Annual General Meeting – closed session

Agenda item 8 – Election of life members and honorary members

Honorary Member

The BVA Articles of Association state that “Such eminent professional and scientific persons and others who may have rendered distinguished service to the Association or to the veterinary profession, or to the advancement of veterinary science may be elected Honorary Members by an Annual General Meeting of the Association on the recommendation of the Council.”

BVA Nominations and Awards Group recommends the election of Mr Llyr Gruffydd AM as an honorary member.

Llyr Gruffydd was elected as a BVA honorary associate in 2011, following a recommendation from BVA Welsh Branch. He has been a Plaid Cymru AM for North Wales region since 2011 and is currently the Plaid Cymru Shadow Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning. He was Plaid Cymru spokesperson for Rural Affairs 2011-12; Environment 2012-2014; and Energy and Agriculture 2013-14; Shadow Minister for Sustainable Communities, Energy and Food 2014-16; and was a member of the Environment and Sustainability Committee 2011-16; also Chair of the cross-party group on rural affairs 2011-16, as well as being a member of the biodiversity group and the horse group. Llyr is a former board member of the Wales Young Farmers Clubs and cites ‘helping on the family farm’ as one of his recreations. He has been in regular contact with BVA for briefings on a number of issues including bovine TB and fly-grazing and has highlighted the importance of local vets being involved in OV work, as well as mentioning BVA in a debate on bovine TB in Sept 2016. Llyr attended the BVA Welsh dinner in 2011, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018; was guest of honour/speaker at the 2014 dinner; attended BVA Members’ Day in Cardiff in 2013; attended the M.bovis conference in June 2014 and met with BVA Welsh Branch; and attended the BVA/Welsh Branch bovine TB
briefing in Sept 2016. In April this year he hosted the BVA Welsh Brexit briefing for AMs, following which he rallied 29 AMs to sign an open letter to Secretary of State Michael Gove urging him to take urgent action to get vets reinstated on the Shortage Occupation List. Llyr has been a great friend to the veterinary profession and BVA, and a champion for animal health and welfare in Wales, and we feel honorary membership would be a fitting way to thank him for his commitment and support. His nomination for honorary membership is supported by the BVA Officers and Welsh Branch.

Life Member

The BVA Articles of Association state that “Any Member who, in the opinion of the Council, has given long and valuable support to the Association, may be elected a Life Member of the Association by a General Meeting of the Association on the recommendation of the Council.”

BVA Nominations and Awards Group recommends the election of Professor Nigel Gibbens CBE as a life member.

Nigel Gibbens was the UK Chief Veterinary Officer until his retirement in March 2018. He was appointed in May 2008 following previous experience in the State Veterinary Service and in policy roles on international trade, BSE controls, animal welfare and international relations co-ordination for Defra’s Food and Farming Group. Prior to joining the UK government in 1990, Nigel worked in private practice in his early career and in government veterinary services in Belize and Yemen. Nigel holds an Honorary Professorship from the Royal Veterinary College. He was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the veterinary profession and animal welfare in the New Year’s Honours list for 2016. During his time as UK CVO Nigel ensured constructive engagement with BVA and the wider veterinary profession on a range of priority issues. His nomination for life membership was made by the BVA Officers in recognition of his long-standing support to the Association.