



Sheep Veterinary Society
Division of the British Veterinary Association

January 2021

What a strange year 2020 has been! As I write this from lockdown in Cumbria on the 2nd of January 2021 we seem to have entered a new world. A trade agreement under Brexit was agreed at Christmas but the devil, as always, is in the detail. A new variant of Covid 19 has led to increased concern over the spread of this virus and hence greater restriction on social interactions, but there is hope now that two vaccines have been approved for use in the UK that things may return to normal during 2021.

Some good news from 2020 was the award to SVS Past President Jimmy Wilson of an MBE for services to veterinary practice and animal welfare on the Isle of Mull. Many congratulations Jimmy!

The SVS Autumn Virtual conference was a huge success. Our thanks go to David Slade sheep farmer from Western Australia, Dr Felix Njuemi FAO coordinator of the FAO/OIE Peste des Petits Ruminant global control programme from University of Bologna, Prof Melaku Tefera and colleagues from the Malawi Department Vet Medicine and Cindy Wolfe Veterinary specialist in Small Ruminants University of Minnesota USA. All the talks were inspiring and we are especially grateful to Flock Health Ltd for facilitating these webinars and for recording them, for those who missed them they can be accessed from the SVS website <https://www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk/event/svs-virtual-free-conference>

AGM

The AGM was held virtually also on the 19th September with approximately 37 members present.

An updated SVS constitution had been circulated prior to the meeting and the new constitution was agreed at the AGM. The BVA were sent a copy and were content with this.

The treasurer Tricia Sutton reported that the accounts were in a healthy position due to funds from the international meeting but that the society was running at an annual deficit. There is a need to ensure that conferences do not lose money and that new members are recruited. Membership fees have not been increased for 10 years but a lot of members are not paying the correct amount. Members were advised to check that they were paying the correct amount (£75) by standing order.

New Office Bearers for 2020/2021:

Nick Hart thanked Davinia Hinde and Moyna Richey, the retiring committee members, for their input to the society over the past three years. Retiring Senior Vice President Yoav Alony-Gilboa and secretary Heather Stevenson were also thanked for their years of service. Hazel Rice was thanked for her ongoing support and hard work as the SVS secretariat.

The president for 2020/21 will be Amanda Carson.

Rebecca Mearns was confirmed as Junior Vice-President:

Rudolph Reichel was confirmed as the new secretary:

Tricia Sutton will remain as treasurer for 2020/21.

There were 3 nominations for committee members and short biographies were presented. After a poll Shona Mouncey and Ed Hill were elected and welcomed onto the committee.

Nick Hart SVS president gave heartfelt thanks to everyone for supporting him during a difficult and at times challenging presidential year. He expressed sadness that the two conferences proposed for Belfast and Cheltenham during 2020 had to be cancelled but it is hoped that 2021 may allow the resumption of conferences. There followed a virtual handing over of the chain of office from Nick to Amanda.

Conferences

We continue to make tentative plans for the following conferences:

Spring 2021 Cheltenham 24th – 26th May 2021

The autumn 2021 conference potentially to be held in Penrith Cumbria.

10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC)

The 10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC), that was scheduled to be held in Seville from September 20 to 24 2021 together with the 5th triennial Congress of the ECSRHM will be postponed to **March 6 to 10, 2023**, see copy of the letter at the end of this news-letter.

The book **The World of Sheep and Goats** is still available to purchase from Moredun

<https://portal.moredun.org.uk/shop/books-dvds/world-sheep-and-goats-uk-delivery>

A global view of small ruminant production gives a fascinating and truly global insight into the daily lives of vets, livestock keepers and the sheep and goats in their care. Featuring over 400 images and accompanying texts from over 50 countries, this collection was first displayed at the 9th International Sheep Veterinary Congress in Harrogate in 2017.

BVA Consultations

The SVS executive committee have contributed to a number of BVA consultations this year including:

Under care and the remote provision of veterinary services

Regulatory reform - Embracing the vet-led team; Enhancing the VN role; Assuring practice regulation; Fitness to practise and standard of proof; Modernising RCVS registration

Consultation on improvements to animal welfare in transport a small group convened in December to consider a response to this Defra consultation and an equivalent Scottish Government consultation. While the proposal focuses on banning live animal exports it also considers radical changes to animal transport which could significantly impact on sheep farmers – for example the proposal to ban movements of sheep when temperatures are below 5 degrees C.

