BVA WELSH BRANCH AGM - TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2018 2.30PM
City Hall, Cardiff CF10 3ND

Attendees

Welsh Branch
Sarah Carr – President
Les Eckford – Regional representative
Dinika Procter – Junior Vice President
Jane Clark – APHA/AGV
Kate O’Sullivan – BSAVA
Dai Grove-White – Liverpool
Kate Hovers – AWF
Ifan Lloyd – Wales AHW Framework Group
Gwen Rees – Bristol
Collin Willson – VPHA
Tricia Sutton – SVS
Tom Bailey - BVZS
Peter Jones
Rob Davies

BVA
John Fishwick – President
Simon Doherty – Junior Vice President
Amelia Findon – Head of Policy and Governance

Apologies
Nikki Hopkins – BCVA
Jim Hopkins – Wales VSSC
Becky Norton – AVS
Neil Paton – past president
Hamish and Jan Cormie

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

2. Minutes of the AGM 2017 – to note

3. Welsh Branch activity and priority setting – discussion and advice

4. Branch Council members - discussion and advice

5. Branch Constitution - ratification

6. Honorary Associates – information and advice

7. Any Other Business
Attendees
Neil Paton (Welsh Branch President)
Sarah Carr (Welsh Branch JVP)
Les Eckford (Wales regional representative)
Becky Norton (AVS)
Gwen Rees (Bristol)
Tricia Sutton (SVS)
Ifan Lloyd (AHWFG)

Gudrun Ravetz (BVA President)
John Fishwick (BVA JVP)
Sean Wensley (BVA SVP)
Amelia Findon (Head of Policy & Governance)
Michael McGilligan (Policy Officer)

Apologies were received from: Dinika Procter (Branch Hon Sec), Branwen Davis (BSAVA), Collin Wilson (VPHA), Fenella Johnson (recent graduate), Kate Hovers (AWF), Rob Davies (past president), Jill Hubbard, John Montague, Peter Harlech Jones.

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

Minutes of the AGM 2016
2) The minutes of the AGM 2016 were accepted as an accurate record. It was reported that there were no outstanding actions.

Welsh Branch activity – review of achievements
3) The President of Branch reminded members of Branch activity and achievements over the last year, including:

- **Brexit** – S Carr had represented Branch on the BVA Brexit Working Group, which had developed BVA’s principles for negotiating the UK’s exit from the European Union and a report detailing BVA’s lobbying position. The report had been sent to politicians, civil servants and key stakeholders, and lobbying meetings were being arranged. Where appropriate country-specific issues had been raised throughout the document, and there was a short section headed “Devolution” that made the point that different parts of the UK faced different challenges. The public affairs team would work with Welsh Branch to develop country-specific lobbying/briefing papers. Welsh Branch members congratulated BVA on the report.

- **Bovine TB** – Welsh Branch had responded to the Welsh Government consultation on a regionalised approach to eradicating TB in Wales, and the President of Branch had given evidence to the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee. An announcement was expected from the Minister on 20 June.

- **Welfare at slaughter/CCTV** – Welsh Branch had responded to the report of the Safeguarding Animal Welfare at Slaughter Task and Finish Group,
expressing disappointment at the report’s conclusion that there was insufficient evidence for making CCTV mandatory in Welsh abattoirs.

- **Stakeholder groups** - Welsh Branch had been closely involved in the work of a range of stakeholder groups including the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group and Animal Welfare Network Wales

Branch were reminded of the BVA policy priorities for 2016-2017 and were encouraged to suggest priorities for Welsh Branch for the coming year.

**Action:** Welsh Branch members to suggest agenda items for Branch Council via wales@bva.co.uk or welshpresident@bva.co.uk

**Branch Officers**

4) Members were reminded that the constitution of the Welsh Branch stated that there should be a President and a Vice President. A member should be elected to serve two years as Vice President followed by two years as President. N Paton had served as President of Branch for two years and S Carr had served as Vice President of Branch for two years. Outgoing Branch President N Paton thanked all who had supported him for the past two years, including Branch members, Branch Council, the Officer team in Wales and at HQ, and the Mansfield Street staff.

5) S Carr was proposed by G Ravetz, seconded by T Sutton and approved by Branch as President 2017 - 2019.

6) It was reported that a nomination for the role of Junior Vice President had been received from D Procter. The nomination was proposed by N Paton, seconded by S Wensley, and D Procter was elected by Branch as Junior Vice President 2017-2019.

7) Branch were invited to approve the Branch Council proposal that the elected regional representative for Wales should be formally recognised as part of the Branch Officer team. The proposal was supported by Branch and adopted.

