keep our fingers crossed for this year's event. Looking forward to catching up with you at as many ports as possible during the course of 2024.

John Bellamy



2023 REPORT FROM THE BCC RECORDS OFFICER .

In 2023 the weather got the better of us with numerous trips cancelled including of course the BCC comp in July. Finger crossed for 2024.

Overall, in 2023 there were only 2 congers entered over 55lb (both boat caught), plus one shore caught and one from a Junior member and 2 ling recorded.

We had two entries for the most caught eels from Paul Maris and Ray Barron catching 109 and 115 eels respectively.

No reported Interport entries for 2023 were submitted. .

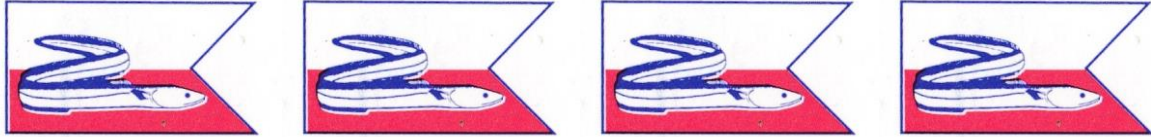
David Lee, Records Officer

THOMPSON MEDAL WINNERS 2023

GOLD	WEIGHT
SILVER	
BRONZE	
Kim McGreevy	58lb
Paul Maris	55lb

FISH OF THE MONTH AWARDS 2023

MONTH	ANGLER	WEIGHT	Boat/Shore
January	Sam Bennie	26lb 1oz	Shore
April	Kim McGreevy	58lb	Boat
June			
July			
August			
September			



FISH OF THE MONTH AWARDS – AFFILIATED CLUBS 2023

MONTH	ANGLER	WEIGHT	Boat/Shore	Club
April	Kim McGreevy	58lb	Boat	Guildford

Junior Member, Anthony Newcombe (aged 11), 22lb 1oz, 15th Feb 2023, boat - river Tamar

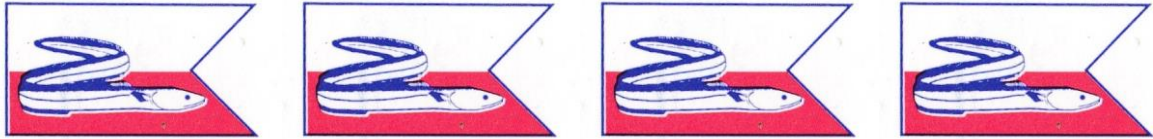
Ling

David Lee 19lb 8 Oz – 15th March 2023 – boat – Plymouth - reef

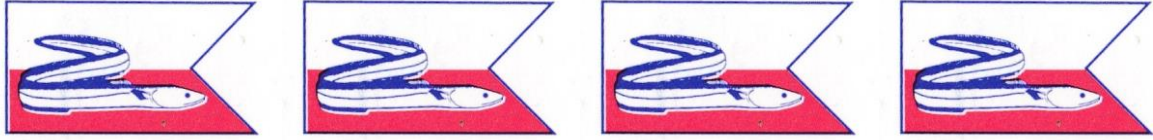
Paul Hall 29lb 21st July 2023 – boat – Plymouth – wreck

Please report conger and other fish using the new forms on the BCC website and posted on the BCC Facebook and send to – bccfishrecorder@outlook.com.

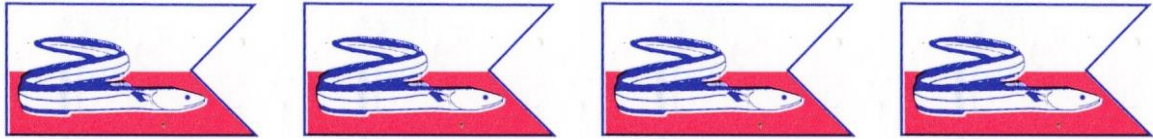
David Lee - Records Officer



Some lucky members & BCC committee who managed to get out fishing from Weymouth in 2023



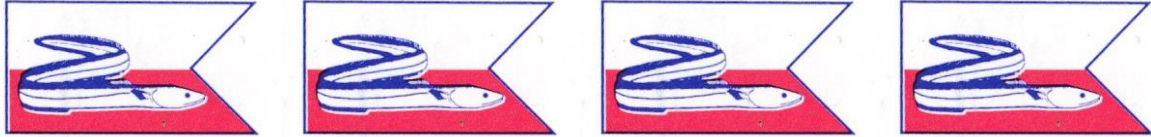
An impromptu presentation of BCC medals for 2023 made on the quayside in Weymouth...



Paul Maris & Kevin Turner showing us how it's done!



Paul Maris, Paul Cashmore & Kevin Turner..