SHAWG

The fifth Sheep Health and Welfare Group (SHAWG) conference took place on Tuesday 24 November 2020 via an online conferencing platform. This was the final SHAWG conference as SHAWG is replaced with the new Ruminant Health and Welfare Group RHAWG.

The 2020 conference had the theme of working together for world-leading health and welfare and focused on target areas for the sheep industry to ensure it is ready for the challenges ahead.

To view the talks, follow the link: <https://ahdb.org.uk/shawg>

Launch of two new sheep disease monitoring schemes by Scotland's Rural College's (SRUC) Premium Sheep and Goat Health Scheme (PSGHS).

The new monitoring schemes will sit alongside SRUC's PSGHS Accreditation Schemes providing a further level of assurance for buyers looking to reduce disease risk. The new schemes will monitor levels of two important infectious sheep diseases: Maedi Visna (MV) and Johne's disease, with potential for other diseases to be added in the future, diseases often known as 'Iceberg diseases' for the hidden risk they often pose for commercial sheep flocks.

Export Health certification (EHC) and OV training

From 1 January 2021, an Export Health Certificate (EHC) — a document that confirms an export of live animals or animal products meets health requirements — will be needed to export to the EU.

The same level of certification will also be required for the export of live animals and animal products from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. This is a requirement under the agreed Northern Ireland protocol and includes equines that currently move between France, the UK and Ireland without health certification.

In October the UK Government announced a £300,000 training fund for vets and local authority officials to support the increased demand for Vets required to sign these certificates.

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/ov/Briefing-Note-3220.pdf>

Red Tractor – Livestock Collection centres, Livestock Markets approvals

Over the last 6 months Nick Hart has months been involved with reviewing and amending beef and lamb flock health standards. This is now going out for consultation and any further changes would come into action October 2021. It is likely there will be stricter requirements and more responsibility for vets involved.

New project to support antibiotic stewardship in farm animals

RCVS Knowledge is to lead a major collaborative project to unite and empower UK farm animal vets and their practice teams to establish and embed good antimicrobial stewardship.

The Farm Vet Champions project will support farm animal veterinary professionals in continuing to improve animal health and welfare standards, and aims to provide inspiration and leadership towards One Health efforts. It is also a key initiative within the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) targets set to be delivered by the UK cattle and sheep sectors by 2024.

In the first phase of the project, which is funded by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), RCVS Knowledge will bring together representatives from major organisations including the British Veterinary Association and its farm animal specialist divisions to create free evidence-based species-specific online learning packages under the clinical leadership of Fiona Lovatt, RCVS Recognised Specialist in Sheep Health and Production and a diplomate of the European College of Small Ruminant Health Management.

The training, which will be freely accessible to all who sign up to become a Farm Vet Champion, will cover all types of food-producing animals encountered by farm veterinary professionals as well as provide modules on communication skills, particularly with respect to farmer attitudes, behaviour and compliance. Veterinary practitioners who engage with this project will be given access to all the tools necessary to empower them to make positive steps towards further improving antibiotic stewardship within their practices.

Antibiotic Guardian Awards 2020

North Park Veterinary Group in Devon was the overall winner in the “Animal Health, Agriculture and Food Supply” category in the 2020 Antibiotic Guardian Awards.

On receiving the award SVS member Jonathan Hobbs said “I hope that the lessons we learned with regard to successfully changing farmer behaviours can prove helpful to other vets. As indicated by the recent [Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance] report, we are certainly not alone in significantly reducing our usage of antibiotics in farm animals, and this award is good news and recognition for the whole profession.”

SCOPS Launches 2020 Technical Manual Update

Following an expert review and comprehensive update, the new 2020 on-line version of the SCOPS Internal Parasite Technical Manual for Vets and Advisers went live on Monday 28th September. The new format allows access to all sections using a navigation tree, including links to additional documents. This means that users can access the information they need quickly and easily and when sections are updated they will be flagged, enabling users to keep abreast of developments in SCOPS science and practice.

The manual can be found at this address: www.scops.org.uk/advisers-technical-info

Membership fees

It has come to our attention that some members have not updated their standing orders. Full membership is £75. Details of membership and how to pay can be found on the website <https://www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk/membership>

If you pay by standing order, please can you check that your current standing order is correct? A standing order mandate can be set up by completing the form downloadable from the website or you can set one up through online banking. If you pay by online banking please be sure to use your full name and membership number as the reference so we know who the payee is!

