

## **BVA Welsh Branch AGM**

Tuesday 24 June, 2.30pm, Park Plaza Hotel, Cardiff

### **Attendees**

Gwen Rees, BVA Welsh Branch President  
Phoebe McCarter, BVA Welsh Branch JVP  
Collin Willson, BVA Welsh Branch SVP  
James Taylor, BVA Council Wales Representative  
Darrel Abernethy, Aberystwyth Vet School  
Tom Bailey BVZS  
Sarah Carr, AWWN  
Jane Clarke, AGV  
Kate Hovers, AWF  
Mike Jessop, VPHA  
Fenella Johnson, BSAVA  
Morley Jones, Council member  
Ifan Lloyd, Policy Committee  
Kate O'Sullivan, Member  
Neil Paton, Member  
Sara Pedersen, Council member  
Tricia Sutton, SVS  
Phil Thomas, Council member

### **BVA staff:**

Liz Mullineaux, BVA President  
Anna Judson, BVA SVP  
Rob Williams, BVA JVP  
Hannah Killeen, Policy and Public Affairs Officer

### **Apologies:**

Jim Hopkins, WVSC  
Hannah Hunt, Council member

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

Noted with no comments

### **BVA and Welsh Branch Updates**

- The Chair highlighted a few key points from the update paper, including the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) announcement, the improved availability of BTV vaccine, and the proposed ban on greyhound racing. The government's intention to set up a steering group to advise on the latter was noted.
- The recent BVA/VPHA letter on non-stun slaughter was flagged to members.
- Discussing Blue Tongue vaccine, members that something visual was needed to encourage farmers to take up the vaccine. Perhaps a social media campaign would be useful in spreading the word.
- Members heard an update on the work of the TB Programme Board. Inconclusive Reactor policy would be changing in the autumn, and work was being done to ensure the detail was properly communicated.

- Members also heard an update on the Vet School. The first cohort would be entering their final year in September, and there were positive signs that many of them were looking to work in Wales after graduation. There is also a 50% increase in vet nursing numbers for September.
- The impact of the Multispecies Wales delays on BVD screening are frustrating. Better communication is needed to emphasise the importance of screening despite the delay, but there are no funds for this.
- Gwaredu Scab is due to open for application in September, but there is currently nowhere that will taken used dip. The team are working to find a solution and will keep members updated

### **Presidential Handover**

- I Lloyd proposed that Phoebe McCarter be elected Branch President, seconded by J Clarke. Phoebe Mc Carter was duly elected President of BVA Welsh Branch until June 2027, and took the chair from G Rees.
- C Willson proposed that James Taylor be elected Junior Vice President, seconded by J Clarke. James Taylor was duly elected Junior Vice President.

### **Branch Constitution**

- The Branch constitution was duly ratified with no amendments. Proposed by G Rees, seconded by S Pedersen.

### **Council Members**

- The Branch Council membership was duly ratified with no amendments. Proposed by G Rees, seconded by M Jones.

### **Honorary Associates**

- Members suggested the following be considered as future Honorary Associates:
  - Ann Davies MP, Caerfyrddin, PC rural affairs spokesperson and dairy farmer
  - David Chadwick MP, Brecon, Radnor and Cwmtawe LD, active in the agricultural community
  - Henry Tufnell MP, Mid and South Pembrokeshire, Lab, Efracom member
  - Peter Fox MS, Monmouth, Con, Shadow Rural Affairs Spokesperson

### **Welsh Branch Manifesto**

- Members suggested the following amendments and additions to the Welsh Branch Manifesto for 2026:
  - Negotiation of the SPS agreement. The focus would be on Dover/Calais, and the Senedd should ensure that it would also work for the Wales/Ireland border.
  - The bTB point should be updated to fit the Pembrokeshire pilot.
  - Direct funding should be focused on the SFS.
  - Include something on environmental contamination from parasiticides?
  - The surveillance point should be amended to say evidence-informed rather than evidence-based.
  - Should include support for veterinary education and the workforce
  - Add a point on brachycephalics and tackling poor breeding. This would link to animal welfare in the national curriculum.

### **Any Other Business**

- No other business was raised.