8) Branch were invited to consider removing the role of Branch Honorary Secretary on the basis that the role had become obsolete. Branch supported the proposal. D Procter was thanked for her contributions to the role.

**Action:** Secretariat to make necessary amendments to the Branch constitution

**Branch Council 2017-2018**

9) Members were reminded that Branch Council was composed of the Officers and one representative each of the following:

13.1. the North Wales territorial division;
13.2. the South Wales Practitioners Group
13.3. a representative of the major specialist divisions (NOTE: All specialist divisions should be given the opportunity to attend);
13.4. the Young Vet Network/a recent graduate;
13.5. the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation
13.6. the University of Bristol Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
13.7. the University of Liverpool Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
13.8. the RVC Field Station in Wales;
13.9. APHA;
13.10. the immediate past president of Branch
13.11. the Wales Veterinary Science Centre
10) Branch agreed that a representative of the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group should be added to Branch Council.

It was noted that the RVC Field Station role should be removed.

**Action: Secretariat to make necessary amendments to the Branch constitution**

11) A special note of thanks was made to R Davies for remaining on Branch Council as immediate past president for the past two years.

12) The composition of Branch Council was ratified for 2017/2018

**Branch constitution**

13) Subject to the amendments already agreed, the Branch constitution was ratified and adopted for 2017/2018.

**Honorary Associates**

14) Members were invited to consider the current list of BVA Honorary Associates in Wales. Suggestions for parliamentarians with a strong interest in veterinary issues and animal health and welfare for recommendation to the Nominations and Awards Group (NAG) were welcomed via the secretariat.

**Action: Branch members to make suggestions as appropriate via the secretariat**

**Any other business**

15) Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group

It was noted that Paula Boyden and Abi Reader had recently joined the group.

16) S Carr, President of Branch, thanked members for their attendance and contributions.
Welsh Branch activity update

Action for members:

a) to note the recent activity of Welsh Branch
b) to note the current situation with the local divisions in Wales and make any suggestions for a way forward
c) to note the planned events for the remainder of the year and make any additional suggestions for face to face engagement opportunities
d) to suggest priority areas for Welsh Branch for the coming year to contribute to the development of BVA policy priorities 2018-2019

1) Members will be aware that the aims of Welsh Branch are to:

- foster the interests of the veterinary profession in Wales
- promote the BVA in Wales
- assist the BVA in its activities by advising on the consensus view of the Welsh members on Welsh and United Kingdom issues particularly with reference to the Welsh Assembly Government, the National Farmers Union and the Farmers Union of Wales and Welsh animal welfare organisations
- promote meetings in any part of Wales for the discussion of veterinary topics and kindred subjects, including assisting in the promotion of Continuing Professional Development provided by the territorial and specialist divisions

Every BVA member resident in Wales is a member of Welsh Branch.

Looking back – Welsh Branch activity 2017/2018

2) Key agenda items Welsh Branch in the past year have included:

Brexit:

- On 18 April Ben Lake MP (Plaid Cymru, Ceredigion) led a debate in the House of Commons on the ‘Effect of the UK leaving the EU on the veterinary profession in Wales’. The debate covered many of the points of concern that BVA has raised as part of our Brexit campaign activity, as outlined in Sarah Carr’s subsequent blog for the BVA website.
- On the evening of 24 April, we held a reception and briefing on the impact of Brexit on animal health and welfare and public health in Wales, at the National Assembly for Wales. The event was hosted by Llyr Gruffydd AM and included short presentations from the BVA and Welsh Branch Presidents. The event was well received and attended, and following a suggestion from Llyr we are coordinating a letter to Michael Gove outlining concerns about the impact of Brexit on the veterinary workforce in Wales, which he will encourage AMs to support. The press release is available here.

- Welsh Branch has also responded to:
  - Welsh Affairs Committee Brexit: Agriculture, Trade and repatriation of
powers inquiry
- National Assembly for Wales: Wales’ future relationship with the EU

And has made invaluable contributions to a number of UK wide Brexit-related consultation responses, providing the Welsh perspective (including BVA response to Defra: Health and Harmony the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit)

Animal sentience
- Alongside BVA activity on the question of animal sentience (press release here, evidence to the EFRA Committee Draft Animal Welfare Bill inquiry, and subsequent response to Defra on the Animal Welfare (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Draft Bill.) Ifan Lloyd raised the issue of animal sentience with Cabinet Secretary Lesley Griffiths at a round table meeting at the end of last year. Subsequent quote from Cabinet Secretary in announcement (12 Dec 2017): "The issue of sentience not being of the face of any UK Bill was a concern for us and our stakeholders, particularly the British Veterinary Association. Therefore, the inclusion of this sensitive element in this UK Bill will provide confidence and regularise the position.

