

BRITISH SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the BSAVA (Ltd) was held at the BSAVA, Woodrow House, 1 Telford Way, 1 Woodrow Way, Waterwells Business Park, Quedgeley, Gloucester, GL2 2AB, on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 12.30 pm.

22.01 Chair's Introduction

Mr Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting, both those physically in the room and those who had joined virtually, he declared the meeting open. Mr Middleton advised virtual attendees to vote using the raised hands option and that he would let them know when any votes had been counted.

22.02 Apologies for absence

Dr Arnold informed the Annual General Meeting that apologies had been received from:

Mr D Wadsworth, Mrs L Turner, Mr M Jessop, Dr S Paterson, Mr J Wells, Mrs L Hill, Mr R Harvey, Mr J Hird, Mr J Chitty, Miss S Sorrell, Miss L Kerridge, Mr J Bower, Mr R Dixon, Prof S Dawson, Mr R A Ash, Mr S Spill, Dr F Scott-Park.

22.03 Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting

Mr Middleton proposed that the Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Thursday 22nd April 2021, at 9.30 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

22.04 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

22.05 Presidents Reflection

This is my last day as BSAVA President whereafter I shall be branded a Past President who seemingly are never able to leave the association entirely. I would like to reflect on my year if you will indulge me as it has been a strange one. Each Presidential Year will have its ups and downs, its own challenges, and highlights. The last three Presidencies have been dominated partly or entirely by COVID. This is the first AGM we have held in person in three years. In April last year I was inaugurated sitting behind my computer in the spare room at home Taking over from Ian Ramsey who was the only President not to set foot in BSAVA headquarters during his term, he did not even get the presidential chain. At least by the time I was taking over, we could get the chain couriered to me. My year started in lockdown and it was not until August that I was able to get out and perform my first official visit to the Dogs Trust. I very much hope that I am the last COVID President and that Alison is able to get out and about from day one.

We are having our first hybrid AGM in 2022 and this is something of a year for firsts for BSAVA. We held our first hybrid congress which was a resounding success, bringing together the various strands of the revised congress strategy. It was also our first congress in Manchester, our first with our new format including debates, short lectures, and a day in the life of scenarios. Our first with natural light in the exhibition! I managed to get across VMX in Florida to represent the association and when they came to visit us, they were very keen to introduce some of our

innovations next year. This is one small example of the impact BSAVA has on the worldwide veterinary community. My thanks go to the volunteers and staff who worked so hard on congress ably led by Tom Reilly as Chair of Congress and Paul Higgs as Chair of Programme Committee.

PetSavers is also changing. The PetSavers Management Committee, led by Jim Hughes, has concluded its strategic review this year. This has refocused efforts on direct engagement with the professions alongside a new fundraising strategy and new branding. This rebranding better identifies PetSavers as the grant awarding arm of the BSAVA.

PetSavers has developed match-funding partnerships with several like-minded organisations. This encourages sustainable funding and strengthens relationships. In addition, the new Research Fellowship was established with the aim of supporting veterinary academics in the early stages of their research career.

In 2021 a total of £145,096 in grant funding was awarded in support of 13 projects, bringing the total funding provided since 2010 to over £1.15 million, awarded to more than 130 projects reported in peer-reviewed papers.

Further charitable giving has been extended as a result of the war in Ukraine. Whilst, as an educational charity we are unable to donate cash directly, we can support the education of vets overseas. As such, we have agreed to fund the attendance of Ukrainian Vets (along with our colleagues in the Czech SAVA) to FECAVA Congress in June. We have offered free BSAVA membership to Ukrainian vets and free access to Congress on Demand so that they have access to resources to help them practice in new countries. These were direct responses to our colleagues in the Ukrainian SAVA so we can be confident that they too will have an impact.

The fact that we are able to offer digital support overseas reflects the enormous amount of digital content that BSAVA has. The pandemic has done much for the advancement of BSAVA's digital offering and on the back of this we are refining our digital strategy so that we can be best placed to take advantage of this in the future.

Other than the trip to the US, my BSAVA Presidency has been UK based. I have attended meetings and congresses face to face in the latter half of my year and this has been with a renewed enthusiasm from the veterinary community. Virtual meetings are great for getting business done. Face to face meetings are where relationships are built which allow face to face meetings to function, particularly where there are political dances to be had.

There is much more that BSAVA has done this year and I am deliberately not mentioning everything here as they are in the annual report or will be discussed by Krista in the Honorary Secretary's speech. Suffice to say that the association is coming out of the pandemic stronger than ever thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers. We continue to support our membership educationally and professionally and are on a strong footing with significant plans for the future.

