



Association of Government Veterinarians

AGM 2019

Saturday 23rd March 2019 17:00

1. Record of Attendees

Kate Sharpe	Jane Clark	Adrienne Conroy
Arjen Brouwer	Jane Gibbens	Liz Kelly
Fred Landeg	Simon Doherty	Joana Crisostomo
Mick Park	Levon Stephan	Nigel Gibbens

2. Acceptance of New Members

The following new members, proposed by Jane Clark and seconded by Nigel Gibbens, were accepted unanimously.

Julia Clark	Hannah Robbins
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3. Apologies for Absence

Rebeca Garcia	Rob Paul
Anthony Ridge	David Pritchard
Katherine Grace	Linda Smith

4. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM (March 2018) are posted on the AGV website.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. President's Address

Kate Sharpe, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Rebeca Garcia, presented Rebeca's President's Address. A copy of the full statement is posted on the AGV website.

Rebeca focussed on the change and uncertainty we have all faced in the past year and the role of AGV in championing the role of vets who carry out government work. We have actively participated in a number of consultations and calls for evidence, working closely with BVA and other specialist divisions. We have provided expertise and information to BVA committees and been members of a number of working groups. We continue to present the views of AGV at BVA Council meetings. This work ensures that the role of government veterinarians remains visible and recognised within the profession and that BVA policy positions reflect the experience and input of government vets. This work will continue throughout the coming year with AGV represented on a number of new BVA working groups.

During the past year, AGV wrote to the Secretary of State noting that veterinarians working in government are fully qualified and trained. This was in response to a statement he made that suggested this was not the case for EU non-UK vets.



Representatives from BVA, AGV and VPHA met him to discuss this and other matters more fully.

A key theme throughout the year has been the wellbeing of government vets and a survey on this topic received over 700 responses. We are all very thankful to you all for sharing your views, comments and experiences. This has resulted in increased awareness of the challenges we face. Senior management within government has welcomed the work and it will be followed up over the coming year to maintain the momentum.

Rebeca concluded her statement by thanking all AGV Council members who have tirelessly provided comments and input at pace and continue to do so.

Following the address, Simon Doherty BVA President and AGV member, thanked AGV on behalf of the BVA and emphasised that BVA could not do its work without our input, recognising that as one of the smaller BVA specialist divisions we 'punched above our weight'.

7. Treasurer's Report

Liz Kelly, in the absence of the Treasurer Anthony Ridge, presented this item. The Treasurer's report for the calendar year 2018 is published on the AGV website. The accounts had been examined and certified correct by Alan McPhee and Alan Eames and the Treasurer was grateful for their time in doing this. However they are no longer able to continue doing this and an alternative examiner is required.

The AGV bank account has now been fully transferred to the Treasurer. Total income from membership in 2018 was £1,426. Currently membership fees are £25 but we do have historical members paying lower fees.

We made a net loss of £400 in 2018 and have £12.8k in the account, with our main expenditure supporting EASVO membership and our representative's expenses – Jane Clark, current EASVO president. The loss in 2019 is likely to be larger as BVA paid £916.18 to us to cover 50% of EASVO membership fees for both 2018 and 2019. We are most grateful to BVA for this support and gave a formal note of thanks to Simon as BVA President and representative at the meeting.

A number of points were raised in discussion. It was clarified that it was not necessary to have two examiners for the accounts. One examiner was fine but must be independent of Council. Arjen Brouwer volunteered and was gratefully accepted by members present.

A discussion on subscription rates covered both the current rate for members and whether or not it was tax deductible. On the latter there were mixed views but the consensus was that it was not practical to pursue further. There is no mention in our constitution of a 'retired' rate, all members, with the exception of honorary members, pay the full rate. The current membership fee was discussed and a motion presented to increase it to £40/year (Proposed Jane Clark, seconded Jane Gibbens). The motion was carried unanimously.



Anthony Ridge was thanked for his work during the year.

There being no further questions the accounts were accepted.

8. Secretary's Report

Membership report for 2018 had been published on the AGV website. We had a net loss of 5 members this year with the membership currently standing at 75. AGV members present were of the view that more could be done to encourage new members to join and that the work done by Council on behalf of AGV was not well enough publicised.

