

## **BVA Annual General Meeting 2018**

The 2018 annual general meeting of the British Veterinary Association was held at the National STEM Learning Centre, York on Thursday 20 September, as part of the Association's Members' Day.

The members-only business section of the AGM was chaired by Philip Lowndes, Chairman of the BVA Board.

The meeting approved the report of the 2017 AGM, which was published in the members-only area of the BVA website.

The Chairman noted that the Association's annual report had been published in the 18/25 August 2018 edition of Vet Record (vol 183, pp233-238) and a copy had been made available on the BVA website at the end of August.

The meeting formally adopted the Association's accounts for 2017. The Chairman reported that the BVA Board had approved the accounts at its meeting on 2 August 2018 and a copy had been made available to BVA members on the website.

### **Financial report**

Derek Thorpe, BVA Finance Director, reported that, in the year ending 31 December 2017, BVA had made an operating surplus before tax and donations of £128k, a slight decrease on the £150k surplus of 2016. The Association's total income for the year increased by 1.6% to just over £6 million.

Total expenditure for the year increased by 2% to just under £5.9 million and BVA continued to spend substantial resources on policy and media activities, lobbying and campaigning on priority issues, such as animal welfare, and on the provision of membership benefits and engagement. There was a slight decrease in administrative expenditure during the year.

Capital expenditure totalled £117k, primarily on the launch of online submissions for the Canine Health Schemes and the provision of new laptops for BVA staff.

After allowing for tax and £14k donations to veterinary-related charities, as well as unrealised movements on the Association's investment portfolio, BVA's total reserves increased by almost £205k to just over £10.5 million. This included working capital reserves of £3 million, and BVA remained debt free.

D Thorpe said that the outlook for 2018 was that BVA was on course to make an operating surplus, albeit at a reduced level. The Association was investing just over £2 million on the property refurbishment but anticipated that this would result in a corresponding increase in the value of the property.

### **Subscription rates**

The membership subscription rates for 2019, as set out in Vet Record, 18/25 August (vol 183,

p232), were approved. Rates for individual membership would increase by 2.5 per cent, and by 4 per cent for group membership. To support newly qualified vets the fee for members during the first two years on the RCVS Register would be reduced.

The meeting also approved an aggregate remuneration of £182,231 for Directors, including Officers, for the period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019, with non-Officer Directors' remuneration making up £41,255 of the total.

### **Election of Officers**

Simon Doherty was elected as BVA President for 2018/19 and Daniella Dos Santos as Junior Vice President. In accordance with the Articles of Association, John Fishwick, the outgoing President, serves as Senior Vice President for 2018/19.

The meeting approved the appointment of the auditors Buzzacott to serve until the next AGM.

The meeting also approved the re-election of BVA's existing Honorary Associates and the election of new Honorary Associates approved by BVA Council. It also approved the election of Professor Nigel Gibbens as a Life Member and Llyr Gruffydd as an Honorary Member of BVA. The Chairman told the meeting that Nigel Gibbens had given long-standing support to the Association and had served as Chief Veterinary Officer for the UK from 2008 to 2018, and that Llyr Gruffydd had given outstanding support to BVA Welsh Branch over many years as an Honorary Associate.

The Chairman placed on record BVA's thanks to all Honorary Associates and Members for the excellent support they had given to the Association.

It was confirmed that the 2019 AGM would be held in September at a date and venue to be decided.

The Chairman thanked his fellow Board members for their hard work and support throughout the year. He particularly thanked Gudrun Ravetz who was leaving the Board having served three years as a member of the BVA Officer team.

### **New Officers**

The open session of the AGM was chaired by John Fishwick, the outgoing President. The induction of the new Officers took place during the open session.

Professor Julie Fitzpatrick spoke to the election of Simon Doherty as President for 2018/19 and the election of Daniella Dos Santos as Junior Vice President was endorsed by Danny Chambers. John Fishwick paid tribute to Gudrun Ravetz as the outgoing Senior Vice President.

### **New President's address**

Addressing the meeting following his induction as President, Simon Doherty announced that he had chosen "One Veterinary Community" as the theme for his presidential year. He presented John Fishwick with the past presidents' medal.