PRESS OFFICER REPORT FOR 2023

Hello BCC members,

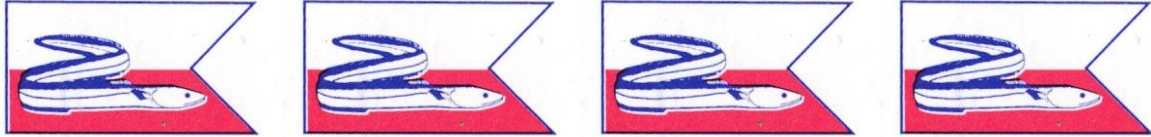
Well 2023 didn't really set the angling world alight !! Wind and rain, and if lucky a compromise trip, so with that in mind let's just hope 2024 is a better year.

Sadly the magazine Saltwater Boat Angling is no more, it has now been incorporated into Sea Angler Magazine.

We still can get coverage for the BCC now, into Sea Angler magazine, so if you have a conger story, news comp, or info, let me know and I will do my best to get it into print. As always you can call text or email.

My new email is at bottom of page. But I need the info from you guys, so in short email/text/call with any info. In this newsletter I believe there is a medley of pics that I have taken, if any of you who I took pics of or have in the past taken pics of then again text/email and I will send direct.

Tight lines Cotts. (Neil Cottingham)
efsa.fisheries@yahoo.com



CLUB MEMBERSHIP REPORT

If you have any enquiries about BCC membership, please address these to our **Membership Registrar Ali Sweetman**. Membership numbers for the year ending December 2023 were as follows:

The membership figures for 2023 were: -

730 in total

659 in Life Members

56 paying members including 37 full + 19 associates

13 clubs

2 juniors/straps

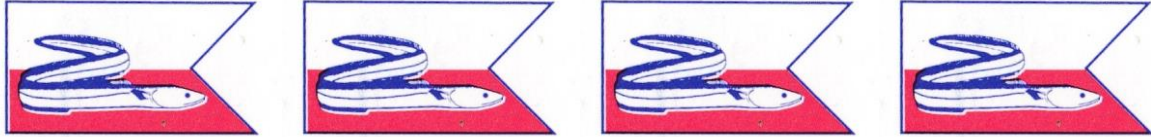
Alison Sweetman - Membership Registrar

BCC MEMBERS ARE
REMINDED THAT **MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2024 ARE**
DUE FROM 1st January 2024

A renewal form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

There is also a renewal form for Affiliated Clubs.

For further information and assistance with your renewal contact Club Registrar Ali Sweetman



TREASURER'S REPORT

Conger Club Financial Report for 2023

Our financial balance is slightly up on 2022.

Membership income still strong with just small reduction in membership income over 2022.

It is difficult to get an exact take on our overall balance due to Championships roll over for only the one day fished in 2021 and last year's having to be totally cancelled, so there is a large amount in the bank for the 2024 Championships. Hopefully we can fish this year's Championships and draw a line under roll overs and carrying forward!!

In the accounts there was payment for AGM awards 2023, these will be presented at the 2024 AGM.

So, we are still in a strong financial position. Just leaves me to wish you all good health and good fishing for 2024 and hope to see many of you in Weymouth at our AGM and Championship in July.

Kim Bowden
Treasurer

Festival Officers report

Hi Members, just a few notes on this year's Members Comp.

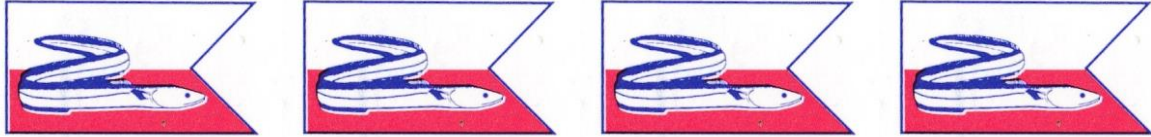
The boat situation in Weymouth has been very volatile over the winter months, many of you may know Lyle sold his boat Supernova to take up a position with the RNLI. I would like to wish him well with all his future endeavours, he was a great supporter of the BCC and a brilliant skipper to boot.

A couple of other skippers have said they are not interested in congering, so as a result we have struggled to get boats for the comp. We currently have 3 boats and will know of a fourth one by the end of the month. In addition to this Richard English is having a Blythe built for angling out of Weymouth.

I am confident the outlook is improving and we will have quality boats for the comp in July. I am currently working on dates for 2025.

See you all 13th & 14th July.

Mick Doody
Festivals Officer



COMPETITIONS AND TROPHIES

Interport Competition: This annual competition for teams of two runs from 1 June to 30 September and is very simple to enter. All you need to do is inform our **Records Officer David Lee** before your day of fishing and provide the following details:

- Names of both anglers
- Fishing date
- Boat name and port to be fished from

After the trip all you need to do is let the Records Officer know the weights of your individual best eels. Only one entry per year is allowed for this competition, but if your trip is cancelled you can let the Records Officer know and retry another time.

