

## EAFP Members General Assembly, Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup>, Tampere Conference Hall, Tampere, Finland

The general assembly (=GA) started out 16.00 with the President welcoming everyone (approximately 75 members including the council).

### GA AGENDA

1. President report
2. Vice president report
3. General secretary report
4. Treasurer report
5. Publications officer report
6. Meetings secretary report
7. Comments from the members
8. Announcement of the venue for the 2015 conference
9. Introduction of new EAFP Council members

#### 1. President report:

The President Steve Feist thanked the members present for their attendance and stressed the importance of ideas and suggestions from members to help the EAFP continuing being an association for the members and sponsors. Although the GA forum is an important opportunity to contribute to the development of the EAFP members were encouraged to provide feedback at any time via the various route open to them. The setting up of EAFP on FACEBOOK has been well received among members and Brit Bang Jensen and Bartolomeo Gorgoglione who are responsible for running this were thanked. In addition, it was announced that B. Gorgoglione had been appointed as EAFP Webmaster, replacing David Bruno who had delivered this responsibility so well for many years.

#### 2. Vice president report:

The Vice president Patrick Smith informed the members of the work of trying to attract new sustaining members.

A comprehensive database programme originally researched by the previous Vice president had been explored further, but this had not been adopted due to a number of factors including expense and the training that would have to be involved. Furthermore, it was considered too sophisticated for what was actually required by the EAFP.

The possibility of paying via PayPal was also mentioned, and it was reported that it was necessary to set up a PayPal in the country where the Treasurer was domiciled. In view of the change of Treasurer matters this was put 'on-hold' until after the elections and the appointment of the new Treasurer. It was agreed that we should now take this forward as

soon as possible and the new treasurer would action this, setting up a PayPal account based in Germany.

Legal status of the EAFP was discussed, as there had been some issues with booking the Tampere Hall due to the Association having no official legal status. The establishment of a legal status was still being explored and examples of the route taken (if any) by other organizations to establish a legal status was being researched.

### 3. General secretary report:

The General secretary Lone Madsen reported on the membership balances in the latest years:

Year	New Members	Membership by the end of the year
2009	95	958
2010	45	882
2011	105	892
2012	70	883
2013	78	883

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

Currently the association has 722 regular members, 96 student members, 7 honorary members, 17 sustaining members and 41 library members, and the membership seems to be quite stable. In general members are asked to “spread the news” regarding the benefits of EAFP membership for potential new members. An EAFP leaflet is available from the general secretary as well as information about joining the association can be found at the EAFP website.

A members list of the EAFP is available via the EAFP website. There is restricted access and an access code has been sent to branch officers for them to forward to their branch members.

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

Every second year council elections are run, alternating for three positions, as each position is taken up for 4 years. This year the positions for election have been president, meetings secretary and treasurer. Calls for candidates have been made via the EAFP bulletin and the EAFP Website. Ivona Mladineo (meetings secretary) and Klaus Knopf (treasurer) were elected unopposed, whereas an election for president was run via the internet (Election buddy with codes sent out via the EAFP bulletin), as two candidates, Sven Bergmann and José Garcia) stepped forward. José Garcia was elected for president.

### 4. Treasurer report:

The Treasurer Sven Bergmann informed the GA on the status of the accounts for the years 2012 and the first part of 2013. In numbers for 2012 the expenditures were: 62 % for the bulletin, 26 % for administration measurements, 11.8 % for council reasons and 0.2 %

of bank charges. In 2013 the balance is not finished yet. The expenditure so far were 4 times payments for the bulletin (55 %), a payment for administration work for April 2012 to April 2013 at CEFAS (35 %) and the costs for the council meeting in Las Palmas (10 %).

#### 5. Publications officer report:

The Publications officer Roy Palmer presented figures regarding the EAFP Bulletin, among them submission rates. New subject-editors were presented. Subject-editors, David Smith at CEFAS Weymouth as well as Albion Press were thanked for their efforts on the Bulletin. The council had been approached by a member, Renate Johansen, Norway, before the GA regarding the suggestion of turning the EAFP bulletin into an open access journal only published online. This was previously discussed by the Council. The Council suggest an on-line publication, with open access to articles for Members, and paid access for non-Members (with an option to join the EAFP to gain open access). Currently all articles published 4 years or more ago are open to Members and non-Members; it is suggested that further articles will be made open from 2 years or more. It is also suggested that the printed version is continued as well as an online version for the time being.

#### 6. Meeting secretary report:

The Meeting secretary Jose Garcia presented Tampere conference figures regarding participants, oral presentations, posters. In total there are 392 participants at the Tampere conference in comparison to 400 in Split and 385 in Prague.

#### 7. Comments from members:

Several members commented on the EAFP Bulletin and open access. The members wanted to be able to avoid getting the printed version. In general all agreed on the advantages of open access.

Paul Midtlyng suggested that the council should not be too hesitant in making a decision to establish full online access for the Bulletin. David Hoole supported the Council in a more measured approach and pointed out that the EU expects open access. The publication officer stressed that it was up to members to make good use of the EAFP Bulletin and proposed that full open access be arranged for all Bulletins be reduced from 4 to 2 years. Bartolomeo Gorgoglione stressed the importance of the EAFP Bulletin articles being cited on Science Direct. He also thought it would be a good idea to place workshops separately from the sessions during conferences.

Annelies Declerq had been attending the student workshop at this conference and had been very satisfied with this. She suggested a student reception.

Sarah Poynton thanked the Council for the opportunity of arranging the student workshop which had proved to be a great success. There was strong support for increased activities

for students, including the possibility for forming a student council charged with responsibilities for proposing workshops and other activities.

Olga Haenen suggested making use of LinkedIn and the possibility of placing pdfs of posters on the EAFP website. It was felt that this would be difficult to arrange for all but the 'winning posters' should be publicised.

Paul Midtlyng suggested regular emails to members regarding calls for elections for the council etc.

#### 8. The venue for the 2015 EAFP conference

The meetings secretary announced the venue for the conference in 2015 as being Las Palmas, Gran Canaria (the dates being 7-11 September) and showed a short presentation of the venue and surroundings.

#### 9. New Council members

The outgoing president thanked the Council members stepping down from the positions of Treasurer (Sven Bergmann) and Meetings Secretary (Jose Garcia) for their hard work for the EAFP and introduced the new members (Klaus Knopf and Ivona Mladineo, respectively) and the new President of the EAFP for 2013 – 2017 Jose Garcia by handing over the chain of office

Finally the President closed the GA 17.30 and thanked everyone for attending the GA and for the numerous contributions.

General Secretary  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013