

EAFP council meeting  
Zagreb, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

## MINUTES

The meeting was attended by all council members; Jose Garcia (president), Patrick Smith (vice president), Ivona Mladineo (meetings secretary), Roy Palmer (publications officer), Klaus Knopf (treasurer), Lone Madsen (general secretary).

1) Status of action points from minutes of Copenhagen council meeting April 2014

Action points have been approached and dealt with apart from the action point regarding the poster for promoting industry interest in the EAFP. This action point will be discussed under the EAFP meetings secretary's report (agenda point 6).

2) President

a) Report

The president had been invited to speak during the open ceremony at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Viruses of Lower Vertebrates in the beginning of October and during that speech the president promoted the EAFP conference in 2015 at Gran Canaria.

During the Symposium for lower vertebrates the president had had a status report from Patricia Noguera regarding the EAFP Fish necropsy CD. It is planned to be published before the EAFP conference 2015.

As discussed in the post conference meeting in Tampere, the president has approached FAO to explore the possibility of financing researchers from developing countries to assist to future EAFP Conferences. No response has been received yet.

The webmaster Bartolomeo Gorgoglione had provided information regarding suggestions for a web-designing company for update of the EAFP Website, for which the council is very grateful. The information was discussed, and the council decided to go with the suggested company put forward by the webmaster.

**Action:** the president to inform the webmaster of the decision as soon as possible.

b) EAFP newsletter

The first issue of the EAFP newsletter was sent out to members in July. It is planned that the newsletter will be published twice a year, the next newsletter being scheduled for November. For this issue the president requested input from the meetings secretary regarding the secondary announcement for the EAFP conference 2015 as well as small reports from the local branch meetings in the UK and Germany this autumn.

**Action:** the president to set up the next issue of the EAFP newsletter and send round to members in November.

c) Facebook

The administration of the EAFP facebook page was discussed. The meetings secretary suggested a voting on facebook regarding the most interesting picture published in the EAFP bulletin in 2014.

**Actions:** The president to contact the facebook administrators Britt Bang Jensen and Bartolomeo Gorgoglione and agree on administration of the EAFP facebook page.

The meetings secretary to select the most interesting picture published during 2014 in the EAFP bulletin that will be set up for voting on the EAFP website.

All EAFP members to forward pictures for the facebook page.

3) Vice president

a) Report

The local branch meeting in the UK mid September went very well, with a total of 70 participants.

The vice president presented a list of potential ideas to increase membership based on interviews he had done with 40-50 EAFP (or potential EAFP) members. Among the presented ideas, some of them were shown already to be covered by the EAFP, but members need to be made aware of that.

Potential new ideas were e.g. thematic workshops.

**Action:** the list of benefits of being an EAFP member shall be placed more pronounced on the EAFP website (right now it is placed on the website page regarding joining the EAFP). It was also suggested to publish it in News and

Views in one of the next issues of the EAFP bulletin as well as in the next EAFP Newsletter.

b) Sustaining members update

**Action:** All council members to approach potential new sustaining members.

c) Result of the vice-president attending the board meeting of the EATIP (European Association of Technology and Innovation Platform) and the possibility of collaborative links and joint activities between FEAP and EAFP. The vice president saw a potential positive link between FEAP/EATIP and the EAFP and will look further into that.

**Action:** the vice president to ask one of members of the FEAP/EATIP board meeting to give a presentation on the round table to be organized in EAFP conference 2015.

d) Small grant scheme

The application deadline for this year's small grant scheme had had to be postponed till the end of October this year. Thereafter the applications will be sent to all council members, and a decision will be taken via email. It was decided that in the future the Small Grant Scheme grants shall alternate with the student grants for the EAFP conference.

e) Industrial participation in conferences

This was discussed. A workshop involving industry at the upcoming conference was seen as a potential idea to involve industry more in the conference.

**Action:** the vice president to look into setting up such a workshop.

4) General secretary

a) Report

The general secretary reported on current membership, being 838 members. Since April this year the EAFP has had several new members.

b) Council elections in 2015

The council positions vice president, publications officer and general secretary are on election in 2015. It was decided to set up a call in the next issue of the bulletin, on the EAFP website and in the EAFP newsletter at the same time.

**Action:** the general secretary to set up the call.

5) Treasurer

a) Report

1/9-13: 173073 €

1/9-14: 176169 €

Pending: Fish necropsy CD 6153 €

In comparison with the assets of the EAFP on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 the account is about 3000 € lower on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

b) Audit

The treasurer had had two offers, one offer around 200-300 Euro + VAT and another offer at 800 Euro + VAT. After discussion the council decided to have a professional audit, and the treasurer was asked to contact the provider of the cheaper offer.

**Action:** the treasurer to make arrangements with a professional company setting up professional audits every second year.

c) Histopathology CDs

See under agenda item 8. PayPal

d) PayPal was discussed. It seems that the EAFP needs to obtain non-profit status to set up a PayPal account. Therefore this will have to be looked at in more detail.

**Action:** the treasurer to contact the future auditor or a specialised lawyer, and ask for the possibilities and costs for a professional advice on the legal status of the EAFP: advantages and disadvantages of registration and non-profit status, and how that can be done.

e) Membership fees 2015

It was decided to keep the membership fees at the same level for 2015 as in 2014.

**Action:** membership fees for 2016 to be discussed at the council meeting in April 2015.

6) Meetings secretary

a) Report

EAFP poster for promoting industry interest. The meetings secretary suggested starting out with sponsor ideas and put forward the idea of setting up a sponsors' industry corner/round table at the upcoming conference.

**Action:** the meetings secretary to contact the Local organizing committee at Gran Canaria concerning sponsors.

b) Support for keynote and invited speakers

This was agreed at the last council meeting.

c) 2015 conference update

<http://www.eafp2015.es> has been launched.

Second announcement will be released within a month or two.

d) 2017 conference update

A draft budget was presented.

e) 2019 conference bids

There will be an extension of the deadline till February 2015.

7) Publications officer

a) Report

The publications officer gave an update on EAFP bulletin matters. The rejection rate in 2014 is currently around 50 %, but this is comparable with other fish disease journals.

b) Bulletin available online for members – progress

The finding of a new web designer has delayed this progress.

Concerning indexing of journals: will be hard to do for older journals (those where electronic versions of the articles do not exist).

New EAFP /bulletin website contract

c) SAGE Publications??

Have been approached by SAGE as well as Taylor and Francis

**Action:** The publications officer will return to them and thank them for their interest but the bulletin will continue being published as it currently is.

8) Any other business

Histopathology workshop – CD's etc.

New ways of financing the Histopathology Workshop and the subsequent CD are being discussed with organizers. The council feels this is an integrated part of the EAFP Conferences, and wishes to maintain it linked to future conferences, but it will be necessary to find a better and more transparent way of financing the CD.

It is advisable that Histopathology WS organizers and the local conference organizer for the upcoming conference in 2015 contribute together in finding of an adequate sponsor that will support CD production without compromising conference funds.

**Action:** the president to follow up on his email to David Bruno regarding this matter.

9) Next council meeting – venue and dates

Late April 2015. The venue to be announced later.

28<sup>th</sup> October 2014

General secretary