**SVS Executive Committee Meeting (via zoom)**

**19th August 2020**

President Nick Hart opened the meeting at 20.00

**Present:**  Hazel Rice (HR), Yoav Alony-Gilboa (YA), Heather Stevenson (HS), Amanda Carson (AC), Nick Hart (NH), Moyna Richey (MR), Mark Thompson (MT), Rachel Foster (RF), Tricia Sutton (TS), Amy Jennings (AJ), Hannah Kenway (HK), Rudolph Reichel (RR), Rebecca Mearns (RM), Rachel Garty (FAVS, RG)

**1. Apologies:** Clare Phythian, Liz Genever,

**2. Specific Items:**

NH welcomed RG, RR and RM. It was confirmed that MR and Davinia Hinda are due to leave the committee at the AGM.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8/7/20 were proposed by AC and seconded by MT.

**a) Action points from previous confertel (8/7/20)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Action Point**
 | **Person Responsible** | **Completed** |
| Contact KC and ask that 1 or 2 FAVS reps attend the next committee meeting | AJ | Y |
| Contact SP regarding providing local SVS speakers for AVS farm stream | AJ | Y |
| Produce map showing location of sheep vets | AJ/HR | On website |
| Suggest speakers for autumn meeting | All | Y |
| Confirm suitability of proposed date (19/9/20) | PP | Y |
| Approach Australian contact | NH | Y |
| Nominate FL for George Headley award (closing date 19/11) | AC |  |
| **General Reminders** |  |  |
| Nominees for awards 2020 |  |  |
| New JVP/committee members 2020 |  |  |

**b) Autumn Conference**

NH reported on preparations with speakers from Australia, Malawi and OIE confirmed. It was confirmed that it will be free to join the meeting and that the AGM will be held at the end. Hosts/chairpersons will be decided at a later date. RG will pass information to students via FAVS.

**Action: RG**

**c) Treasurer’s Report**

TS had circulated a copy of the accounts. SVS has been running at a loss for the last few years and there is no income from conferences in 2020. It is estimated that of around 400 members about 87 are paying £5 to £30 instead of £75. It was suggested that these names are split between the committee in order to contact them to request that they update their standing orders. New members are required.

It was proposed that the constitution should be changed to allow an auditor to be appointed by the committee rather than at the AGM.

**d) Conference costs**

Speaker costs have increased due to T and S as there are fewer local speakers at each meeting. MR commented that quality speakers will draw more people to attend. RM suggested that the aim should be for each conference to make a profit. TS noted that the Monday morning CPD session used to generate between £5000 and £6000. RG thought that students/recent graduates would be prepared to pay for simple talks aimed at them if they were priced at £20 to £30 for an online course. MR suggested that the Monday morning could be pitched at new graduates. It was agreed that a small group should look at the issue. TS, MR and RG will discuss and liaise with AC.

**Action: TS/MR/RG/AC**

**e) Constitution**

AC had circulated proposed changes and points for discussion.

1. Membership Classes and Fees

After general discussion the following was agreed:

Student - £10

First year qualified - £10

Full (must hold a veterinary degree) - £75

Associate - £75

Retired (need to be recognised as retired by RCVS) - £45

Honorary - £0

It was also agreed that new and honorary members can be approved at a committee meeting with the list of new members circulated at the AGM.

It was proposed to change the constitution such that:

“Committee shall have the right to remove a member where fees are > 1 year in arrears after due notification to the address in the register.”

2. Committee

It was clarified that office bearers need to be BVA members but committee members do not. It was agreed that the co-opted members should be increased from 3 to 4:

International

Non-vet/industry

CPD/conference organiser

Student representative – RG can organise this through FAVS.

There was discussion around the pros and cons of 3-year terms and when/if members should be eligible for re-election. It was proposed that members could be put forward for re-election after a 2-year interval has passed since they left the committee. It was confirmed that the secretary/treasurer on first appointment can hold the position for 5 years subject to annual re-election at the AGM.

Working groups – There was general support for trying these again. AC commented that BVA policy documents can be highly technical and there is a need for a knowledge bank of outside expertise to spread the load. NH noted that BVA papers have been put together by experts and only require comments and fine tuning. RM felt that involvement in a working group would give new committee members a more defined role.

**Action: RG**

3. OGM/AGM

AC queried whether or not we need both an OGM and an AGM as currently stated in the constitution. TS suggested that an OGM is only held if required.

Copies of the old and proposed new constitution will be made available to members on the website in advance of the AGM and voted for at this meeting.

**Action: AC/HR**

**f) Training Webinars**

AC outlined the need for vet engagement on all sheep farms linked to the sheep pathway and indicated that either SVS develop training webinars or other providers will. Training will need to be evidence based to show that you are capable of doing health plans. A tender on sheep scab is about to come out and there is a need for an updated webinar to cover recent issues with resistance. Sian Mitchell (APHA) has agreed to do this. Webinarvet have quoted £2500 but SVS get revenue back when webinars are viewed. Webinarvet have proposed a series of 5 topics and SVS will need to pay both Webinarvet and the speaker. In order to link with the pathway and antibiotic guardians, webinars on flock health planning and antibiotic use in sheep practice are required. AC is negotiating the possibility of free access for SVS members via the website. NH suggested that plans should be in place before the end of 2020. Other subjects/speakers suggested included nutrition (Kate Phillips/Alistair Macrae), parasitology, quarantine and biosecurity, preparing the flock for tupping, preparing the ewe for lambing, peri-natal care, prevention of neonatal disease. MR suggested that if the first 5 topics are broad then more targeted ones can be developed in the future. NH requested that ideas are circulated.

**Action: All**

**Any Other Business**

**a)** NH informed the committee that BVA wants to re-open the medicines group and that a volunteer is needed. AJ requested further information on what is required. NH will contact BVA.

**Action: NH**

**b) Animal Health and Welfare Pathway and Antibiotic Champions**

NH explained that it appeared that a high level of vet input will required for health planning and looking at medicines use. There may be an antibiotic champion in each practice within a couple of years in order to collate data to feed back to RUMA and VMD. There is a meeting with Fiona Lovatt this week and NH will send link to RF.

**Action: NH**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 22.00.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Action Point** | **Person Responsible** | **Completed** |
| Inform FAVS members about September meeting | RG |  |
| Look at issues with conference costs | TS/MR/RG/AC |  |
| Nominate FAVS student rep for SVS committee | RG |  |
| Put copies of old and proposed constitution on website | AC/HR |  |
| Circulate ideas for webinars | All |  |
| Contact BVA for more info about medicines group | NH |  |
| Send meeting link to RF | NH |  |
| **General Reminders** |  |  |
| Nominees for awards  |  |  |
| New JVP/committee members  |  |  |

H. Stevenson

Hon. Secretary