

## EAFP General Assembly, Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup>, Clarion Congress Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic

The general assembly (=GA) started out 16.00 with the President welcoming everyone (approximately 70 members including the council). One week prior to the GA, reports from the officers in council had been made available for members at the EAFP website.

Before the GA there had been a 30 year EAFP celebration, where one of the honorary members, Barry Hill, presented an overview of 30 year of EAFP – and where some priority areas for the future of EAFP were also presented by the meetings secretary Stephen Feist.

### GA AGENDA

1. Vice president report
2. General Secretary report
3. Treasurer report
4. Publications Officer report
5. Comments from the members
6. Meeting secretary report

#### Vice president report:

The Vice president (VP) David Bruno informed about the EAFP website. The website had been defaced and completely rebuilt and a lot of new features added in 2008. The VP demonstrated the features of the website and reminded people about the message board, access to the members details and the possibilities with such a feature of developing discussion areas.

#### General Secretary report:

The General Secretary (GS) Lone Madsen reported on the membership balances in the latest years:

2005	+106	-141	1115
2006	+33	-107	1070
2007	+50	-118	1011
2008	+59	-132	968
2009	+95	-105	958

Different estimations were presented, as well as membership by branch etc.

The student membership has dropped. The GS urged members to inform their students about the possibility of joining the EAFP and the advantages of an EAFP membership (lower rates when attending the EAFP conferences, the possibilities of getting a student grant for an EAFP conference, as well as the EAFP bulletin). Although membership

numbers have declined in recent years they seemed to have stabilized during the past two to three years. The council encourages EAFP members to “spread the news” regarding the benefits of EAFP membership for potential new members.

The GS thanked the National Veterinary Institute in Århus, Denmark, for taking care of the EAFP administration until this year. The EAFP administration has now been taken over by Cefas in Weymouth, UK. Their hard work is very much appreciated.

The hard work done by branch officers in the different EAFP member countries is invaluable for an association like the EAFP and is highly appreciated.

#### Treasurer report:

The treasurer Sven Bergmann informed the GA on the status of the accounts for the years 2007 and 2008. A constant increase of income was shown, which is only achieved by the fees of the association. Recently student members, members and libraries from all over the world but also sustaining members, mainly from Norway, are the depositors. The treasurer presented the account movement including all numbers used for the publication board (EAFP Bulletin), the appointed administration coming from Denmark (DTU, National Veterinary Institute, Aarhus) and overtaken by England (Weymouth, CEFAS) and the necessary payments for council meetings. In numbers of expenditure were: 62 % for the bulletin, 23 % for administration measurements, 11 % for council reasons, 2% for web hosting and 2 % of bank charges. The treasurer appreciated and mentioned the critical account overview done by Dr. Inger Dalsgaard (DTU, Copenhagen). The treasurer mentioned that the two of the three Norwegian accounts have been closed down. Next year the final account in the Norwegian bank will be closed. In accordance to the GA and the council decisions, a new account was opened in the “Euro zone” in Germany which was necessary because of an increasing number of fee payments by cheque and credit cards. This was successful done. The treasurer stated that the EAFP has a healthy bank balance.

#### Publications Officer report:

The publications Officer (PO) Roy Palmer reported of his 2 years as editor of the EAFP Bulletin. In the last 2 years, 143 manuscripts were under review, with 53% accepted and 28% rejected, to date. The Bulletin is cited in Scopus and the ISI Web of Knowledge. The manuscripts most cited in the last 10 years were on topics relating to PKD, ISA, VHS, KHV, Amoebic Gill Disease, Perkinsiosis and NNV. The turn-over rate for manuscripts has been reduced to 6 months. Members were encouraged to continue to publish in the bulletin.

The PO ended with thanking subject editors, referees and the EAFP administration (Lis Knudsen in Århus and from this year David Smith Cefas Weymouth) for their invaluable help with the bulletin.

#### Comments from members:

Paul Midtlyng asked why the budget/account was not for a calendar year but from 1/11 to 31/10. The treasurer answered that he had fixed the financial year from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> next year.

Further, Paul Midtlyng suggested to keep the Norwegian account for paying the non-Euro EAFP expenses (e.g. printing of the bulletin), wherefore he thought there would be some savings on exchange rates. It was agreed that it would be easier to gather all accounts in Germany (one of the Euro countries) and in that way save on exchange rates.

Roz Schnick provided strong support for the EAFP conference as one of the best scientific meetings on fish and shellfish pathology and associated subjects.

Paul Midtlyng had prepared slides regarding audit of the EAFP accounts for 2004-2005. The accounts documentation is partially insufficient (bank account statements only). Paul Midtlyng proposed that the GA should discuss and confirm relevant write-offs (missing check, council members' cash accounts), and he suggested that the GA confirms the balance sheet (assets/net worth report) as of December 31, 2003, 2004, 2005. This suggestion was endorsed by the GA, even though the Council had agreed and noted in previous minutes that his matter was closed.

Diane Elliott told about the American Fisheries Society and their steps regarding getting more student members and in addition announced the International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH), which will take place in Tampa, Florida in 2010. It is hoped that a significant number of EAFP members might participate.

Brit Bang Jensen wanted the council to take a further look at the suggestions regarding student members in the suggestion for new statutes presented and discussed at the GA in 2007. New statutes were agreed after a voting in 2008. The EAFP council agreed to look at ways to increase student membership and conference participation.

Patricia Noguera referred to the non-native English-speaking members, and suggested that pdf files of the oral presentations should be available at the EAFP website. This proposal prompted some discussion and was not supported. In future conferences presenters will be encouraged to speak clearly and more slowly for the benefit of all.

Other suggestions from members were to make the EAFP branches more active as well as offering the branch officers some kind of support (e.g. dinner attendance) in recognition of their hard work. In addition, it was suggested that the abstracts for the EAFP conference should be more comprehensive than they currently are, to include summary data etc.

#### Meeting secretary report:

The Meeting Secretary (MS) Stephen Feist reported on the running conference. The abstract format on the web as well as the registration of presentations on the web had been a success. It had resulted in 261 posters in total as well as 165 oral presentations. The MS talked about videoing speaks/oral presentations during the conferences and it was decided that this should not be allowed. The session chairs should announce that at the

sessions and a note can be placed on the video screens. It should also be mentioned in the Abstracts book. Instead of taking pictures/video people were encouraged to talk with the presenters.

The MS presented and welcomed the new EAFP meeting secretary José Garcia.

The MS ended with thanking for all the help that he had got from many people during the preparation for the conference and for all participants for the high quality abstracts and posters. He announced that the 15<sup>th</sup> conference on diseases of fish and shellfish organised by EAFP will be in Split, Croatia in September 2011.

As the president was retiring from council, he presented the incoming president Stephen Feist and wished him good luck in his new EAFP council position. The retiring president David Alderman was thanked for his hard work as an EAFP council member over many years. At the Conference Banquet on Thursday evening David Alderman was awarded honorary membership of the EAFP.

The retiring president ended the GA at 17.30 by thanking the present members for attending the GA as well as the council members for their hard work in the council and said that he would urge everyone to attend the next conference in Split in two years time.

November 2009  
General secretary