

EAFP council meeting
Madrid, April 13th 2018

MINUTES

The EAFP Council Board meeting was attended by: Jose Garcia (president), Patrick Smith (vice president), Ivona Mladineo (meetings secretary), Sean Monaghan (publications officer), Klaus Knopf (treasurer) and Snjezana Zrncic (general secretary).

1) Status of action points from minutes of Belfast council meeting September 2017

a) All actions points from last council board meeting are done.

2) President

a) Report

President reviewed the conclusions of the council board post-conference meeting held in Belfast. It was decided that a switch to the electronic form of the Bulletin would move forward with a possibility for each member to also select a printed copy as their preferred format. All members will be repeatedly informed and requested to submit their choice not later than the 1st September.

The printed Abstract book for the next EAFP conference will be affordable upon an additional charge. The delegates should be asked to express their wish for a printed Abstract book in the 2nd conference announcement.

The Abstract book of the conference will be launched in the “members only” area on the EAFP web page 3 months after the conference.

There were suggestions for new honorary members. As it is usually announced during the EAFP conference this topic will be on the agenda during the autumn meeting.

Students or early career members are very important members of the EAFP and they, in many ways, guarantee that the organization will develop, acquire relevant updating and that new activities will be undertaken. With this in mind, we should establish a student group within the EAFP.

Action point: Each member of the Council Board will put forward efforts towards finding out how other student committees within professional associations are organised, what are their duties, their position, etc.

b) Changes to the Statutes

The student member description should be changed to accommodate the proposal that student members will become regular members retaining membership for two years after completion of their Ph.D. study. Also, student awards will be available for EAFP students and early career members. This topic will be discussed in more depth during the autumn meeting.

Action point: After the autumn meeting, and following discussion of all the topics mentioned, the president will prepare a new proposal of the Statutes and distribute it for review to the members of the steering panel defined during the General Assembly of the 18th International EAFP Conference in Belfast, 2017.

c) Final decision on small grants schemes (SGS)

The deadline for SGS will be extended until the end of May. New information will be sent via the EAFP Facebook page and webpage, and possibly via branch officers. During June the decision for the beneficiaries will be decided and the agreement will be signed during July. The General secretary will keep the SGS agreements with beneficiaries.

3) Vice President

a) Report

The Vice president pointed out that we should develop and improve the link between science and fish practitioners. However, practitioners should find an interest in each segment of our activities. Unfortunately, we have lost sustaining member Marine Harvest as one of the leading and the largest seafood companies in the world represented in many countries. He is engaging in a lot of efforts to entice them back and hopefully they'll join the EAFP as a sustaining member in the future once again.

The Fish vet society is a society with many similar interests and the vice president will approach them and explore what the possibilities are for mutual cooperation.

4) General Secretary

b) Report

The approximate membership for 2018 is 830 members due to the fact that some of the branches have not submitted their updates yet. This is compared to 835 in 2017, but should take into consideration that a percentage of members in the past that have joined the EAFP in the years of international conferences have not previously renewed their membership in the year without the conference. Thirty-five new members have joined the EAFP until now. Currently, the membership can be divided into 687 regular members, 85 student members, 8 honorary members, 32 library members and 18 sustaining members. An accurate number of the membership will be available before delivery of the bulletin issue 3.

c) GPDR consent and choice of the Bulletin format collection

With a call for membership renewal, a consent claim and request for a decision of the Bulletin format was distributed to branch officers. This year we asked branch officers to collect the preferences for the Bulletin format and signed consent forms due to the new General Data Protection Regulation, which will be put in force on 25th May 2018. We asked branch officers for additional effort and it should be highlighted that the contribution of branch officers to the smooth functioning of the EAFP is invaluable.

All collected signed consents will be stored on the CEFAS sharepoint so both administration in CEFAS and the general secretary will have access to these consents. The members that do not sign the consent will be on the list for the Bulletin delivery but we will not use their mailing or e-mail addresses for any other purposes (newsletter delivery, EAFP conferences info, etc.).

Action point: A new request for consents and the decision about the Bulletin format will be resent to the branch officers. Final decisions on the Bulletin format should be collected by September.

5) Treasurer

a) Report

Balance 01/09/2017: 165 037.03 €

Balance 09/04/2018: 168 496.41€

Estimation of the expected expenses (council meetings, Bulletin) and incomes (not yet transferred fees, surplus from Belfast conference) leads to a negative balance for the current year. A deficit of around 10 000 Euros will be caused by the production of two special editions of the Bulletin. Collected membership fees are 2.2 % less than expected due to bank charges, variable exchange rates and ATF (Akademie für tierärztliche Fortbildung) fees in Germany.

b) Financial support for branches?

The council board have agreed that active branches should have the option to keep 5% of the collected membership fees for the branch to cover costs related to the branch officers duties and to allow some flexibility in the organization of national meetings. In this case, the branch officer will be responsible for the proper documentation of the use of the money in accordance with the Statutes. It is a measure that was proposed many years ago for branches with more than 15 members.

Action point: The treasurer will inform the branch officers about this option at the next appropriate time.