SVS Website

Sadly, the SVS communication forum on Yahoo groups has come to an end. Mindful that the SVS website requires updating, SVS are in the process of creating a new website which will incorporate a member's area to facilitate a member's only forum. In the meantime any news of interest will be posted to the current SVS website so keep touching base with <https://www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk/>

In addition, membership fees will be payable through the new website. The new website will incorporate the **Sheep Vet Map** - showing the location and contact details of vets who have an interest in sheep work and who can provide advice and services to sheep flocks and is now live on the SVS website. Anyone wishing to add their details should contact the secretariat.

We hope to launch details of the new website in time for the May 2021 conference.

Task and finish groups

Exciting times are ahead not least as we prepare for changes in the future of farming in the UK. Defra sees animal health and welfare as a “public good” and livestock farmers who can demonstrate

improved health and welfare enhancements will be paid public funds under the government's post-Brexit plans for agriculture. In anticipation of these changes SVS will aligning our objectives by setting up a new website, creating new training webinars and reviewing the format of SVS conferences to help deliver these objectives.

If you would like to be involved in any of these activities, please let the secretariat know

secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk

	Welfare	CPD	AMR	Parasitol & AHR	Surveillance & Future Farming	Conferences
Lead	Nick Hart	Ed Hill	Mark Thompson	Shona Mouncey	Amy Jennings	Phillipa Page & Moyna Richey
Member		Yoav Alony-Gilboa	Claire Phythian	Sian Mitchell	Sue Tongue	Judith Charnley
Member		Rudolf Reichel	Shona Mouncey		Nanja Verkuijl	Bev Hopkins
Member			Rachel Forster		Heather Stevenson	
					Nick Hart	
	Red Tractor	PSGHS	RUMA	SCOPs	RHAWG	Antibiotic Guardians
	Nick Hart	Harriet Fuller	Fiona Lovatt	Davina Hinde	Moyna Richey	Rachel Forster

SVS and Flock health club webinars

Recording from the webinars available to view via our website, thank you again to our industry supporters

<https://www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk/svs-and-flock-health-club-free-webinars>



NSA Webinars

During 2020 the National Sheep Association (NSA) have offered support and training through online platforms such as webinars, virtual events and podcasts. NSA also partnered with The Moredun Institute and Elanco to deliver a webinar on sustainable parasite control back in July 2020.

These webinars can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/webinars/>

Many thanks again for your continued support.

SVS Executive Committee.



Dear colleagues,

We would like to inform you that the 10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC) that was scheduled to be held in 2022 from September 19th to 23rd, in Seville, together with the 5th Congress of the ECSRHM, will be delayed six months, to **March 6 to 10, 2023**. As it is known, the ISVC is being organized by the Spanish Society for Sheep and Goat Production (SEOC). The organizing committee has been working hard for several years in order to perform a successful conference at the organizational, content (scientific, cultural and recreational aspects) and attendance (delegates and speakers) levels.

The reason that has led us to make this decision has been the postponement of the 31st World Buiatrics Congress (WBC) 2021-MADRID, to September 4-8, 2022. The situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the organizers (the Spanish Society ANEMBE) to postpone the conference to September 2022.

As we said before, we would like to have a successful ISVC congress, and as you know, although the WBC is a congress eminently dedicated to cattle, it also has a section dedicated to small ruminants. The WBC is an event with which we share delegates, speakers and members of the Scientific Committee, so it is likely that by holding both events at such close dates, many potential participants, would be forced to choose between the two congresses, negatively affecting both the number of attendees (delegates) and the quality (speakers). We also share sponsor companies and institutions, so holding both congresses in the same year and in the same country, would negatively affect their financial support to our congress. For these reasons, after taking into account the opinions of the members of the Organizing and Scientific Committees of the ISVC-Seville, and obtaining the ISVA and ECSRHM approvals, we considered postponing it to March 2023 to be the best option. If this postponement could cause inconvenience to any delegate, we sincerely apologize on behalf of all the organizers.

We also want to communicate, that we have decided, together with the ISVA, to organize a **virtual meeting** from 23rd to 25th November 2021 of which we will inform you soon.

Looking forward to meeting all you in March 2023 in Seville!!

Yours sincerely,

Jesse Barandika & María J. Alcalde
Presidents of the Organizing Committee ISVC 2023