

Minutes: Annual General Meeting of the Royal Counties Veterinary Association Wednesday 6th March 2013 held at Holiday Inn Oxford

22 attended.

Following a 2-course meal and an excellent presentation from the President of the BVA, Mr. Peter Harlech Jones on Responsible Use of Antibiotics (details of which will be posted on the RCVA web site www.rcva.co.uk in due course).

The AGM was opened at 10.00pm.

Officers Present:

Alastair Stuart (Divisional Secretary) - CHAIRED
Liz Bennett (Treasurer)

Other members of Council Present

Jennie Batt,
Caroline Blundell (AGM minutes secretary),
Laura Bowen,
Lucy Howard (Bicester SA CPD meetings Secretary),
Palli Juggins,
Bridget McGillivray,
Jeremy Morgan,
Joe Sprinz (BVA representative).

Ordinary members present:

Maurice Allen,
Stuart Butler,
Nick de Ban,
Nycky Edleston,
Emma Hall,
Julia James,
Rita Mesquita,
Malcolm Pott,
Alex Russell,
Belinda Victor,
Stephen Ware,
Anna Welchew,

1. 5 Apologies for absence were received from the following members:

John Gleeson (AUDITOR), Julian Slater, Kieran Avery, Lewis Thomas, David Burch, David Harwood, Maureen Aitken, Emma Rowe

2. 2012 AGM minutes agreed (Proposed Nick de Ban. Seconded Lucy Howard)

3. Annual accounts were presented by Hon. Treasurer Liz Bennet. Liz recognised that 2012, with a total of 18 general meetings, has been the busiest year for the RCVA to date. Thanks were due to Lucy, Caroline and Alastair for allowing this to be so. There had been 9 Bicester small animal CPD meetings, 4 "county" meetings (at Bayer, Maidenhead, Cholsey and Abingdon), a very successful equine meeting at Newbury, where Derek Knottenbelt attracted our largest ever audience, plus the annual joint VLA/Southern counties/RCVA winter meeting, 2 social events and the 2012 AGM. The current balance is £5355.97. A loss of £1421.88 was reported, despite the increase in membership and sponsorship. This is due to a council decision in 2011 to subsidise

meetings in order to encourage RCVA membership and rejuvenate the organisation. Current membership has doubled from 52 members at the start of 2011 to 102 members to date, with an active CPD mailing list of 200. An accounts sheet summary was provided. Membership income has increased through 2012 from £664.00 in 2011 to £1044.00. Sponsorship income has increased from £1300.00 in 2011 to £2402.25. A donation was not made to the Veterinary Benevolent Fund (VBF) in 2012 since a decision was made at the most recent council meeting (Jan 2013) to reintroduce the collection-tin at ordinary meetings throughout the year, and donate the amounts raised outside subscription, preserving subscription fees to promote RCVA services for members. It was noted that subscription has remained at £10.00 for at least 24 years! Caroline Blundell suggested that this was likely to remain the case for 2013 and beyond, while RCVA regained a more stable footing. Any increase in subscription rate would require all current members paying by standing order to submit a new form to their banks, and it may be a major undertaking to achieve good compliance!

The accounts remain to be audited by John Gleeson – currently on holiday.

4. Election of Council Officers and other posts 2013:

Nomination for President: Laura Bowen. Proposed by Jennie Batt. Seconded by Caroline Blundell. Proposal carried with no objections.

Nomination for Junior-Vice-President: Jennie Batt. Proposed by Julia James. Seconded by Joe Sprinz. Proposal carried with no objections.

Nomination for Honorary Secretary: Alastair Stuart to continue in role. Proposed by Bridget McGillivray. Seconded by Jeremy Morgan. Proposal carried with no objections.

Nomination for Honorary Treasurer: Liz Bennett to continue in role. Proposed by Alastair Stuart. Seconded by Lucy Howard. Proposal carried with no objections.

Nomination for Meetings Secretary: Lucy Howard to continue in role. Proposed by Palli Juggins. Seconded by Laura Bowen. Proposal carried with no objections. (It was noted that Lucy is not a BVA member and is therefore an associate member of RCVA. Thus she cannot hold the post of officer (president, treasurer or secretary – only open to full members) but she remains eligible to be on committee and in a special role outside that of officer).

Nomination for Young Vet Network representative: Kieran Avery. Proposed by Julia James, seconded by Jennie Batt. Although absent from the meeting (due to a car breakdown) Kieran has already signalled his willingness to take on this role. Proposal carried with no objections

Nomination for New Council Member to replace Chris Trower: Emma Hall. Proposed by Lucy Howard. Seconded by Palli Juggins. Proposal carried with no objections.

Auditor: Although absent John Gleeson had already confirmed his willingness to continue as account auditor.

