

# ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT VETERINARIANS

## Action Note

Council Teleconference 1630 – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

### Present

Kate Sharpe	Chair
Adrienne Conroy	
Lévon Stephan	
Fred Landeg	
Rebeca Garcia	
Edwina Thirkell	

### Apologies

Cath McVicar  
Edwina Thirkell  
Linda Smith  
John Lawrence

### Notes of Council Telecon 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and Matters Arising **Action**

There were no outstanding matters arising that were not part of the main Agenda.

#### Membership Update

So far in 2015 eleven new members had made application to join. See below for discussion on improving membership numbers. Given the possibility of membership by those who do may work for a government service provider Council would need to give consideration to Group membership fees and voting rights for those that had group membership.

#### HMRC Application for tax relief on membership subscription

Lévon had explored the position of tax relief on AGV membership fees. Apparently ASVO, the previous name of AGV was eligible but HMRC would not accept that AGV and ASVO were synonymous. The procedure was complicated but **FL** would complete the paperwork and submit an application to HMRC for members' subscriptions to be eligible for tax relief.

**FL**

#### Conference Update

Attendance at both the VPHA and AGV Joint Conference and the London Vet Show were discussed. There were potential opportunities to get new members.

## **BVA/MSG Update**

KS covered the work of the MSG – the BVA Education and veterinary workforce: review and development of action plan. Development of BVA Animal welfare strategy, BVA Governance review, the relationship between BVA and the specialist divisions. The major event would be the launch of the joint RCVS and BVA Vet Futures project at the London Vet Show. Strands of work would need to be taken forward under the project by working groups. It was important that AGV had input into the groups.

**All**

## **EASVO**

Jane Clark would be attending the next meeting of EASVO. She was liaising with Cath McVicar on contacts. She would have observer status. There was a need to find out whether EASVO were changing their membership fees. Jane and Cath would work on a paper for Council to consider the options for AGV membership of EASVO and the payment of fees.

**JC, CM**

## **Council membership roles and responsibilities**

Discussion over roles and responsibilities:

Rebeca to continue as **Animal Welfare rep.**

**RG**

**EASVO rep and role** to be decided when council have considered an options paper that Jane and Cath have been commissioned to produce

**CM, JC**

**BVA rep.** Adrienne to continue with alternate of Kate

-Council to re-instate the process of allocating BVA papers to council members to review and discuss at telecon to brief the attending rep prior to the BVA council meeting

-Representation to be reviewed when BVA governance review has been completed as this is likely to alter the role and time commitment.

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**AC, KS**

**Members services Group rep.** **KS** happy to continue (or stand down if anyone else would like the opportunity-no immediate takers at the telecon)

**KS**

**Secretary or parts of role.** Offers welcomed

**All**

Suggestion that one member of council be the **VPHA liaison rep** and attend VPHA council meetings at their invitation. Proposal Levon with Ed as alternate.

Council agreed that we should invite similar representation from VPHA to our council meetings.

**Membership of council.** Council agreed that members who do not attend or contribute to AGV business without reasonable justification should be asked to step down from council.

Council members are asked to consider who may usefully be co-opted to council if persons resign.

Based on current council membership, we are short of field delivery vets so a VO and members of one of the OV companies were suggested or vet school ambassadors

**All**

Council members to consider and bring this back to the next council meeting when we see what effect the constitutional change has had on our membership.

## **Promotion and Steering the Association**

Kate to draft Letter to Vet record (and/or Vet Times-Ed to investigate prices)

**KS, ET**

Incorporate mention of 150 year of SVS in promotional letter

Need to engage with members more and to do this we need to understand

-what is the demographic of our membership base? (How long graduated, overseas or UK trained, BVA members or not? What do they want from AGV? can we do short survey and offer incentives to participate? Can GVS give us any details?)

**All**

What publications can we offer

-newsletters,

-update on AGV work,

-some forum to replace SVJ to showcase wide remit of Gov vet, case studies,

-sharing conference presentations on AGV website, (quick win and KS to speak with Ewa re any agreements VPHA have already made with presenters at next week's conference)

-vet blog after the conference (Jane to speak with Davina Gray and Levon to ask Rebeca to put something together between them)

**KS,JC,LS,  
RG**

## **AOB**

There were no items of other business.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

To be arranged.

**FL**

**Fred Landeg**

29<sup>th</sup> November 2015