BSAVA did not escape the great post pandemic resignation. It is a credit that BSAVA developed our staff so they were able to advance their careers with more senior positions elsewhere. However, our success in development has meant that we have had a number of senior roles to fill over the last year or two including the Head of Partnerships and Events, Head of Marketing, Head of Education and Head of Finance. We have managed to replace these positions with outstanding candidates and we are now fully staffed with renewed energy to develop and

implement the BSAVA strategy for the next five years. Thanks go to Amanda Stranack, our CEO, who has led the association through the last year with remarkable calmness.

I would also like to thank Board for all their support this year. It would not be possible to be President without the backing of them and they have provided guidance and reassurance in difficult times. We are saying goodbye to two longstanding members of Board today. David Godfrey is finishing his term as honorary treasurer. I would like to thank him for keeping an eye on the figures, particularly when we have been through a period without a permanent Head of Finance.

BSAVA must also say goodbye to Ian Ramsey. Ian has been a supporter of BSAVA for decades and has donated a huge amount of his time and energy to improving the association. His time as President was more restricted than mine but the energy with which he tackles his volunteering will be missed (although as mentioned, now he is a Past President he cannot escape entirely...)

So, thank you on behalf of BSAVA and from me personally to both of these outstanding individuals.

In summary, the association is hopefully getting back to a more predictable year ahead and is continuing to go from strength to strength. I have been honoured to lead BSAVA for the last year but we are in safe hands with Alison going forward.

22.06 Honorary Secretary Speech

As I conclude my first year as Honorary Secretary, I would like to start this report by recording what a joy it has been to work with such dedicated groups of people as my colleagues on Board, our professional staff team at Woodrow House, and the many volunteers who devote their time and energy to a variety of projects. Our association is privileged to have over 350 volunteers who give their time to BSAVA with goodwill and passion.

The past year has again brought major challenges but together we have resolved these with skill, knowledge, organization, and humour.

The impact of the governance changes implemented 3 years ago has been closely monitored to ensure that the effect on the operations of the Association has been a positive one. The amendments to the remit and composition of Council leading to a reduction in the number of BSAVA trustees has enabled the Board to make decisions in a more agile way while still retaining appropriate checks and balances. This has proved to be a major advantage throughout the pandemic, enabling the BSAVA to respond effectively to changing circumstances.

More recently, under the leadership of Ian Mason, the Council has been discussing ways of engaging with the BSAVA membership to ensure their views are considered and incorporated as part of the strategic development and direction of BSAVA. This will be a focus for the coming year.

Following the introduction by the Volunteer Development Committee of a revised induction and training process for trustees, an additional voluntary role to the Board has been introduced to spread the workload across trustees more effectively. As Officer Without Portfolio, Peter

Graham brings additional veterinary expertise to the Board as well as increasing capacity for further Working Groups and Committee support.

But BSAVA would not exist without its members, who make up its community and are one of the pillars of its strategy. By the end of 2021 there were 11,468 active members.

The COVID-19 pandemic, consequences of the UK's exit from the EU, the increase in number of pets and the decrease in number of available veterinary staff have all continued to impact and increase pressure on our members.

A core activity of the Membership Department during 2021 was a review of our current offering and research of our members' needs. The results of this review were presented to the new Membership Development Working Group with recommendations to enable delivery of more relevant and targeted membership offers, particularly in light of the current pressures on veterinary professionals.

In view of the difficulties faced by veterinary professionals during the last two years, a key priority for 2022 will be developing non-clinical, cross-departmental resources and member benefits related to mental health and stress management.

BSAVA Policy & Communications continued to provide vets and their clients with resources to support them during the pandemic. They have also had a busy year responding to governmental consultations as calls for evidence and requests for input on veterinary issues followed the demands of the COVID crisis.

Many responses to consultations were carried out in collaboration with other veterinary associations, adding strength to the wider veterinary voice when influencing government outcomes. We also continued to maintain our relationship with Lord Trees on parliamentary affairs.

Working closely with other veterinary associations on Policy Positions, BSAVA continued to work collaboratively with national external stakeholder organisations which influence some of the topical issues impacting the health and welfare of our clients' pets.

The Policy Working Committees are made up of BSAVA staff and volunteers, who contribute invaluable expertise, knowledge of life in practice and an understanding of members' needs.

Leading-edge education remains one of the pillars of BSAVA's strategy.

During 2021, despite the continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Education Department, supported by the Education Working Committee led by Stephanie Sorrell, maintained delivery of the planned CPD and the Postgraduate Certificate programmes both online and where possible in-person. It also launched the new Diagnostic Rounds programme and the new BSAVA Postgraduate Certificate in Small Animal Diagnostic Imaging.