Bovine TB
- In December we welcomed the announcement of new TB eradication targets for Wales and 6 year regional milestones for each region, with a view to Wales achieving OTF status by 2041

Exercise Blackthorn
- Les Eckford took part in the recent ‘Exercise Blackthorn’, designed to test the UK’s readiness for a major disease outbreak. His blog outlining the experience and lessons learned is available here.

Welfare at slaughter
- Having called on Wales (letters to Cabinet Secretary Lesley Griffiths AM, and Peredur Hughes, Chair Wales AHWS Group) to introduce compulsory CCTV in slaughterhouses, in March we welcomed a statement from the Welsh Government which hinted at future legislation. Our press release is available here.

Wild animals in circuses
- BVA briefed all Honorary Associate AMs in relation to the BVA position on wild animals in circuses ahead of a possible debate in the Welsh Assembly. Lesley Griffiths subsequently announced plans to ban wild animals in circuses

Other consultations
- Code of Practice for the welfare of laying hens, meat and breeding chickens
- Welsh Government Code of Practice for the welfare of dogs
- Welsh Government Code of Practice for welfare of horses
- Welsh Government Mobile animal exhibits
- Welsh Government Taking forward Wales’ sustainable management of natural resources

Stakeholder groups
3) Welsh Branch has remained closely involved in the work of a number of stakeholder groups including:
• Animal Welfare Network Wales, which aims to facilitate effective communication between all animal welfare organisations within Wales.

Updates will be available at the AGM.

Divisions
4) Unfortunately, the North Wales division has been struggling for some time to find volunteers willing to take on divisional officer roles and contribute to the organisation of CPD events. Despite a recent all member email calling for volunteers to help keep the division open we have been unable to find anyone willing to take on the necessary roles. The division will be holding their AGM 21 June and it is likely there will be an agreement to close.

5) At the last Branch Council teleconference, it was noted the South Wales Practitioner Group was in need of review and rejuvenation, with Branch agreeing to support where appropriate.

Young Vet Network
6) There are currently 3 Young Vet Network groups in Wales – North Wales, South East Wales and South West Wales. The groups have been relatively quiet for the last 6 months. The South Wales Facebook (which combines SE and SW YVN groups) has regularly signposted to other events and interesting content including BVA calls for information and vets.tv videos during Mental Health Awareness week.

In addition, 2 out the 3 Welsh YVN reps have accepted London Vet Show tickets. It is hoped that meeting the other YVN reps will encourage new ideas and increase activity.

Looking forward – BVA Welsh Branch activity 2018/2019
7) We will be holding a Welsh Branch reception at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show on Wednesday 25 July at 4.30pm at the Gwaredu BVD stand. Special thanks to Neil Paton for making the offer. We are also planning to hold a ‘meet the members’ event later in the year. Suggestions for location/venue and speakers are welcomed.

8) BVA will be setting policy priorities for the coming Association year shortly, with input at BVA Council in July, and through BVA’s Policy Committee. BVA’s policy priorities for 2017-2018 are available at Annex A for information. Welsh Branch members are encouraged to consider the particular priorities for Wales for the coming year and make suggestions to feed in to the development of BVA’s overarching UK priorities.
BVA policy priorities 2017/18

Our policy, lobbying and campaigning agenda for 2017/18 will be dominated by Brexit given its potentially huge and wide-ranging implications for the veterinary profession and for animal health and welfare.

Implementing the Vet Futures Action Plan and the BVA Animal Welfare Strategy will also remain cross-cutting priorities.

**Brexit**

- Work in partnership with Defra and RCVS on the Veterinary Capability and Capacity Project (VCCP) to ensure there are highly skilled and appropriately deployed vets post-Brexit to fill key roles in Government and across the profession

- Develop a policy/lobbying position and evidence base on immigration, including working rights for EU vets and VN, the role of the Shortage Occupation List (or equivalent), and the future of Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ) legislation

- Develop a vision for the vet-led team, including the regulation of allied professionals

- On wider workforce issues, identify actions required to address recruitment and retention challenges based on the findings of BVA’s workforce research

- Review policy on new vet schools and develop a position on funding for veterinary school places

- Develop an evidence-based position on agriculture including a response to the agriculture White Paper, and undertake lobbying activity on the Agriculture Bill

- Develop an evidence based position on the value of veterinary surgeons in facilitating international trade via professional certification and undertake lobbying activity on the Trade Bill

- Lobby the UK Government and other stakeholders to ensure ongoing access to all existing and new veterinary medicines licensed through the EU and other regulatory systems, whilst supporting innovation in drug development.

