BVA NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH AGM
WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2017 AT 7PM

Minutes of the Northern Ireland Branch AGM, 19:00, 27 Jan 2016

Members are invited to:
   a) Note and if appropriate approve the minutes of the 2016 AGM.

Participants
Simon Doherty (NI Branch President)           Fiona McFarland
Mark Little (Honorary Secretary)               JJ O’Brien
Jean Wales (VPHA)                              Des Thompson
Seamus O’Kane (NI Branch JVP)                  Liam Young
Sean Wensley (BVA President)                   John O’Neill
David Torrens (DARD)                          David Broderick
Sandra Dunbar (AWF)                            Raymond Clarke
Cathal Carr (SPVS) – by phone                  Trevor Crockett
Stanley McDowell (AFBI)                       
Cahir King (AVSPNI)                            

In attendance
Hannah Jordan (BVA) – by phone
Jo Gibson (Vet NI)

Apologies were received from: Greg Koulianos (BVPA), Pat Hart (NI Branch SVP), Ian Miller

1) The President of Branch welcomed members to the meeting.

Minutes of the 2015 AGM
2) Members noted the minutes of the last meeting, which were accepted as an accurate record. No actions remained outstanding.

Branch constitution (ratification)
3) Members noted that the constitution was previously ratified at the AGM in 2015 and included two amendments, which were incorporated:
   • References to Vice President should be changed to Senior Vice President or Junior Vice President.
   • A place should be made available on the Council of Branch for the Senior Vice President.

4) Members ratified the constitution without further amendment.

Branch President (ratification)
5) 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 Simon Doherty had completed one year as President of BVA NI Branch and would be taking up the role of SVP.

6) Following his year as JVP, Seamus O’Kane was proposed as BVA NI Branch President by Des Thompson and seconded by Trevor Crocket.
7) The BVA NI Branch President, Seamus O’Kane, thanked those in attendance and in particular Simon Doherty for his sterling work steering BVA NI Branch through its third year.

**Branch Junior Vice President (vote)**
8) Members noted the nomination form for Jean Wales as Branch JVP.

9) Jean Wales was proposed as BVA NI Branch JVP by John O’Neill and seconded by David Torrens. Members congratulated Jean on her election as Branch JVP.

**Branch Council Membership (discussion and ratification)**
10) Members noted the BVA NI Branch Council membership. Members noted that David Torrens would be standing down as DARD representative. Sandra Dunbar was proposed as DARD representative going forward in addition to her role as BVA AWF representative.

11) Members noted that Jennifer Gilbert would be standing down as BVA NI Branch recent graduate representative and that Fiona McFarland would cover this position going forward in addition to her role as NI representative of BVA Member Services group.

12) Members noted that vacancies remained on Branch Council for an AVS representative, a BCVA representative, and a BEVA representative.

13) Members ratified the proposed composition of Council for 2016.

**Action** Contact AVS, BCVA, and BEVA to ask them to field a Secretariat representative for BVA NI Branch Council.

**Honorary Associates**
14) Members noted the current list of BVA Honorary Associates in Northern Ireland.

**NI Branch activity update**
15) Members noted the activity of BVA NI Branch Council over the past year with particular reference to BVA's ten priority areas and were invited to suggest additional steps to take forward work on these priority areas and agenda suggestions for the NI Branch Council meeting in June.

16) Des Thompson asked the meeting to note for the agenda of the next Branch Council meeting the work taking place on a peer support network, in parallel to Young Vet Network NI, which would eventually be available to the wider profession. Peers would be beyond 8 years qualified.

17) Members discussed antimicrobial resistance and the statements made by Dame Sally Davies which claim that development of resistance is primarily due to use of antimicrobials in livestock. R Huey and Sean Wensley responded on behalf of DARD and BVA respectively to outline the work taking place to ensure the correct messages were being communicated from both organisations.

18) Members noted that the Veterinary Futures Action Group had been appointed to translate the recommendations within the Vet Futures report into Actions. Simon Doherty was responsible for the ambition related to vets' wider roles in society, which was heavily related to One Health.

**Any other business**
19) Members thanked the BVA President for attending the BVA NI Branch meeting.
20) Members were requested to provide feedback on the BVA Northern Ireland Election manifestos via the BVA Community or by email to the secretariat.

21) Members noted that contributions to the Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey from Northern Irish members were few to none and Branch undertook to increase participation by NI members.

**Action** Encourage and facilitate NI Branch members sign up to the Secretariat Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey panel to improve the quality of results related to Northern Irish matters.

22) The President of Branch passed on his thanks and best wishes on behalf of NI Branch to Amelia Findon for her work as NI Branch Secretariat.

23) The President of Branch thanked members for their attendance and contributions.