**SVS Executive Committee Meeting**

**3rd February 2020**

President Nick Hart opened the meeting at 20.15

**Present:**  Hazel Rice (HR), Yoav Alony-Gilboa (YA), Heather Stevenson (HS), Mark Thompson (MT), Tricia Sutton, (TS), Clare Phythian (CP), Amanda Carson (AC), Nick Hart (NH), Rachel Foster (RF), Amy Jennings (AJ), Davinia Hinde (DH), Moyna Richey (MR), Liz Genever (LG)

**1. Apologies:** None

**2. Minutes of last meeting:**

Held on 18th November 2019

Minutes approved as being correct:

Proposed:

Seconded:

**3. Matters Arising:**

a) HR confirmed that 21 members have expressed an interest in being shown on the map of practices with SVS members. Need to keep reminding people about it.

**Action: HR**

b) TS still to contact accountant but will do so.

**Action: TS**

c) NH met with DEFRA and discussed SMS last week. Tups to be retested, rules will be changed and a letter sent to OVs.

d) DH confirmed that AHDB are keen to include vets/SQPs in parasitology roadshows. Will discuss with Nerys at SCOPS meeting on 6/2. LG noted that cross border funding is managed by Kim Matthews. AC suggested producing a pack with the new SCOPS guidelines and making it available at Talking Sheep meetings. YA had spoken with Mandy Neville (AHDB) at the BVA CPD committee and confirmed that they are keen to run sheep CPD with SVS help on a wider range of subjects.

**Action: DH**

e) Iain Richards, Kate Hovers and HR are currently listed as administrators for the Yahoo group. For reasons of GDPR only HR will be listed in future.

**Action: HR**

**4. Specific Items:**

a) **CPD:** AJ had attended a meeting to discuss iceberg diseases. There is a push from NFUS to give vets confidence in health planning and management of endemic diseases. There was concern over the lack of succession planning for OPA scanning and NFUS are keen to have OPA scanners accredited/certified. MR confirmed that there would be a session on OPA in Belfast involving a range of speakers. There was general discussion about the pros and cons of highlighting scanning errors in an open forum and NH felt that it was more productive to emphasise successes and positives. AJ confirmed that Phil Scott has calculated a good specificity figure for scanning but that information on the sensitivity is lacking. DH confirmed that it is difficult to get enough practice to become confident.

b) **Belfast 11-13th May:** Moyna outlined the programme so far and requested contact details for Freda Scott Park. A music budget of £300-£500 was suggested. HR will contact pharmaceutical companies about trade stands. As many people are likely to fly to Belfast plastic overshoes need to be sourced for the farm visit. LG advised checking with AFBI as they usually recommend wearing disposable boiler suits.

**Action: MR**

c) **Research Grant:** This has been advertised on twitter, SVS website, via the yahoo group and in the Vet Record. Deadline for applications is the end of March. Will continue to promote it.

**Action: HR**

d) **Meeting with VMD:** NH asked for any items that should be raised at this meeting. BVA are going to issue their castration/tail docking policy at the end of March. There is a need for NSAIDs to be easily available for use in sheep. RF commented that metacam pig has an oral dose and that Boehringer will supply a recommended dose for sheep if asked.

e) **Zoetis/SCOPS cydectin recommendations:** NH summarised these in a letter to be published in the Vet Record and was happy with the outcome of working together to resolve things. YA noted that Zoetis did not bring their “Prevent the spring rise” pull up to the dairy sheep and goat conference. He will circulate a photo of one on sheep scab.

**Action: YA**

f) **Treasurers report:** Nothing to report.

g) **Sheep Pathway Meeting:** NH had attended this meeting which looked at how the basic payment scheme will be replaced, and noted that discussions are in the very early stages. Some of the requirements are likely to be environmental and others health and welfare related. There may be a need to show an improvement in the latter, and therefore to collect data. AC commented that licences to farm have been proposed. LG suggested that the data needed for this already exists as all farmers have to register for basic SFP.

h) **SHAWG:** What is likely to be the last meeting will be held at the end of February. A “sheep-focussed” chairperson has been proposed for the replacement Ruminant Health and Welfare Group e.g. Ian Gill, Kate Hovers, Fiona Lovatt. The post has been advertised on the AHDB web page.

i) **Sheep Antibiotic Guardian Group (SAGG):** This is a subgroup of RUMA. NH had sight of a European consultation document on the use of critically important antibiotics in livestock. Most of the antimicrobials mentioned are not relevant to sheep, but it would be important to maintain access to spectinomycin. The colostrum gold campaign will not be pushed as hard this year. Discussions on developing an electronic medicine book are ongoing. DH commented that she finds it difficult to dial in to these meetings at work and NH agreed to dial in instead.

**Action: NH**

k) **Sheep Scab Meeting:** AC and DH attended this meeting organised by Professor Richard Wall to discuss what could be done in relation to scab control. £5 million has been allocated to scab control in Wales. The meeting outcomes will be used to lobby government. AC will circulate notes.

**Action: AC**

**5. Any other business**

a) There was unanimous support for AC’s suggestion that SVS make a donation to support Australian vets/farmers affected by the wild fires. AC will circulate information on various funds.

**Action: AC/TS**

b) It was clarified that in 2021 the autumn meeting will be superseded by the international meeting in Spain, and that the spring meeting will be the “president’s meeting”. AC has had a proposal from the British Association of Veterinary Parasitologists to have a parasitology stream at this meeting. There was support for this idea. AC will feed back to BAVP.

**Action:AC**

c) Date of next meeting – Sunday 10th May, Belfast

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.15

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| **Action Point** | **Person Responsible** | **Completed** |
| Continue to remind members about map showing practices of SVS members | HR |  |
| Contact accountant | TS |  |
| Further discuss parasitology CPD with AHDB | DH |  |
| Remove Iain and Kate as Yahoo group administrators | HR |  |
| Various actions re spring meeting (See specific items, b) | MR |  |
| Contact pharmaceutical companies about trade stands. | HR |  |
| Circulate photo of Zoetis scab pull up | YA |  |
| Circulate notes from sheep scab meeting | AC |  |
| Dial in to future SAGG meetings | NH |  |
| Make donation to Australian wild fire fund | AC/TS |  |
| Respond to BAVP regarding spring 2021 meeting | AC |  |
| **Action Points Carried Forward** |  |  |
| Circulate further constitution changes to members prior to 2020 AGM | HR |  |
| **General Reminders** |  |  |
| Nominees for awards 2020 |  |  |
| New JVP/committee members 2020 |  |  |

H. Stevenson

Hon. Secretary