SCOTTISH BRANCH AGM 14 MAY 2014 3.30pm
Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, EDINBURGH EH11 3XD

Participants
Ronnie Soutar – President of Branch
Robert Anderson – Senior Vice President of Branch
Frank Stephen – Honorary Secretary and North of Scotland
Liz Ormerod - AWF
Sandy Duncan - VPHA
Paul Burr - BCVA
Paul Honeyman - AHVLA
Kathleen Robertson – regional representative
David Logue - Ayrshire
Sheila Voas – Scottish Government
Colin MacAldowie
Bill McKelvey
Jimmy Wilson
Grace Webster
Andrew Wilson
Pete Goddard

BVA
Robin Hargreaves – President
John Blackwell – President Elect
Peter Jones – Past President
David Calpin – Chief Executive
Amelia Findon – Head of Policy

Apologies were received from: Keith Chandler (BEVA), Brian Hosie (SRUC), Jennet Chan, Charles Milne (FSA), Bill Reilly, Randolph Richards, Ross Allan, Sarah McLaren (AVS), Niall Connell, Freda Scott-Park (HIVSS – Jimmy Wilson as alternate)

1) R Soutar, President of Branch, welcomed members to the meeting. A special note of thanks and welcome was given to the BVA Officer team.

Matters arising
2) The President of Branch reported on the useful meeting earlier in the day between BVA, Branch Officers and NFU Scotland colleagues. Items for discussion had included welfare at slaughter and BVA’s campaign on non-stun, antimicrobial resistance, and Scottish independence.

Minutes of the AGM 2013
3) The minutes of the AGM 2013 were noted. It was reported that there were no outstanding actions.

Branch constitution
4) Members were reminded that the constitution, as approved by the BVA Board, had been ratified at the AGM in 2013. At the time it was agreed that the membership of Branch Council would be extended to include: an Animal Welfare Foundation representative; a recent graduate representative; and the BVA Members Services
Group representative for Scotland. It was also agreed that a maximum term of office for Branch Council members of three years, renewable once, would be incorporated. These amendments had subsequently been made.

5) It was noted that the reference at 12.5 to the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) should be changed to Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC).  

   Action: Secretariat

6) The Branch constitution was proposed by K Robertson (regional representative), seconded by S Voas (Scottish Government) and adopted by Branch for 2014/2015.

Branch Officers

7) Members were reminded that the constitution of the Scottish Branch stated that there should be a President and a Vice President. A member should be elected to serve one year as (Junior) Vice President followed by two years as President and one year as (Senior) Vice President. It was noted that the President of Branch had served for one year and would continue for a further year. R Anderson had completed a one year term as Senior Vice President and therefore a Junior Vice President should be elected to serve for one year. R Anderson was thanked for all his efforts in support of Scottish Branch.

8) It was reported that a nomination for the role of Junior Vice President had been received from G Webster. The nomination was proposed by F Stephen (Honorary Secretary), seconded by D Logue (Ayrshire) and endorsed by Branch.

9) G Webster was congratulated and it was agreed that her background and experience as President of the Pig Veterinary Society was a useful addition to the Branch Officer team.

10) Members were reminded that the constitution of the Scottish Branch stated that there should be an Honorary Secretary, elected to serve for three years. At the AGM 2013 no nominations had been received for the role of Honorary Secretary and it had been agreed that F Stephen would continue in the role for an additional year, having already served for three years. F Stephen was thanked for his efforts and commitment to the work of Branch with members agreeing that he was held in high regard.

11) It was reported that a nomination for the role of Honorary Secretary had been received from R Anderson. The nomination was proposed by D Logue (Ayrshire), seconded by G Webster (Junior Vice President) and endorsed by Branch.

Branch Council 2014/2015

12) Members were reminded that, as detailed in the Branch Constitution, the composition of Branch Council was the Officers and one representative each of the following organisations, each of whom should be a member:

- each Scottish territorial division;
- each specialist division with a significant Scottish interest;
- the University of Glasgow’s School of Veterinary Medicine;
- the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies;
- Scotland’s Rural College;
- the Moredun Group;
- AHVLA;
- the Scottish Government;
- the Food Standards Agency;
- the Highlands and Islands Veterinary Services Scheme;
The President of Branch reported that invitations to nominate a representative for Branch Council had been sent to the University of Glasgow’s School of Veterinary Medicine and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, with both indicating an intention to nominate. It was noted that vets working in academic institutions may be less likely to hold BVA membership than vets in practice and it was suggested that consideration should be given to the promotion of BVA group membership to the vet schools. **Action: Secretariat**

The President of Branch reported that AVTRW would be invited to nominate in light of the death of E Scott. A recent graduate member would be sought via the BVA Community. It was noted that BVA had held a prize draw for two places for recent graduates at the Scottish dinner. These had been won by Nina Rzechorzek and Guen Bradbury and Branch looked forward to welcoming them to the dinner.

The composition of Branch Council was ratified for 2014/2015.

**Representation on BVA Council**

It was noted that F Stephen had represented Branch on BVA Council for the past three years and Branch thanked him for his efforts in bringing the Scottish agenda to BVA HQ. It was proposed that, as the role of the Branch President was to be the principal representative of Branch, R Soutar should attend BVA Council as the Branch representative for the coming year. The proposal was endorsed by Branch.

K Robertson (regional representative) appealed to Branch members to contribute to discussions on the Scotland forum of the BVA Community, and in particular comment on BVA Council papers. It was agreed that Branch Council should set an example to all Branch members by contributing regularly. **Action: All**

It was suggested that regional representatives could be provided with a BVA email address for the receipt of comments from those not wishing to use the BVA Community. It was agreed this would be explored. **Action: Secretariat**

It was noted that BVA was currently developing a new fully integrated website and database which would facilitate the provision of tailored content for members in different parts of the UK. It was agreed that this would encourage member engagement and Branch looked forward to the launch in summer 2014.

**Honorary Associates**

The President of Branch drew attention to the list of current Honorary Associates in Scotland. Branch was invited to make any suggestions for MPs, Peers and MEPs for consideration for recommendation to the BVA Nominations and Awards Group before the end of June. **Action: All**

The President of Branch drew attention to Branch activity over the past year including consultation responses and representation on a number of stakeholder groups. It was noted that key agenda items for Scottish Branch over the coming year included tail docking, surveillance and developing relations with the SSPCA. It was also noted that issues surrounding Scottish independence would remain high on the agenda although it was acknowledged that no action could be taken until the outcome of the referendum was known. It was agreed that, in the event of a
'yes' vote, a Scottish Branch EGM could be convened.

Any other business

22) Highlands and Islands Veterinary Services Scheme: J Wilson updated Branch on HIVSS funding availability and thanked BVA and RCVS for attending the HIVSS conference earlier in the year. It was agreed that Branch would continue to support the Scheme, recognising that the purpose was to ensure the availability of an adequate veterinary service at reasonable costs in designated areas of Scotland by setting fees for visits and reimbursing travel.

23) Vet Trust: K Robertson reported that Vet Trust would be holding its annual conference 10-11 June 2014 and the BVA President would be attending. Branch members were encouraged to support the event.

24) Human/animal bond: L Ormerod (AWF) drew attention to a range of studies around the importance of the human/animal bond, proposing that Branch could assist in raising awareness. It was agreed that the matter would be included on the agenda for the autumn Branch Council teleconference. **Action: Secretariat**

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