

EAFP council meeting
Belfast, April 24th 2015

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 Zagreb council meeting October 2014
Action points finalized (will be dealt with under the individual council members' report) apart from the following:

Action points:

Most interesting picture published during 2014 in the EAFP bulletin – the outcome shall be published in the EAFP Bulletin – the meetings secretary and publications officer to deal with that.

List of benefits of being an EAFP member – a list prepared by the vice president shall be listed in the next EAFP Newsletter.

The President to contact David Bruno regarding the Histopathology cd's.

- 2) President

- a) Report

The President reported of some troubles that have stopped the work with the Necropsy CD for some time. The plan is now that the CD will be finished for September.

The President had sent an endorsement letter for a Histodisease project (ETN project about histopathology for diagnosis of diseases of marine animals).

- b) EAFP newsletter

Deadline for the next newsletter will be June.

Action point:

The President to set up the next newsletter with input from the rest of the council for distribution in June.

- c) Facebook

The administrator details on the Facebook page needs to be updated.

- d) FAO

The President has made contacts to get funds for researchers from developing countries to participate in the EAFP conference. Unfortunately, this has so far not been successful.

e) Training programme for Aquatic animals

3) Vice president

a) Report

At the last General Meeting in Tampere the Vice president expressed the opinion that he felt that the EAFP needed to fill a niche and he believed that this was a closer relationship with industry and to provide a link between the Association and industry and to thereby assist with the 'impact' of research projects. With this goal in mind the following initiative are, or will be, undertaken

b) Sustaining members update

A recruiting drive was being undertaken with industry with a view to recruiting new Sustaining Members. This had met with modest success and there had been a number of expressions of interest but it would take some time and effort. A problem was that the aquatic animal health industry was still in a state of consolidation with a number of acquisitions and mergers still taking place e.g. Elanco and Novartis and while this could offer new opportunities for the EAFP, it also creates more work in engaging the new partners.

c) The possibility of collaborative links and joint activities between FEAP and EAFP. The possibility of collaborative links and joint activities between FEAP and the EAFP were being explored but were taking some time. In addition, other industry groups (e.g. producer associations) and academic associations which have strong industry links (e.g. Fish Veterinary Society) were being approached with a view to forming closer links and possible joint activities. In the light of the success of the Scientific Writing Course held at previous International Meetings, other courses useful for scientists who may engage with industry or may consider commercial spin-offs will be considered e.g. Business Plan Writing and Understanding Management Accounts.

d) Small grants – aimed for projects or EAFP members?

The first round of the Small Grants Scheme had been successful and grants approved but not without some minor administrative issues. The first round of

the grant calls process will be reviewed carefully by the EAFP Council and any possible improvements made before the next call. It was agreed that small grants shall follow the applicants (who are also EAFP members) and not the projects.

4) General secretary

a) Report

By April 20th EAFP has 806 members. This shall be compared to 844 members in 2014 and 883 members in 2013. There has been a decrease in library members as well regular members. The importance of “spreading the word” on EAFP was stressed. For future conferences it was also decided that the difference between payments for members and non-members needs to show a clear advantage of joining the association and thereby getting the lower conference registration rate.

b) Council elections in 2015

By March 1st, one candidate for the Publications officer position, 2 candidates for the Vice president position and 4 candidates for the General secretary position had stepped forward. A voting via the internet (with information regarding the voting send to members together with issue 3 of the EAFP bulletin) will be arranged.

Action point:

The General secretary to set up a voting with the help of the Publications officer, so results of this voting can be reported by August 1st.

c) Request from branch officers regarding online payment

One of the EAFP branch officers had informed the council of the many difficulties for a branch officer, when setting up an account in the country in question as well as the many efforts branch officers have to put in getting members to pay their membership fees. The council is currently looking into the possibilities of the registration of the association (see under point 5), which should make it easier to set up bank accounts in different countries. The council also very much want to stress the importance of members to settle their fee payment as soon as they get a notice by their branch officer regarding the subject.

5) Treasurer

a) Report

The EAFP account currently harbours 186.361.00 € (16. April 2015).

The possibilities for registering the association are currently being looked into by a German auditor (see b).

Action point:

The Treasurer to report back to the rest of the council regarding registration of the association before the next council meeting.

b) Audit

An audit for the period (April 2014 to April 2015) will be done by an auditor in Germany.

c) Membership fees for 2016

Pros and cons on raising fees were discussed. It was decided that there will not be any increase in fees for 2016.

6) Meetings secretary

a) Report

Proposals to organised future EAFP conference have been received from Aberdeen and Antalya, while others are in negotiation.

b) 2015 conference update

It was decided to support the histopathology workshop organisers with free registration for the 2015 conference, to acknowledge that they have for many years been in charge for this workshop and done a very good job.

Industry roundtable poster: Patrick Smith will be the main organiser and chairman of the roundtable. A poster advertising the event should be developed in collaboration with the meeting secretary. Main focus will be the potential of TT from Targetfish.

Las Palmas sponsors: MDS is also this conference's sponsor for delegates' bags, which for the 17th meeting will be in the form of a backpack with luggage label, padded shoulder straps, 2 mesh side pockets, detachable phone pouch, zipped front pocket for MP3/MP4 player and several small hooks for keys and an ear bud opening.

Hypra, Biotein, VWR are sponsors negotiated by the local organiser, while Journal of Fish Diseases and Novartis are in in a negotiation process.

Abstracts: 384+ posters (183 orals, 47 posters considered for oral, 154 posters) – compared with 426 abstracts in total in Tampere
12 workshops signed up for Las Palmas – apart from 2 (one on the 11th and one on the 12th) all will have to be fitted into the program.

Among suggested topics, the majority of interest has been given to Fish and shellfish immunology and Viruses and viral diseases, while weak response has been shown for Diseases of public concern, Climate change & diseases and Diseases of tuna. For the first time a session on Cephalopods immunity and diseases has been planned, organised in the frame of a COST action.

- c) 2017 conference update: the 18th EAFP conference is going to be organised in Belfast and delegates are enthusiastically invited to visit the future local organiser's stand at the Las Palmas conference

7) Publications officer

a) Report

EAFP Bulletin: the rejection rate was high in 2014. 25 manuscripts were accepted in 2012 and 2013 per year, as well as 27 manuscripts accepted in 2014. The level of accepted manuscripts per year needs to be 30 manuscripts. Otherwise there will be a need for publications for the bulletin within the near future (need 5 accepted manuscripts per issue). The turn-over rate of the manuscripts is roughly 5 months from submission to print.

A handover to new publications officer will be arranged.

b) Bulletin available online for members – progress

Open access pre-view of each article is now available.

New EAFP /bulletin website contract is being set up.

c) BioOne Invitation

This was discussed.

8) Any other business

9) Next council meeting

The next council meeting will be arranged the Sunday before the EAFP conference in Las Palmas.

General secretary

June 10th,2015