- Lobby the UK Government to tighten up pet travel rules, including tick and tapeworm treatments and extending the waiting time post-rabies vaccination prior to importation to the UK

Note: wider BVA activity on Brexit will be informed by the BVA Brexit report

**Vet Futures**

- Establish the UK One Health Coordination Group and produce a One Health communications plan in collaboration with counterparts across human healthcare and environment

- Develop and execute a communications plan on vet fees and value, working with RCVS and others
Animal health and welfare
- Lobby government on our key asks on veterinary disease surveillance
- Develop positions on the value of farm assurance schemes and sustainable humane animal agriculture
- Working closely with the species divisions, produce a three-year programme of work on the development of lobbying positions and media activity to address agreed priority animal welfare problems
- Undertake campaign activity to raise awareness of responsible pet ownership including:
  - Launch BVA guidelines on the responsible use of pet animals in advertising and encourage buy-in by UK veterinary practices and other stakeholders, including the advertising and marketing industries and Advertising Standards Authority.
  - Launch the BVA position on brachycephalic dogs, press for a review of breed standards and the use of brachycephalic health assessments, and support the Kennel Club’s project to develop Breed Health and Conservation Plans for dogs with brachycephalic conformation
  - Support the relaunch of the puppy contract and promote veterinary pre-purchase advice to vets and the general public
- Continue to lobby on welfare at slaughter, including:
  - Pushing for a complete ban on non-stun slaughter, and other associated asks (including labelling, immediate post-cut stunning, and matching supply of non-stun with demand)
  - Lobbying Red Tractor and major retailers on poultry water-bath stunning under WATOK in England
  - Lobbying the devolved administrations to introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses and unrestricted access to footage for OVs
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Branch Council

Action for members:

a) to consider the current composition of Branch Council and make any suggestions for development, in light of the demographics at Annex A

b) to ratify the proposed composition of Branch Council 2018-2019

1) Members will be aware that, as detailed in the Branch Constitution, the composition of Branch Council shall be the Officers and one representative each of the following organisations, each of whom shall be a member:

13.1. the North Wales territorial division;
13.2. the South Wales Practitioners Group
13.3. a representative of the major specialist divisions (NOTE: All specialist divisions should be given the opportunity to attend);
13.4. the Young Vet Network/a recent graduate;
13.5. the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation
13.6. the University of Bristol Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
13.7. the University of Liverpool Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
13.8. APHA;
13.9. the immediate past president of Branch
13.10. the Wales Veterinary Science Centre
13.11. the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group

2) To facilitate effective representation of members in Wales members are invited to consider whether any amendments to the membership of Branch Council could be made. A summary of the demographics of the membership in Wales is at Annex A.

3) The proposed membership of Branch Council is attached at Annex B.
BVA members in Wales

Member count
831 members with a preferred address in Wales

Ages

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<td>30-39</td>
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Locations

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<td>Mold</td>
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<td>Cardigan</td>
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<td>Llandeilo</td>
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Interests

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### Proposed Council membership 2018-2019

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<td>President</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>Sarah Carr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Vice President</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>Dinika Procter</td>
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<td>Regional representative</td>
<td>February 2017</td>
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#### Regional groups

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<td>Vacant</td>
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<td>Neil Paton</td>
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#### Specialist Divisions

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<td>AGV</td>
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<td>Tom Bailey</td>
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#### Other

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<td>June 2015</td>
<td>Fenella Johnson</td>
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<td>March 2011</td>
<td>Kate Hovers</td>
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<td>Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>Ifan Lloyd</td>
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The Constitution of the Welsh Branch of the British Veterinary Association

Name

1. The name of the organisation shall be The Welsh Branch of the British Veterinary Association (‘the Welsh Branch’).

Objects

2. The objects of the Welsh Branch shall be to

   2.1. foster the interests of the veterinary profession in Wales;
   2.2. promote the BVA in Wales
   2.3. assist the British Veterinary Association (BVA) in its activities by advising on the consensus view of Welsh members on Welsh and United Kingdom issues particularly with reference to the Welsh Assembly Government, the National Farmers Union and the Farmers Union of Wales and Welsh animal welfare organisations; and
   2.4. promote meetings in any part of Wales for the discussion of veterinary topics and kindred subjects, including assisting in the promotion of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provided by the territorial and specialist divisions.