6) Meetings secretary

a) 2017 Belfast questionnaire results

Almost 90% of delegates answered the post-conference questionnaire. Most of them assessed the scientific programme (135/237) and the overall conference (57.1%) as very good but at the same time, even more, complained that the registration fee was too high. There were many compliments, some complaints regarding technical aspects of the facilities in the conference rooms, lunch serving and quality and absence of the printed Abstract book, and a few suggestions such as setting up the award for the best student presentation, providing more time for poster sessions, inclusion of workshops on practical issues of aquatic animal health, to avoid session chairs presenting during chairing of the same session and some introduction to ecological solutions during the conference organisation (reusable water bottles and coffee mugs). The participants were asked to express their choice for the Bulletin format and 125/237 chose the pdf. format online.

b) 2017 Belfast financial report

Evaluation of the conference expenditures shows that there is a surplus of 1465,66 Euros.

c) Updates on 2019 Porto conference

The webpage for the 19th EAFP conference in Porto is launched as well as the important dates; the beginning (15th February) and deadline (15th March) for the abstract submission as well as conference key dates; early bird registration (10th May), standard registration (31st July) and late registration (31st August). The tentative registration fee was suggested and the council board will request local organisers to decrease it by 50 Euros for EAFP members. The sponsorship leaflet was published and is ready to be delivered to the potential sponsors. The meeting secretary presented several topics and potential keynote

presenters that should be contacted and enquired about the possibility to attend and give keynote presentation.

Action point: Meeting secretary and general secretary will prepare the letter to sustaining members with a request to provide/fund the conference bags for the Porto conference.

d) Bids for 2021 conference venue

The bids for the future conference will be advertised in the Bulletin, issue 4. The first bid will be open in June and it will last until the end of July and it will be repeated again in September and will be open until December.

7) Publications officer

a) Report

Submitted manuscripts since the last report have increased and we have a sustainable rate of submissions, even without including the Special edition submissions. But in reality, the 1st quarter often tends to be a particularly busy submission period traditionally, but nonetheless, the number of submissions is definitely improving again. Still, there are more accepted than rejected articles. The main subject areas have been Parasitology, Histopathology, and Bacteriology. The Virology conference Special addition and EAFP special edition articles have increased the number of accepted virology papers. Turkey and Iran have submitted the most EAFP Bulletin articles. However the numbers of submissions for histopathology and parasitology have decreased while the number of histopathology papers continues to increase.

One promising point to note is that the increase in histopathology submission correlates with the reduced number of papers unassignable to a subject category which is likely due to the introduction of histopathology as a Subject area a few years ago.

b) Special edition Bulletins

We have 2 special editions being published this year. The EAFP Conference special edition is now being typeset and should be published in line with or just after the regular Bulletin issue 38(2). Another special edition "Diseases of Cleaner fish" is scheduled for August 2018 and until now there are 6 MSs submitted, 4 accepted and 1 in a review. One of the complications with the peer-reviewed special editions is that it can be quite awkward when the manuscript is rejected. The publication of Special edition Bulletins has certainly been of interest to respective authors. This will likely be an effective way to increase the profile of the Bulletin. The Diseases of Cleaner fish Special edition worked well by contacting authors from the EAFP conference session but may be better to advertise this – i.e. via the webpage.

c) Picture contest results

The participation in the picture contest was very low. Maybe it will be a good idea to include 5M into future picture contests and they will attract the attention and interest via their website, The Fish Site. The winners are Dr. Carmen López Gómez of the Centro de Investigacions Mariñas (CIMA), Spain and co-authors, M. Ruiz, S. Darriba and R. Rodríguez. One free admission has been awarded to the EAFP International Conference on Diseases of Fish and Shellfish, Porto, September 2019. The council of the EAFP wish to

congratulate Dr. López and co-workers on their WINNING PICTURE with 14 votes and 46 views during the 1st round and 25 votes and 108 views in the Final.

d) Bulletin on-line availability

Together with the commissioned on-line software, an on-line submission via webpage should be started. Press releases for accepted manuscripts will be published if authors approve it. The electronic copy of recently (<2 years) published manuscripts will only be available to members for the immediate future, but a movement to open access is still a future goal. This transition is complicated by sustaining library memberships. The doi will be provided for accepted manuscripts in the future. Non-member authors of accepted manuscripts will receive the pdf of their paper. The Scholastica software will be tested for next 25 submitted manuscripts. The software basically works in a similar way to how other publishers operate. Authors are able to keep track of reviewed manuscript just as long as the editor can track their progress.

Cooperation with 5M is progressing and the Book series is going forward; there are several titles related to aquatic animal health in review, proposed or under consideration.

8) Any other business

EAFP will be a collaborator of the MedAID (H2020 project) on-line discussion forum considering the health issues of the Mediterranean fish species.

SGS agreements will be presented in the News and views of the next Bulletin.

In June, a bid for the 2023 EAFP conference will be published.

The next newsletter will contain an explanation of the student status extension for two years, call to members to express their preference for the bulletin format and information about the GDPR.

9) Next council meeting

The next EAFP council board meeting will be late October/November. Venue will be decided later.

May 25th 2018

General Secretary