Thursday, 25 September 2014

THURSO VET RECEIVES THE JOHN BLEBY CUP

Frank Stephen, from Thurso, was today (Thursday) announced as the winner of this year’s John Bleby Cup in recognition of his outstanding contribution to BVA Council.

Frank has worked in private practice in Thurso, North of Scotland, since qualifying from the Dick Vet in Edinburgh in 1973, and has been a valued and committed member of BVA since then.

Frank became a member of BVA Council in 2008 as representative for the North of Scotland territorial division. Following the restructure of Council in 2010 Frank continued bringing the Scottish voice to BVA HQ but this time as the nominated representative of the newly re-formed Scottish Branch. During his time on BVA Council he has become known for his considered and measured contributions to the debate and has always ensured that those issues impacting on the profession in Scotland are heard.

As a Past President of Scottish Branch, and Honorary Secretary for four years, Frank has also made some invaluable contributions to BVA’s local presence in Scotland and has been instrumental in the success of Branch as a respected source of veterinary input to Scottish Government and other Scottish stakeholders.

Although he semi-retired in 2010 Frank still helps out in the Thurso practice and in his spare time is closely involved in Caithness rugby club. He is a staunch supporter of the Highlands and Islands Veterinary Services Scheme, which subsidises practices to provide veterinary services in remote areas, and was awarded Scottish Farmer Unsung Hero at the Royal Highland Show in 2011. Honoured for dedicated service to livestock producers in North of Scotland by Halladale Common Grazings Committee, Frank’s wish is to see the eradication of BVD in Scotland. In the past year he has been involved in delivering BVD control meetings to farm vet practices throughout the UK, a measure of the knowledge and authority he has in the subject and the respect he has within the profession.

His colleagues on Scottish Branch are delighted that Frank has been nominated for this award, describing him as a real farmers’ vet with the voice of reason and much common sense when all around have forgotten theirs.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. This is the fifth year that the John Bleby Cup has been awarded. The award was given by John Bleby to the Association after a remarkable 42 years on BVA Council representing Central Veterinary Society. Professor Bleby’s final Council meeting was in July 2010. The cup is to be presented by BVA Officers annually to the Council member who, in the opinion of the Officers, had made an outstanding contribution at Council.
2. A photograph of Frank Stephen is available to download from http://www.bva.co.uk/News-campaigns-and-policies/Newsroom/Picture-gallery/

3. For further information please contact the BVA Press Office on 020 7908 6340 (or 07503 190247) or media@bva.co.uk