Membership

3. The membership of the Welsh Branch shall be all members of the BVA resident in Wales (‘a Member’ or ‘the Members’).

Officers

4. There shall be three officers of the Branch (‘the Officers’), each of whom shall be a Member:

   4.1. President;
   4.2. Junior Vice-President;
   4.3. Regional Representative;

Junior Vice-President and President

5. A Member shall normally be elected to serve two years as Vice President followed by two years as President

6. The role of the President shall be to

   6.1. be the principal representative of the Branch in relation to veterinary matters; and
   6.2. chair all meetings of the Branch.

7. In the event of incapacity or prolonged absence of the President the Junior Vice President shall act in their place.
Regional Representative

8. A Member shall be elected to serve as Regional Representative for three years.

9. The role of the Regional Representative shall be to ensure that the views of BVA members in the region are represented at BVA Council meetings.

10. In the event of a vacancy occurring amongst the Officers, the Council may at its discretion appoint a substitute to fill the vacancy at its next meeting and the appointment shall continue until the next AGM.

Council

11. There shall be a council ('the Council') of the Branch and its membership ('the Councillors') shall be the Officers plus one representative of each of the following organisations, each of whom shall be a Member:

11.1. the North Wales territorial division;
11.2. the South Wales Practitioners Group
11.3. a representative of the major specialist divisions (NOTE: All specialist divisions should be given the opportunity to attend);
11.4. the Young Vet Network/a recent graduate;
11.5. the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation
11.6. the University of Bristol Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
11.7. the University of Liverpool Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
11.8. APHA;
11.9. the immediate past president of Branch
11.10. the Wales Veterinary Science Centre
11.11. the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group

12. Each of these organisations may nominate one Councillor and one alternate who may attend the Council in the place of the Councillor.

13. A maximum term of office of three years, renewable once, will apply to each Councillor. After the completion of two terms of office a minimum gap of two years will apply before the member can be nominated again.

14. The membership of the Council shall be ratified at the AGM each year.

14.1. All organisations shall inform the secretariat of nominations before the AGM.
14.2. Nominees will assume membership of the Council at the meeting of the Branch following the AGM.

15. It shall be possible for a single individual to represent more than one organisation at meetings of the Council if so ratified.

16. The Council may at any time invite any organisation with a significant veterinary constituency to nominate a representative to join the Council. If the invitation is accepted the representative will be formally ratified at the next AGM in the usual way.
17. Council may ask individuals with particular expertise to attend meetings and to help in their business. Such individuals shall not have voting rights upon attendance.

18. The role of the Council shall be to

18.1. discuss veterinary policy issues as they relate to Wales and make all efforts to reach a consensus view on those issues; and
18.2. assist the BVA in formulating policy.

19. The quorum for a meeting of the Council shall be seven.

20. The Council shall meet at least once in person and at least three times in total each year.

21. The President shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her own vote where necessary.

Annual General Meeting

22. There shall be an Annual General Meeting (‘the AGM’) which all Members shall be entitled to attend and that will normally take place in June or July.

23. The AGM shall

23.1. elect the Officers;
23.2. ratify the membership of the Council;

24. The quorum for an AGM shall be seven or 1% of the Members, whichever is the smaller number, which figure to be determined one month prior to the meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

25. An EGM may be convened by the Council as required.

26. An EGM may only discuss the business for which it was convened.

Secretariat

27. Secretariat to the Welsh Branch shall be supplied by the BVA.

Changes to the Constitution

28. Proposed changes to this Constitution must be presented to all Councillors and subsequently approved at an AGM and BVA Board
Parliamentary Honorary Associates

Action for members:

a) to note the current BVA Honorary Associates in Wales
b) make any additional suggestions for parliamentarians with a strong interest in veterinary issues and animal health and welfare

1) Members may be aware of the current BVA Honorary Associates in Wales as follows:

   **Welsh Assembly**
   Ms Angela Burns AM (Con)
   Mr Andrew R T Davies AM (Con)
   Mr Vaughan Gething AM (Lab)
   Mr Llyr Gruffydd AM (Plaid Cymru)
   Mr Huw Irranca-Davies AM (Lab)
   Mr Mark Isherwood AM (Con)

   **Westminster**
   Mr Chris Davies MP (Con)
   Mr Simon Hart MP (Con)
   Ms Liz Saville-Roberts MP (Plaid Cymru)
   Rt Hon the Lord Wigley (Plaid Cymru)

   **European Parliament**
   Ms Jill Evans MEP (Plaid Cymru)

2) The current list will be ratified at the BVA AGM in September.

   NOTE: Ben Lake MP (Plaid Cymru, Ceredigion) is likely to be proposed as a new Honorary Associate