

**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Branch AGM,**  
**Thursday 15 February 2018 AT 7PM**  
**White River Hotel, 20-22 Main Street, Toomebridge**

**Participants**

Seamus O’Kane, NI Branch Senior Vice President  
Alan Gordon, NI Branch Junior Vice President

**In attendance**

Michael McGilligan, BVA  
Jo Gibson, Vet NI

Aurelie Moralis, Member  
Sandra Dunbar, DAERA Veterinary Service  
Pat Hart, NIVA Representative  
Greg Koulianos, BVPA  
Stanley McDowell, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute  
Veterinary Sciences Division  
Fiona McFarland, Recent graduate/YVN representative  
Ruth Moreno, VPHA  
Esther Skelly-Smith, Member  
David Torrens, Member  
Robert Huey, Chief Veterinary Officer NI

- 1) The Senior Vice President of Branch welcomed members to the meeting. He started the meeting by paying tribute to Jean Wales and leading a minute’s silence in her memory.

**Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

- 2) Members noted the minutes of the AGM 2017, which were accepted as an accurate record. No actions remained outstanding.

**Branch constitution (ratification)**

- 3) Members ratified the constitution for 2018. No amendments were proposed.

**Branch President and Senior Vice President (ratification)**

- 4) Members were reminded that as per the constitution of BVA NI Branch there shall be a President, a Junior Vice President (JVP) and a Senior Vice President (SVP).

Members noted that Seamus O’Kane had completed one year as Senior President of BVA NI Branch. It was proposed and seconded that Seamus retain the role of Senior Vice President for the following year to ensure a full officer team.

- 5) Following his year as JVP, Alan Gordon was proposed as BVA NI Branch President. This was seconded and agreed by Branch.

**Branch Junior Vice President (vote)**

- 6) Members noted the nomination form for Aurelie Moralis as Branch Junior Vice President. There were no further expressions of interest.

- 7) Aurelie Moralis was proposed and seconded as BVA NI Branch JVP. Members congratulated Aurelie on her election as Branch JVP.

**Branch Honorary Secretary (vote)**

- 8) Esther Skelly-Smith was proposed and seconded as BVA NI Branch Honorary Secretary. Members congratulated Esther.

**Northern Ireland Branch representative on BVA Council (vote)**

- 9) Esther Skelly-Smith was also proposed and seconded as Northern Ireland Branch representative on BVA Council. Members congratulated Esther.

**Branch Council Membership (discussion and ratification)**

- 10) Members noted the BVA NI Branch Council membership.

- 11) Members noted that vacancies remained on Branch Council for a BCVA representative, and a BEVA representative.

Esther Skelly-Smith agreed to take on the position of BEVA representative.

- 12) Members ratified the proposed composition of Council for 2018.

**Action Secretariat to contact BCVA to invite them to field a representative for BVA NI Branch Council.**

**Honorary Associates**

- 13) Members noted the current list of BVA Honorary Associates in Northern Ireland.

**NI Branch activity update**

- 14) Members noted the activity of BVA NI Branch Council over the past year with reference to BVA's priority areas and were invited to suggest additional steps to take forward work on these priority areas via [NIPresident@bva.co.uk](mailto:NIPresident@bva.co.uk) and/or [NorthernIreland@bva.co.uk](mailto:NorthernIreland@bva.co.uk)

**Any other business**

- 15) The Branch Officers thanked members for their attendance and contributions.