Regional representatives: It was confirmed that , in addition to their RCVA committee roles, Joe Sprinz would continue as BVA representative for the South-East, and that

Julian Slater would continue as RCVA AWF representative – until such time as this latter role was organised into a larger SE regional role.

Resignations:

Chris Trower and

David Harwood have resigned from committee.

Caroline Blundell stepped down from any officer role into a general committee role but remains happy to assist with the county CPD meetings for 2013

- 5. Updating subscription and membership lists:** This is now complete. The excel document listing all those currently paying by standing order or by cash will be shared with all committee members via an i-Cloud service in the near future. To re-cap, members who pay for membership by standing order receive a full 12-month membership from the date of receipt of funds into the RCVA bank account. Members who pay with cash receive membership until Dec 31st of the same year, with the exception of those who pay after November 1st, when membership will run until Dec 31st of the following year. Only paid up members, students and veterinary nurses will be eligible for the members' rates for CPD or other RCVA meetings. A higher price is payable by non-members. Caroline Blundell hopes to organise a dated membership card scheme to make it easier to determine members from non-members at events throughout the year.
- 6. Any other business:** The RCVA rules were referred to for clarification of the terms eligibility for committee membership and appointment as an officer. See appendix below.

The meeting was closed at 10.15pm

Appendix: Relevant section of RCVA Rules

- (1)Full Members. A person eligible for Full Membership of the Association must be a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and a member of the British Veterinary Association.
- (2)Associate Members. A person otherwise eligible under (1) above, but who is not a member of the British Veterinary Association, may become an Associate member.
- (3)Affiliate Members. A person who is not a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, but who has an interest in veterinary matters, may become an Affiliate member.
- (4)Student Members. Veterinary and veterinary nursing students may be elected to student membership, without payment of fees or subscription. Student members become eligible for Full, Associate or Affiliate membership on 1st January following completion of their studies.

Members and Associate members shall be entitled to attend all meetings. Affiliate members and Student members shall normally be entitled to attend all meetings, but council reserves the right to exclude Student or Affiliate membership groups from specific meetings and from voting under exceptional circumstances.

Only full members are allowed to hold office, or to vote on any matter affecting the British Veterinary Association, or to represent the Association at British Veterinary Association Council meetings. Members from all membership categories may be elected to council.

Officers

- (5)The Officers of the Association shall consist of the President, Junior and Senior Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer. The President will normally be in post for a period of two years. The other Officers shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Senior Vice-President shall be the immediate past President, and the Junior Vice-President shall be the President elect.

Council

- (6)The Council of the Association shall consist of thirteen Members, five of whom shall be the officers of the Association alongside eight other elected Members.

There may in addition be further Council appointments as required from time to time. These posts may be filled from within Council or by co-opting from the general membership.

In the event of a vacancy occurring in Council of the Association between elections, Council shall have power to co-opt a Member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting. (If applicable, this person should be the defeated candidate who gained the highest number of votes at the last election).

The Council shall have the management of the affairs of the Association and may meet as occasion may require. Not less than 5 shall be a quorum. Notice of each Council meeting shall be sent to every Member of the Council, seven clear days before such meeting.

Election to Membership

- (7) Candidates for membership shall have been duly proposed and seconded by Full Members of the Association, on a nomination form to be obtained from the Honorary Secretary or down-loaded from the web-site, and countersigned by the candidate. The election shall be by a show of hands at the next Ordinary General Meeting.
- (8) The association shall have the power to add to their number by the election of Honorary Life Members and Honorary Associate Members, but no one shall be elected except under the following conditions:
- a) They shall be persons who occupy a distinguished position and who have assisted in the progress of Veterinary Science, or they shall be persons who have given exceptional service to this Association
 - b) They shall be nominated, proposed and seconded by the same proceedings as for members. The election shall be by a show of hands at the next Annual General Meeting.
 - c) When elected, Honorary Associates shall be entitled to attend all meetings, but shall be ineligible to hold office.
 - d) Honorary Life Members, being paid up Full Members at the time of their election, shall not be required to pay a subscription and shall continue to enjoy full privileges of membership.

Election to Council

- (9) When giving notice of the last meeting of each year, the Secretary shall invite members to submit nominations for Office and for Council. Nomination forms to be obtained from the Secretary or down-loaded from the web-site. Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, and with the prior consent of the nominee, should be lodged with the Secretary. The election shall be by a show of hands at the next Annual General Meeting. -

Subscriptions

- (10) An annual subscription of an amount proposed and agreed by a majority of the members present at the preceding Annual General meeting, to be due on the 1st January. In the case of members elected after the first of November the initial subscription may be waived at the discretion of the honorary treasurer.

Resignations

- (11) A member wishing to resign shall give notice in writing to the Secretary, who shall read such notice at the next meeting of the Association. The member so resigning shall be liable for the payment of the annual subscription for the current year and any arrears up to the date of tendering resignation.