Postgraduate Certificates in Small Animal Medicine, Surgery, Emergency and Critical Care and Ophthalmology remained popular with over 500 BSAVA PGCert graduates over all four programmes since their launch in 2011. Nine students are still studying towards their BSAVA Masters in Clinical Veterinary Research, and 74 nurses enrolled across 4 Vet Nurse Merit Awards.

Science is a further pillar of BSAVA's strategy. BSAVA's Scientific Committee, led by Ian Self, continues to represent BSAVA with input into external stakeholder activities, ensuring that the veterinary view is reflected in their activities. During the year it has developed an ongoing review schedule for existing scientific materials, such as Scientific Position Statements and Scientific Information Documents and has also begun a review of the current BSAVA Research Board.

A new science-based e-newsletter for BSAVA members, highlighting research and other publications of interest, has seen great member engagement.

The publication department is supported by the Publications Committee, led by Julian Hoad.

In total 29,218 printed books were sold in 2021, a 40% increase over 2020 and the highest figure on record for print sales in a financial year. This was despite, and maybe even because of, expanding digital sales. In addition to these print sales and the BSAVA Library, revenue was generated through sales of e-books via third parties, sales of translation rights, and permission licenses.

During the year, the Journal of Small Animal Practice published 12 monthly issues containing 178 articles, an increase of 35% over those published in 2020.

In 2021 the BSAVA Library, our platform for all digital content and resources, including books, Companion, the Formulary, lecture recordings and more, saw another increase in usage. Revenue from sales enabled the library to record a surplus, whilst a 'Lecture Library' was launched to showcase around 1,900 lecture recordings from BSAVA congress and related events.

2022 will again be a busy year; with the intention to print as close as possible to 100% of pages within the United Kingdom either using carbon balanced paper or carbon neutral printers. Plans also include a 'Video Library' to showcase the approximately 400 clinical videos that are attached to book chapters and Companion articles.

The 12 regions of BSAVA form part of our strong community, another pillar of BSAVA's strategy. Rebecca Smith has been the Chair of Regions, providing a link between the regions and Woodrow House. Our twelve local committees work hard to provide some of the major benefits for our members in the form of CPD. In 2021, regions provided a total of 114 hours of CPD amounting to 32,626 delegate hours of CPD, significantly exceeding the 2020 provision.

The popularity of the Regions Now online offering continued through 2021 with all regions providing CPD in an online format due to COVID-19 restrictions. Regions Now live sessions were all uploaded to the BSAVA Library, and the programme supplemented with the reintroduction of the Resilience Courses.

Vets Cymru 2021 was a victim of the pandemic but the organising committee, chaired by Kate O'Sullivan, in cooperation with the regional committee led by Emma Gerrard, delivered a virtual lecture programme in collaboration with the Wales Veterinary Science Centre (WVSC). In 2022 Vets Cymru will return as an in-person event in June at Aberystwyth University with a full two-day programme of lectures.

BSAVA Alba could also not go ahead in 2021 but will be back in August 2022 with its new name and a new venue in Falkirk.

Internationally BSAVA strives to ensure that the veterinary community works together wherever they may be located and is represented and heard on various international veterinary bodies.

In 2021, the BSAVA formed a new 'Sustainability Working Group (SWG) of interested BSAVA volunteers and staff members and led by Carl Gorman. The initial purpose of the SWG is to explore the feasibility of BSAVA becoming carbon neutral as an organisation, both at the Association's headquarters (Woodrow House) and association wide.

BSAVA's member magazine Companion has been delivered in non-plastic compostable bags since 2019, and since November 2021 has been printed on carbon balanced paper via a scheme delivered by the World Land Trust.

A further focus of the SWG is to promote and enable sustainable working in small animal practice. BSAVA, alongside BVNA, BVA and SPVS, is working with Vet Sustain on a collaborative project to develop a novel carbon calculator bespoke to UK veterinary practices. It is hoped that the calculator will be available from mid-2022.

BSAVA Congress and PetSavers are reported separately by our President, Sheldon Middleton, and require no additional comment here.

In proposing the adoption of my report, I would like once again to register my thanks to all staff and volunteers of BSAVA for their hard work, and to BSAVA members and external related associations and stakeholders for their continued support of this association.

22.07 Honorary Treasurers Report

I must report an unavoidable delay in the audit process and production of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2021. The audit will be completed soon and the 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statement will be reported to Members at a General Meeting once this process is complete and BSAVA will be confirmed as a going concern. All legal obligations will be met.

It was impractical to delay this AGM and handover of officers' roles to allow completion of the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

To provide some information I can report that expenditure was reduced by having online activities including management and governance meetings, and CPD meetings e.g., online Congress 2021. Publication income was increased both printed and the on-line library.

A Statement of Financial Activities and Balance sheet are to follow once the Annual Report and Financial Statements are finalized and presented at a General Meeting.