This resulted in a number of suggestions from the floor, to be discussed in detail at the next Council meeting and taken forward; raise the profile of AGV to OV's carrying out work for government; ensure that the difference in the work and objectives of GVS and AGV is understood; use an updated flyer at forthcoming meetings (eg SVI induction day in April) and conferences; contact senior managers formally to encourage their input and support of AGV; include DAERA in communications, write to CVO Robert Huey and invite a representative to Council; specifically target more members through APHA; use various communication methods eg Twitter, APHA vet leadership team, potential for use of AGV logo on vet signatures; ensuring updated information present on AGV web site.

9. Election of the AGV Council

The nominations for Officers and Council members did not exceed the available posts. Officer posts and Council members were elected *en bloc*, proposed by Levon Stephan and seconded by Arjen Brouwer. All were elected unanimously without objection.

Officers

President	Rebeca Garcia
Senior Vice President	Kate Sharpe
Junior Vice President	Liz Kelly
Secretary	Liz Kelly
Treasurer	Anthony Ridge

Council Members

Adrienne Conroy	Joana Crisostomo
Katherine Grace	Jane Gibbens
Amanda Carson	Jane Clark

10. European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO)

Jane Clark began by thanking a number of people; AGV members for ongoing financial support for AGV representation at the EASVO/FVE GAs; AGV council for valued input to FVE consultations; BVA for their additional financial support during her EASVO presidency and; FSA for providing additional support to keep costs down - travel to London airports etc. Her report is below:



'During the year I have attended (and chaired) the 2 EASVO GAs – these are excellent opportunities to build relationships across Europe and with AVMA, CVMA and WVA colleagues. You, as members, receive a BTO report from the EASVO GA and a brief version is published on our website. I also prepare a BTO report from the FVE GA for our council and UKECG:

The meetings in Bergen (June) and Rome (November) covered; updates on progress in the implementation of the Official Controls Regulation and the rapidly developing implementation of the Animal Health Regulation; animal welfare and the work of the FVE AWWG, with a recommendation that aquatic animal (with insects and other invertebrates) welfare is considered in their future work programme; a session on "One Health" heard a quote from Barak Obama in 2014 that, in our globalised society, "A health threat anywhere is a health threat everywhere"; the EASVO questionnaire on developing an VETCEE dossier for a Veterinary Public Health qualification; a pre-publication presentation of AGVs survey on Government Veterinarian's wellbeing which was very well received; the challenges and opportunities of using data to provide an evidence base for risk analysis and the paradox that, in preventative medicine, success results in a reduction of the perceived need for the intervention.

There were several FVE board meetings with the section presidents – please note that several FVE WGs and the FVE board are being re-elected in 2019.

We have also successfully appointed a VETCEE subcommittee to develop a VETCEE Dossier of Competences in veterinary public health – representatives with UK perspectives include Milorad Radakovic, Keith Sumption and Frank Busch.

In conclusion – this is a significant investment of AGV council members' time and AGV's financial resources and I am both grateful for this and happy to answer any questions from members, both here at the AGM and over the year'.

Jane was thanked for her hard work in this area. In response to a question she clarified that our membership of FVE will not change after UK's exit from the EU as this is a European organisation not an EU one.

11. Any other business

Liz Kelly raised the point that as there was cross membership between AGV and VPHA it would be sensible to hold the AGMs at different times. A motion was proposed (Jane Clark) and seconded (Levon Stephan) that future AGV AGMs will be held at the Autumn conference so that members of both organisations do not have to make a choice of which AGM to attend. This was carried unanimously.

The death of Paul Honeyman, a dear colleague from APHA and a strong supporter of AGV, was noted by the meeting with great sadness. Levon Stephan spoke in memory of Paul. Levon is still collating memories of Paul in a presentation for his widow. These continue to be sent to him from friends and colleagues. A minute's silence was held in Paul's memory.



12. President's Closing Remarks

Kate thanked all members attending the meeting and Joana for her work in helping to organise the conference. She noted the continuing work on the wellbeing report.

13. Date of next meeting

The next AGM will be held at the Autumn joint AGV/VPHA Conference **in 2020**, date to be advised.

