

# AGV AGM 2013 report

April 25<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm teleconference



## AGENDA

### 1 Record of Attendees

Deborah Alexander  
Aryen Brouwer  
Adrienne Conroy  
Les Eckford  
Aiden Foster  
Rebeca Garcia  
Jane Gibbens  
Sarah Gordon  
Paul Honeyman

Paddy Grant  
Nick James  
Mike Watkin Jones  
Fred Landeg  
John Lawrence  
Alan Macphee  
Vivien Malan  
Theresa Philips  
Pam Prior

Kate Sharpe  
Linda Smith  
Ed Thirkell  
Liz Shickle  
Sheila Voas  
Allan Wellwood

### 2 Apologies for Absence

Jane R Clark  
Graeme Cochrane  
Stewart Donald  
Richard Drummond  
Enrique Fernandez

Nigel Gibbens  
George Marshall  
Bryan Montague  
Cath McVicar  
Mick Park

Rob Paul  
Lévon Stephan  
Jim Scudamore  
Peter Thomas

### 3 Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM (September 2011) were posted on the AGV website.

### 4 Matters Arising

No matters arising

### 5 President's Address: Linda Smith

Linda Smith gave a brief overview of her experience of AGV and its predecessor, the Association of State Veterinary Officers (ASVO); over recent years there had been confusion over the roles of AGV and Government Veterinary Surgeons (GVS). The past 18 months had proven difficult and stressful.

### 6 Treasurer's Report: Fred Landeg

The financial statement had previously been circulated and this was summarised; a substantial number of membership payments are old and below the standard rate. There are approximately 100 AGV members and the vast majority are AHVLA employees. Fred gave thanks to the auditors who have reviewed the AGV accounts.

### 7 Position with respect to European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO)

No report – Cath McVicar unable to join the meeting – apologies offered. Fred Landeg provided an eloquent description of the cost of membership in relation to the benefits offered, and the current financial position of AGV.

## **8 Secretary's Report: Aiden Foster**

- i. After the last AGM in September 2011 the council have met, usually by telecon, to discuss the BVA Council papers up to January 2013; the papers for the April 2013 meeting were not discussed. The AGV has been represented by Adrienne Conroy at the BVA Council meetings and I would like to offer my thanks to her for enthusiastically representing the AGV and making detailed preparations for each meeting.
- ii. The AGV website is managed by 1&1 who offered an updated version of their software at a slightly higher cost and this was upgraded in July 2012. The current cost is £19.99 (cf. £6.99) per month + VAT and the current invoice runs to May 12<sup>th</sup> 2013.
- iii. Since the last AGM various members of the council have met by telecon to discuss the future of AGV on several occasions and this has included preparation of a letter to Chris Hadkiss which has led to the AGM.

For the purposes of making decisions it was acknowledged that an AGM was quorate with 30 members and that this number was presumed to have been placed in the AGV Constitution when the membership was much larger. It was agreed that the decisions made by those present would be acceptable, as 24 members were present.

## **9 The future of the Association**

The role of AGV compared with the activities of GVS was explored and two key issues were identified:

- i. Continuing Professional Development has been a key feature of AGV and GVS – this was no longer feasible for AGV, given the current lack of support from senior management to release staff and for them to be active members of AGV. GVS no longer offers CPD provision. Furthermore the Civil Service-wide commitment to five days CPD per annum and the implementation of the Veterinary and Technical Strategy would cover the requirement for CPD provision within AHVLA.
- ii. Lobbying BVA council as an independent organisation was regarded as an important role for AGV that is not covered by GVS. The potential for influencing and informing BVA on issues relating to state veterinary medicine was emphasized.

Linkage of AGV with the Veterinary Public Health Association (VPHA) was suggested and John Lawrence, the current president of the VPHA, gave an overview of the activities of the VPHA. It was important to appreciate the differences in the membership and lobbying interests of AGV versus VPHA with respect to BVA. The strong CPD base of VPHA could provide a platform for retaining the identity of the AGV and possibly include CPD on topics that are complementary to those offered via the Vet & Tech Strategy.

The membership of AGV needs to be reinvigorated and the AGM could serve as a timepoint to revise the membership of the organisation – members would be encouraged to continue with their standing orders but are free to step down given the proposed amalgamation with the VPHA. New members could be sought from recent recruitment to AHVLA.

The current AGV council will provide continuity in promoting a future for AGV and to explore possible amalgamation with VPHA.

## **10 Resolution Confirming the Future of the Association**

**Question 1:** Should AGV continue in its current format?

***No***

**Question 2:** If a change is needed, what sort of change should that be?

***Affiliation in some way with VPHA***

**Question 3:** If the members feel that the Association is non-viable and should be wound up, how can we achieve this?

***Not applicable***

## **11 Resolution Confirming Dispersement of Assets of the Association**

Not applicable

## **12 Summary of required Action Points for the Association**

- i. A summary of the AGM will be circulated to members by email and placed on the website.
- ii. If possible the AGM report would also be circulated internally and placed on the AHVLA website.
- iii. A formal briefing note would be compiled to formulate the grounds for discussions between the AGV and VPHA committees.

## **13 Any other business**

It was agreed that the process for appointing council members and deciding on positions on council would not form part of this meeting, and existing positions would be retained pending further developments. The President and others agreed.

## **14 President's Closing Remarks: Linda Smith**

Linda thanked everyone for attending and taking part. She expressed her satisfaction that a potential way forward had been identified for the Association.

## **15 Date of next meeting**

To be decided.

The meeting was closed at 5.26 pm.

Aiden Foster  
AGV Secretary