22.08 Election of Board Members for 2022-2023

Mr Middleton said: "The following nominations have been received for the election of Officers of the for the Association year 2022 - 2023:

President	Dr A J Speakman
Senior Vice President	Mr S Middleton
Vice President	Mr C Gorman
Junior Vice President	Mr J Hoad
Honorary Treasurer	Mr J Hughes

Honorary Secretary
Officer without Portfolio
Non-Executive Director

Dr K Arnold
Mr P Graham
Mr S Spill

These appointments have been approved via the receipt of proxy votes in favour.

22.09 Appointment of Representative on BVA Council

Mr Middleton advised that the BSAVA Representative on BVA Council from May 2022 will be Dr A J Speakman.

This appointment has been approved via the receipt of proxy votes in favour.

22.10 Appointment of Auditors for 2022 - 2023

Mr Godfrey said: "Following consideration, the recommendation of the Board is that the Association should appoint as its Auditors Sayer Vincent LLP, for the forthcoming financial year."

This has been approved by the receipt of proxy votes in favour.

22.11 Induction of New President

Mr Middleton informed the meeting that Alison graduated from Glasgow in 1991 and spent a short time in mixed practice then took up a residency in feline medicine at Liverpool followed by a PhD looking at *Bordetella bronchiseptica* in cats followed by a post-doc project on antimicrobial resistance in *Bordetella bronchiseptica* in dogs. She then returned to small animal practice (and apart from a 2-year spell in industry) has remained in small animal practice ever since. She has been an active member of BSAVA since qualification and has spent 27 years in various volunteer roles including NW regional committee, Education committee, Congress committee, Membership Development and PetSave3rs as well as being Honorary Secretary in 2008 through to 2010. The Association is in safe hands with Alison.

Thank you, Sheldon, for your introduction.

Members of the association and distinguished guests, I am immensely humbled to have the honour of being appointed as the 65th President of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association!

I have every right to feel humbled (and somewhat scared) as I follow in the giant footsteps of those past presidents who have gone before (bear in mind I have only got little feet!!).

In particular, I want to take the opportunity to thank our outgoing president Sheldon Middleton whose calm, dignified and inspiring leadership has provided great stability during what has been another turbulent year for the profession and indeed the country as a whole with the challenges of COVID, Brexit, workforce and climate issues to name just a few. I sincerely hope that I can emanate his strong and level-headed presence.

Secondly, I would like to thank Professor Ian Ramsey for his guidance both professionally and personally.

I am sure board would also like to thank Ian for the compulsory exercise regime after every board meeting with the claim "it's only a short walk to where we are eating" inevitably followed

by an extensive power walk requiring the stamina of a mountain goat which if nothing else worked up an appetite!!

As Sheldon alluded to, I have been a passionate member of BSAVA for the duration of my career and a volunteer for almost as long. During that time, I have always felt part of a community/family that shared my own values and provided amazing educational and professional support.

After several difficult years, the world is emerging into a new post-pandemic/post-Brexit phase where life has definitely changed for both the profession and the wider community. As a result, how BSAVA delivers its values, community, education, and science is constantly evolving and we need to remain mindful of the challenges the association faces and be able to respond appropriately in a timely fashion.

During this year I intend to work with my fellow board members and our magnificent network of volunteers to continue to implement the comprehensive strategy that we have developed focusing on

- 1) reinforcing our community reach to support and encourage members,
- 2) continuing to innovate with our inspiring offering in Education, Congress, and Publications
- 3) developing our digitalization projects and
- 4) highlighting the importance of mental health and wellbeing to ensure the safety, and happiness of the valued members of our profession.

In doing so I would like to welcome Julian and Jim onto the Board team.

In order to achieve all this, BSAVA relies heavily on the outstanding work of our dedicated team of staff at our Woodrow House headquarters. Despite the enormous challenges of the last 2 years, they have never failed in their ability to be flexible, dynamic, and resilient all rolled into one! Not to mention their willingness to make you feel welcome and part of a wonderful team. You are utterly amazing, and I am really looking forward to working with all of you over the coming year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank a couple of other people who have been instrumental in their encouragement along my BSAVA journey. Carmel Mooney, Ed Hall, and Sue Paterson have helped me more than they know.

I am enormously proud to be a member of a profession that requires and excels in such a broad set of skills: intellect, knowledge, practical dexterity, compassion, and resilience under pressure which are tested on a daily basis. There is no other profession like it and to be President of an association which represents such people is overwhelming. Thank you, I am honoured to be your new president.

21.11 Date, time, and venue of the next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday 15th June, 2023 at Woodrow House, time will be advised closer to the date. There being no other business the meeting concluded.