Shore Competition: This competition runs from 1 October to 30 November. You can fish anywhere from the shore at any time during this period and send in your entry in the usual way but make sure you ask for the fish to be entered into the Shore Competition.

Geoff Flores Bronze Trophy: This trophy is awarded annually to the BCC member who catches and releases the highest number of Conger Eels over the given year.

An entry form is attached at the end of this newsletter. Complete this and send to **Records Officer** at the end of the year.

Thompson Medal Awards: These are awarded annually to paid up Members for capture of Conger Eels in the following weight categories:

Boat Captured

- 55lbs and over – Bronze
- 65lbs and over - Silver
- 75lbs and over – Gold

Shore Captured

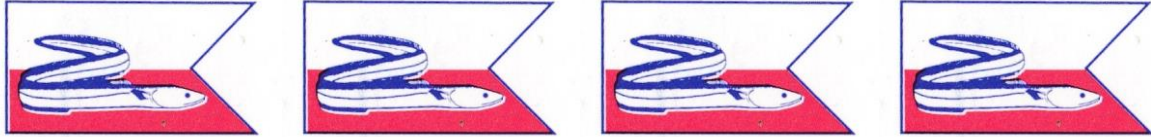
- 25lbs and over – Bronze
- 35lbs and over – Silver
- 45lbs and over – Gold

You can win only one of these a year. If you are fortunate enough to catch more than one medal category fish, you will receive the appropriate medal for your best eel. You will need to supply capture details and photographic evidence to **Records Officer** to be eligible. To supply details you will need to complete one of the club's Specimen Fish Entry forms.

Other Awards: To see what other annual awards are available from the BCC please refer to the table of awards in the "Records Officer" section.

Other Events of interest to BCC Members: Please note that the following events are **not organised by the British Conger Club**, but may be of interest to our members:

Weymouth Conger Festival 2023: 9, 10 & 11 August - contact Weymouth skippers or Weymouth Angling Centre for more information



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2024

Membership Number

Annual Subscription renewals are due on 1st January each year and should be paid by 30th April (as per Rule No 9)

Tick Box

	Annual Membership Fee	
Full	£20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Citizens (over 60 yrs)	£10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juniors (under 18 yrs) – STRAPS	£2.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please complete all sections below to ensure all our information is accurate.

First Name: Surname:

Address:

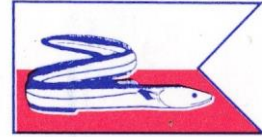
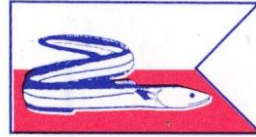
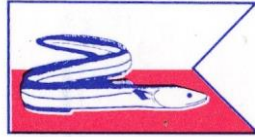
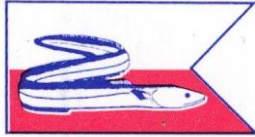
Town: County:

Post Code: Phone

DOB: E-Mail:

CHEQUES ARE PAYABLE TO "THE BRITISH CONGER CLUB". SEND TOGETHER WITH THIS FORM TO: THE REGISTRAR, ALI SWEETMAN, 61 FOXES MEADOW, COTTERIDGE, BIRMINGHAM, B30 1BQ. PLEASE RENEW PROMPTLY.

PAYMENT BY ONLINE BANK TRANSFER IS ALSO POSSIBLE. PLEASE CONTACT ALI SWEETMAN IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PAY BY THIS METHOD. IF PAYING BY ONLINE BANK TRANSFER PLEASE INFORM ALI SWEETMAN AND CLUB TREASURER KIM BOWDEN WHEN YOU HAVE DONE SO. *THIS WILL ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT MISS YOUR PAYMENT !*



AFFILIATED CLUBS RENEWAL 2024

Annual Subscription renewals are due on 1st January and should be paid by 30th April (Rule No 9)

Membership Number

CLUB NAME:

CONTACT NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

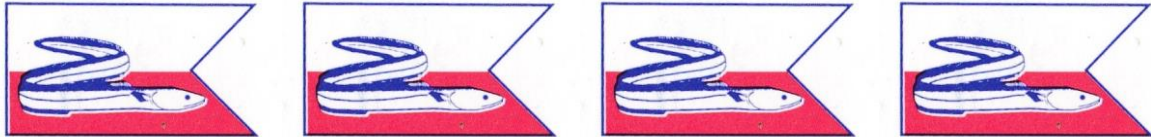
NUMBER OF MEMBERS (For info only):

RENEWAL/JOINING FEE OF £30.00 ENCLOSED:

**MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "THE BRITISH CONGER CLUB". SEND TOGETHER WITH THIS FORM TO:
THE REGISTRAR: ALI SWEETMAN, 61 FOXES MEADOW, COTTERIDGE, BIRMINGHAM, B30 1BQ**

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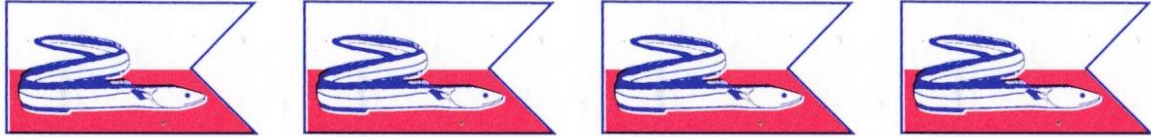
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bccfishrecorder@outlook.com

FORENAME	MEMBERSHIP NO:		
SURNAME	LIFE [] MEMBER [] CURRENT ASSOCIATE []		
ADDRESS	NAME OF AFFILIATED CLUB (If appropriate)		
CITY	COUNTRY		
POST CODE or ZIP			
Telephone Number	Email:		
FISH CAPTURE DETAILS	DATE CAPTURED		
SPECIE CAPTURED Conger Eel [] Other (Please specify)	WEIGHT [] LBS [] OZ		
Place of Capture	WRECK []	REEF or OPEN GROUND []	SHORE []
If caught on boat Denote:- WEIGHED AT SEA [] ESTIMATED [] PHOTOGRAPH []			
Data for Conger Eel if possible			
LENGTH [] ins	GIRTH BEHIND PECTORAL FINS [] ins	GIRTH AT VENT [] ins	
WEIGHED ON DRY LAND []	TYPE OF SCALES USED		
BOAT NAME	SKIPPERS NAME	PORT	
WITNESS 1. NAME :	ADDRESS:		
WITNESS 2. NAME:	ADDRESS:		

BCC rules by law 3 d - Members should notify the Fish Recorder of all fish of qualifying weight, or over, within twenty-eight (28) days of capture except for fish caught in the month of December, when fourteen (14) days will apply, in order to allocate Trophies and Awards and to notify the membership in advance of the AGM



B. C. C BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS – WEYMOUTH, 13th & 14th JUL2024

Membership Number

I am a fully paid-up member so please reserve me a Charter Boat place at a cost of £250.00 for both days. (Or £150 if carrying over £100 credit from 2022 comp). Please note there could be an additional payment at registration should boat prices increase which is possible in these uncertain times.

Surname: Christian Name:

Signature: Date:

Address:

Town: County:

Post Code: Phone No:

Email Address:

Junior: Age:

I would like to fish with the following member/s: -----

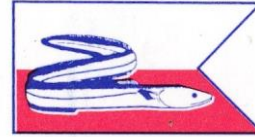
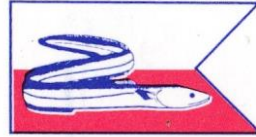
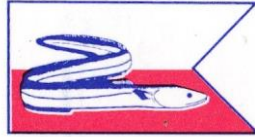
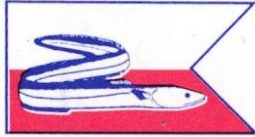
Juniors of 14 or over may fish the Championships with a parent/guardian at the discretion of the committee

The 2024 Championships Headquarters will be Weymouth Angling Society.

Send the completed form together with your cheque payable to “BRITISH CONGER CLUB” to Dave Ball

Or Preferred is online, by emailing entry form to, dave_ball7@hotmail.com and payment to sort code 309668 account 04996868. Please put name as reference.

Preferred contact is by email, if confirmation required by post, then include stamped addressed envelope.



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

They support us - please support them

<p>WEYMOUTH ANGLING CENTRE 2 St Edmund Street Weymouth DT48AR</p> <p>WWW.Weymouthangling.com</p>	<p>Weymouth Angling Society Commercial Road Weymouth DT48NF</p> <p>Facebook – Weymouth Angling Society</p>
<p>The Crown Hotel 22 New Street Weymouth DT48DA</p> <p>WWW.kingshotels.co.uk/hotels/crown-hotel</p>	<p>Meerkat Weymouth Skipper: Ryan Casey Phone: 07776182782</p> <p>WWW.meerkatcharters.co.uk</p>
<p>Offshore Rebel Weymouth Skipper: Jamie Pullin Phone: 078869311406</p>	<p>Als Spirit Weymouth Skipper: Adrian Brown Phone: 07976522184</p>
<p>Snapper Weymouth Skipper: Luke Petis Phone: 07833492948</p> <p>WWW.snapperweymouth.com</p>	<p>Valkyrie 6 Hayling Island Langstone Skipper: Glen Cairns Phone: 07831878669</p> <p>WWW.valkyriecharTERS.co.uk</p>