

## Minutes EAFP Council Prague, 4-5 December 2004

Present: David Alderman (President), David Bruno (Vice-President), Brit Hjeltnes (treasurer), Paul Midtlyng (general secretary), Francesc Padros (meetings secretary), Maura Hiney (co-opted member to council as web advisor)

Due to weather problem the President was delayed. The Vice President welcomed everybody and opened the meeting at 0930. The President joined the meeting at 1130.

The minutes of the 17-18 April were reviewed. Action points appear in the current agenda.

1. Matters arising. These are covered in the agenda.
2. Council Members reports. The general secretary reported that membership had declined slightly, but this was in line with losses in years where no conference was held. 85 members had been removed as non-paying, 66 new members have joined since January 2004. Two Branch Officers have not transferred the 2004 fees nor informed the general secretary about their member's payment status. Bulletin distribution has consequently been discontinued to these branches, and to other non-paying members. Action: The General Secretary will intensively contact with the non-reporting BO's to obtain further information, and will issue reminders to still-non-payers, allowing for credit card payment.  
The Treasurer predicted a deficit for this financial year. The increasing costs of the bulletin and issues arising from the Malta conference were the contributing factors. Action: the Treasurer will continue to advise the council.

The Vice President raised the issue of the handbook cover on behalf of one member. The colours of the handbook cover had changed (slightly) from 2002 to 2004. A request for additional leaflets was made.

Action: it was agreed to discuss the Handbook cover with the printers prior to the 2006 edition. New leaflets will be prepared for September 2005.

The Publications Officer provided details of the submissions for the bulletin, the rejection rate and papers published. Peer reviewing and workload are impacting on the time available to type set each issue.

Action: the council will review the workload and recommendations regarding the work balance of the council. We agreed to add bulletin contents to the web site as soon as these were available.

Web advisor reported the positions vacant area on the web is being used.

Action: we agreed an annual note in the bulletin to remind members of the EAFP web page. The EAFP web site will be revised during 2005.

The council discussed options for a conference in the Czech Republic for 2009 with Iva Dykova and Jiri Lom, who joined the Council for lunch.

3. Council Meeting Attendance. New Council members will be invited to attend the pre-conference council meeting on the 11 September.

4. Copenhagen conference

Budget. A revised budget was agreed. The registration fees, which will include lunches, were set at

Category	Early (DKK)	Late (DKK)
Student member	3000	3500
Non-member student	3500	4000
EAFP Member	4000	4600
Non-member	4500	5200
Accompanying person	570	570

A proposal to move the post conference council meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> September was considered in order to save time and hotel costs. Decision was postponed pending the detailed provisions and time schedule the study tour. It was agreed to drop the spring council meeting unless any urgent issues come up in the meantime.

Action: the Meetings Secretary to discuss the new budget with the local organiser..

Organisation. Second announcement. Action: the Meetings Secretary will draft the second announcement using the themes agreed and forward to the publications officer and web advisor for inclusion in issue one and the web page. The General Secretary will copy to branch officers via email.

Proposals for 15 workshops had been received by the Meetings Secretary, and following discussion the 3 PANDA proposals were combined. Some proposals might be combined into an oral session. The histopathology workshop 'Reproduction and early life stage fish pathology' will be held on the 17 September 2005.

Action: the meetings secretary will advise on the programme structure at a later date.

Student Awards. A budget was agreed for student awards for the Copenhagen conference. As in previous years students will have to be members in 2004. It was agreed to give preference to students in receipt of a grant, rather than students receiving a salary.

Action: the Vice President will draft a note for issue one and forward to the general secretary, details will go onto the EAFP web page in January 2005.

General Assembly. Action: A maximum of 1.5 hours will be timetabled for the general assembly and will currently cover council reports, statute proposals, 2007 conference details, new council introductions. Abstracts book versus CD options for 2007 will be presented for members views.

Conference book. We agreed to print the abstracts as a book for 2005. Action: we will suggest that in 2007 the abstracts are only available on a CD.

6. Malta conference. The financial dispute with the conference agency has not been resolved and the general secretary gave oral information as to the status of legal advice. It may be required that a 2001-2003 council member visit Malta to discuss the case with our lawyers.

Action: The Council will discuss and approve any further action that may incur additional costs.

7. Statute Revision. Council Posts and Responsibilities. The general secretary presented possible changes regarding the amendments to the EAFP statutes. Further discussion is pending and if necessary we will raise this issue during the general assembly in September.

Action: The General Secretary will circulate the revised draft to the council for further consideration. Proposed changes will be placed on the EAFP web page around August 2005.

8. Council Elections. The treasurer and meetings secretary have decided not to stand for re-election in September 2005. The president requested a second term.

Action: Nominations for both posts will be requested in issue 1. The vice president will locate the template and forward to the general secretary.

9. Council and BO award badges. Awards were considered for 5 branch officers. The possibility of awarding making an honorary award was discussed. Action: The vice president will check if branch officer awards had already been given and will inform the general secretary. No decision was made regarding a new honorary member. Additional awards may be identified for the conference. We agreed to purchase 15 branch officer badges (60 Euro each), and 10 council badges (90 Euro each). The president will arrange this with HJ Schlotfeldt.

10. Membership. The president informed the council that the numbering system used since the formation of the EAFP had been continued for the handbook following complaints regarding the introduction of a new system in the general secretary membership database. For the present time the old style number system will be used until a new system is approved.

11. Training courses. Pauline Munro from FRS Aberdeen asked the council to consider if they could offer training courses for certification of the fish health inspectors. In view that the EAFP, in the interests of members, runs without any full time staff or secretariat we could not consider taking on the responsibilities that would be necessary if we were to act as an awarding body for such a scheme. Action: The Council agreed to give support to FRS on the question of Fish Health Inspectors, but could not to be directly involved.

Action: The president will reply.

12. Any other business. What Shall I do? The freshwater edition has sold out and there is some demand but no big rush. Our former president (HJ) has agreed to be in charge of a new edition if the council so wishes. The council had mixed ideas on a new edition, but agreed to review again if a grant covering-the printing costs can be obtained. Sales of the marine version were low.

Iva Dykova was thanked for help in booking the hotel and arranging the meeting room.

13. Date of next meeting – Copenhagen 11<sup>th</sup> September 2005 for old council. Post conference council meeting 17 September (provisional).