

United by true passion



We congratulate Ferdy Geerdink on his honorary EFFA membership

An association like ours relies on members, who take on responsibility. You can simply join and benefit, or you can get involved and help with the planning and implementation of joint projects within the EFFA interest group. It is not always possible to get everything done to everyone's satisfaction. But as the saying goes: if you don't do anything, you won't make any mistakes. Since the EFFA reunites different countries, the rules of the game are not the same everywhere and this makes it all the more difficult. However, the top priority is to defend the core message of fly fishing and the interests associated with it.

The complex task of an International board sometimes requires putting aside one's own opinion for the good cause. Serving on such a board can be challenging. Feeling misunderstood, being criticized, suffering defeats and making mistakes are all part of it. The parameters are constantly shifting and what was right yesterday might no longer apply today.

Ferdy Geerdink has been involved in all of this for more than 10 years as our Membership Secretary. With his calm manner, he has helped to shape EFFA over the past 10 years on the Board. And, God knows, not always under pleasant conditions. During numerous times of changes, he always remained level-headed, kept his eye on the essentials and mastered his tasks with great dedication for the good of the community. Despite all these obligations, he still took a lot of time to train people, both within his country and beyond its borders. Many of us fly fishers owe him a great deal in this area too. It is fair to say that Ferdy has left his mark! After such a long time, Ferdy has now decided to step down from the front line and hand over the reins to younger managers.

I would like to thank him sincerely for the good times and work we shared on the Board.

You have always been a pillar of support for us and EFFA has grown in large parts because of you. It is no longer a given circumstance to find members, who invest so much time in a hobby just for a simple thank you. Taking the criticism associated with this position didn't exactly make it any easier to motivate yourself again and again.

Unfortunately, this is part of it these days, but you have always managed not to take anything personally and to follow our purpose.

Due to your outstanding achievements in all your areas, the Board has decided to award you with a honorary membership of the EFFA. We are extremely grateful for everything you have done and are losing a valuable colleague in our ranks. It is comforting to know that we will continue to stay connected in camaraderie. Ferdy wouldn't be Ferdy if he hadn't already thought ahead. All in the interests of EFFA, of course.

The newly elected Membership Secretary Tibor Busi will be supported by him for another year and trained in his area of responsibility. This means we have no loss of know-how here and I am sure that there can be no better induction.

What is Ferdy going to do with all of this free time?

Here, too, we can count on his continued cooperation, as he will remain with us as country representative for the Netherlands when he leaves the Board.

This once again shows his deep commitment to our organization and I am absolutely convinced that we could not have found anyone better! We would also like to thank Ferdy for this today! It's just great to have such dedicated members in our community.

Your friend and president of the EFFA

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Oswald Piaggio". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the end of the letter.