

David Rowe



(David Rowe (right), receiving presentation from Mike Heylin in recognition of David's many years as Secretary to the BRFC. Photo courtesy of the Angling Trust)

David Rowe, Chair of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee, sadly passed away on the 19th of April 2018, aged 76, surrounded by his family, after a long illness.

“David was an amazing Chair of the Byelaw Sub Committee who expertly navigated the choppy waters of the byelaw making process with consummate skill borne of his vast experience,” commented Elaine Hayes, Chair of the Devon and Severn IFCA. “We would not have achieved so much without him at the helm. On a personal note, I shall miss his words of wisdom, his timely advice but most of all I shall miss his fishing tips and his wonderful sense of humour - it has been an honour and a privilege to work with him.”

David had been with the Devon and Severn IFCA and the predecessor Devon Sea Fisheries Committee for 25 years. Over that time, he had managed to represent the recreational sea angling sector on the Authority at a time when the recreational sector gained greater prominence in fisheries management decision making, largely due to David's skill at presenting balanced and well-constructed points of view.

He assumed the position of the Chair of the Devon and Severn IFCA's Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee in 2013, often described, quite rightly, as the 'engine room' of the Devon and Severn IFCA and the position of Chair is never an easy one. Faced with mutually competing and sometimes opposing interests of conservation, fisheries and socio-economic benefit, David managed to achieve an extremely delicate balance with great skill and diplomacy. The progress made by the Sub-Committee, often agreeing a broad consensus after robust scrutiny of best available evidence, is in large part due to David's Chairmanship.

David set a personal standard of professionalism, objectivity and integrity which acted as an example to all, with his natural modesty and excellent leadership. The work of the Sub-Committee will now continue in the same vein, securing a sustainable future for the marine environment he valued so much.

David had a great working relationship with the Chief Officers of the Devon and Severn IFCA and his counsel will be sorely missed by all who had worked with him.

When we take delivery of our new Devon & Severn IFCA's Patrol Boat, it will be named after David. There will be a naming ceremony, with details nearer the time on our website. All are very welcome to attend.

We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Val and family.

Funeral Arrangements:

Service will be held on Friday 4th May, midday at the Methodist Church, Croakers Meadow, Bovey Tracey, Devon, TQ13 9QR. David's wish was for those attending to wear bright colours.

All are welcome to attend the service and refreshments afterwards at the Dolphin Hotel, Station Road, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9AL

David's family has requested family flowers only and that donations for the Methodist Church and Rowcroft Palliative Care be sent to the funeral director's address: E. Christophers, Homelands Hall, Jetty Marsh Road, Newton Abbot, TQ13 2SL