

EAFP council meeting Split, September 11, 2011

Attendees: Stephen Feist (President), David Bruno (Vice president), José Garcia (Meetings secretary), Roy Palmer (Publications officer), Sven Bergmann (Treasurer), Lone Madsen (General secretary).

Patrick Smith (new Vice president) attended the meeting as he was going to be appointed as the new Vice president at the EAFP General Assembly a few days later.

During the afternoon the meeting was for approximately one hour joined by Ivona Mladineo from the Local Organizing Committee for the EAFP conference, Split, Croatia, regarding finalization of the arrangements for the conference opening ceremony etc.

1) *Previous action points*

Previous action points were covered satisfactorily apart from the following two:

Some additional work has to be done regarding how bids for future conferences are assessed. A written statement about how bids are assessed and when the deadline for bids are shall be added to the website as well as printed in the News and views section of the Bulletin. Deadline for receiving bids for the 2017 conference will be January 20th 2012

Action: The Vice president to action the above.

Sustaining members – efforts for obtaining new sustaining members to be increased.

Action: The Vice president (as well as the other council members) to contact potential new sustaining members

2) Meetings secretary

a) *Report and presentation for the GA*

The Meetings secretary presented his report for the GA

b) *2011 conference updates*

In total there will be 149 oral presentations, 294 posters, 4 keynotes, 25 oral sessions and workshops – most fish and mollusc health areas will be covered.

In total 39 countries will be represented at the conference, which will include 400 participants (not included the council and the local organizing committee) in comparison with 385 participants in Prague. Not every single participant was an EAFP member – it was suggested that an email for all participants will be sent, thanking them for their participation and asking them if they have any suggestions for following conferences. Similarly, non-EAFP member participants will be written to in the same way together with information on the benefits of EAFP membership.

Action: Meetings secretary to send letter

c) *Conference planning for 2013.*

This is already in hand and the Meetings secretary and President met with the Chair of the local organising committee during the conference for an update on progress with arrangements and to discuss venue proposals.

d) *Future conferences*

Future bids: see action point under 1.

3) Treasurer

a) *Report and presentation for the GA.*

The Treasurer presented his report on 2010. The EAFP account is around 140.000 Euro. Income and expenditure was around 50.000 Euro. It was therefore decided that the membership fees for 2012 will remain the same as 2011.

b) *Detailed list of all income and expenditure for 2010 as well as 2011.*

A suggestion was put forward by the Vice president (PS) to obtain a professional to audit the EAFP accounts.

Action: The Vice president will investigate options and report to the Council prior to the next Council meeting.

c) *German bank: do they offer an Internet Merchant service to process transactions online?*

Action: The Treasurer will look into this.

4) President

a) *Report and presentation for the GA*

The president summarised what he would present at the GA.

b) *EAFP views of the future – suggestions from a member*

The council has responded to the suggestions put forward by one of the members. The president will present some of these to the audience at the General Assembly – and ask for further suggestions as well as suggestions to take these forward.

c) *Facebook*

One of the suggestions put forward by a member that will be presented for members at the General Assembly.

5) Vice president

a) *Report and presentation for the GA*

The Vice president presented his report.

Student awards for conference attendance – had 11 applicants, rejected 2 and accepted 9. It was decided that there will be an increase to 15 student awards for the next conference.

Action: Increasing the student awards number to 15 for the EAFP conference in 2013 and to ensure appropriate notification via the website and EAFP Bulletin be made to encourage take up.

b) *Electronic fee payment*

An outline proposal on how an on line payment system can be managed through our web site together with an estimate of the costs has been prepared. This information will be handed over to the new vice president to take over.

Electronic fee payment (if this is taken on) will be available with the 2013 fee payment at the earliest.

c) *Status of the EAFP concerning payments/security and liability*

The current status of the EAFP is essentially an association of members. Options to change the status of the EAFP were discussed and it was decided that the possibility of becoming a community interest company was worth investigating further.

Action: The Vice president will investigate the potential for the EAFP to become a community interest company and report his findings to the Council before the next Council meeting.

6) General secretary

a) *Report and presentation for the GA*

The General secretary presented her report for the GA. The membership has been around 900 members for the last two years. In 2011 the amount of new members has been more than 100, while around 100 have decided to stop their membership this year. Student memberships have gone up compared to the former years, whereas the amount of regular members have declined since the general assembly for two years ago.

b) *Late subscribers and the availability of printed copies of back issues of the EAFP bulletin*

Due to the fact that the EAFP have had more than 100 new members here in 2011 as well as nearly as many have decided to stop their membership, there

has been a lack of issues 1 and 2 for a few of new members. It was decided that members joining the association late during a year will not necessarily be able to get all back issues of the current years.

Action: General Secretary to provide the EAFP Webmaster a sentence stating that new members joining the EAFP will only get back issues if sufficient copies are available, will added to the website page regarding 'new membership'.

c) Branch Officer's in new countries, e.g. India, China

The possibilities of having branch officers in countries currently without this were discussed.

d) Honorary members

The nomination of one honorary member was discussed.

7) Publications officer

a) Report and presentation for the GA

The Publications officer presented his report for the GA. Manuscript submission rate is going down whereas rejection rate is going up.

Mean months from submission to sent to print by issue, f. ex. 31/4: 6 months, 31/5: 5.5 months.

b) Electronic access to the EAFP Bulletin

Policy statement on why it is like it is – that members currently do not have electronic access to the most current volumes

8) Next council meeting – venue and dates

It was decided that the next council meeting be held on the 31 March 2012 in Madrid.