



Update from the President

July 2026

Dear SVS members

The activities continue as we move into the summer! Whilst we await any communications from the consultations that we submitted earlier in the year, attentions on the SVS committee have centred around the Sheep Health and Welfare Strategy from the Ruminant Health and Welfare Group, webinars specific to Nematodirus and Haemonchus control in collaboration with SCOPS, antibiotic guardian group roadmap launch, RHWG medicines, Red Tractor, CEVA Sheep meet meetings and bluetongue virus disease to name a few! It's busy!

A huge thanks to those committee members and SVS members who are involved with these initiatives, making the team effort of SVS work well!

The NSA Sheep event Malvern is next week, which will see myself and many other SVS committee members and SVS members in attendance. It will be great to catch up with you. Following on from the recent consultations I have realised how important it is that we remain at the forefront of discussions within our profession and industry. We continue to maintain excellent relations with the National Sheep Association and other industry bodies.

There have been many occasions where I have thought, thank goodness someone from SVS was in that meeting. We bring the expertise but also the practical knowledge and farmer perspective to many discussions to challenge and ask for accountability on topics that will directly affect us all. I thank those of you who are representing SVS either formally or informally because it's really important that we continue to do so.

Blue Tongue Disease Virus Update!!!

There has been an increase in the diagnosis of first BTV 3 cases this year, with clusters around Somerset and North Devon. We think the cases that we are seeing are the tip of the iceberg and concerning the clinical signs in sheep are more severe than previously seen. This isn't a complete surprise based upon the disease in Europe, though it will spark concern amongst our farmers. We will update information as we receive it and there will be information being released in the press. We have reiterated in the BTV working groups, that vets need the information as soon as possible so that they can best advise their farmers and actions for their flocks.

Autumn SVS Conference Ireland!

The programme is out and it is exciting! We've got some excellent and timely topics! Plus, what promises to be a great farm visit with a lovely, progressive farmer with whom I chatted with last week. Please book on early to avoid disappointment! You will see further information in the Vet Times later in the year, with speaker details and abstracts etc.

Agnes Winter Research Award

There is still time to apply. The closing date to submit is the **31st of August 2026** with your idea/abstract. The award is open to all Sheep Veterinary Society members and is aimed at providing financial support for projects related to improving sheep health, welfare and efficiency. The award can support financially up to a value of £3000 but it also allows applicants access to experts on the committee who may also have an interest and help in the topic!



Sheep Veterinary Society
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Please email us at; secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk to submit an idea/abstract. The committee will review and approve all projects and announce the recipient at the Autumn Conference in Ireland!

At SVS, we are looking for new committee members, as David Charles and Georgina Rigby step down after their 3-year term. The aim is to fit the roles with relevant interests such as Animal Welfare, Assurance Schemes and Sustainability, although these will be negotiable with the new members. If you are interested, please contact Phillipa Page or Hazel Rice (secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk).



CEVA have agreed again to fund the **Sheep Meets** events for 2026. These are intended to be evenings for vets in a region to come together and discuss sheep-related clinical cases or issues that they have encountered. We are looking for members willing to run one of these events in your area.

Please contact Hazel Rice (secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk) for further information.

Forthcoming Events

- Sheep Meet local events – there could be one near you, please check out our website for details.
- European College Small Ruminant Health Management conference will be held in the Netherlands at Utrecht University and wants to welcome ALL SVS members to attend. 11th – 13th November. <https://events.ecsrhm.org/annualmeeting2026/>
- Sheep Breeders Round Table (SBRT) 2026 conference in East Midlands from 20th – 22nd November 2026



Follow us Instagram – Sheepvetsoc

SVS have signed up to Instagram, please increase our followers.

If you are interested in further details on any of the content, please get in touch with Hazel Rice via the secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk.

I look forward to seeing many of you in beautiful Ireland in September.

Thanks to all members and the committee for the continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Phillipa Page, BVSc BSc MRCVS
Sheep Veterinary Society President