

BRITISH SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 31st 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 Thursday 20th June 2024 at 9.30 pm.

24.01 Chair's Introduction

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

24.02 Apologies for absence

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

Prof P Bedford, Dr N Bexfield, , Mr J Bower, Mr E Chandler, Mr J Chitty, Mrs P Colville, Prof S Dawson, Mr R Dixon, Mr R Green, Mr R Harvey, Prof M Herrtage Mrs L Hill, Mr J Hird, Mr K Lewis, Dr P Lhermette, Mr P H Locke, Dr I S Mason, Mrs K J McConnell, Mrs J Megarity, Mr S Middleton, Dr C Mooney, Mr S Orr, Mr G Petrie, , Dr S Paterson, Prof I K Ramsey, Dr F Scott-Park, Dr C Sturgess, Mr D Thompson., Mrs L Turner, Mr D Wadsworth and Mr J A Wells.

24.03 Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting

Dr Gorman proposed that the minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Thursday 15th June 2023 at 9.30 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

24.04 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

24.05 Presidents Reflection

Members of the association, colleagues, and distinguished guests,

Well, as the Mayfly said, that went quickly. I think every President of the association must wonder where the past year went as they prepare to pass the reins to their successor. Having said that, I am grateful that we have halted the trend of increasing the presidential year by a month at a time, as seems to have happened since the COVID 19 pandemic. My year has been the more traditional 12 months, for which my long suffering and patient family will be grateful, and I am assuming my work colleagues will feel the same.

Speeches should have a quote in them, so here is one from Robert Orben:

“Every speaker has a mouth, an arrangement rather neat. Sometimes it’s filled with wisdom, sometimes it’s filled with feet.” I can’t promise either but it’s something to bear in mind.

As I stepped into the role last year, I said that we had embarked on an ambitious Programme of Change for the BSAVA. Much as I would have liked to be able to report that we had been able to complete that work during my year, I appreciate the scale and breadth of the project means that it is still very much work in progress. The path hasn’t always been smooth, but we have arrived at a point where we have more clarity of the work that needs to be done and identified the excellent partners who will work with us to achieve our aims. One very valuable lesson we have learned is that we need to accept that we can’t do everything in house. We have to seek out those with the expertise in the areas we want to develop and accept their advice while learning from them. You will have seen some of the output in, for example, our Congress marketing and social media engagement. That, however, is only a small part of the work that has been going on, and only in one area. Our ambition is to overhaul all areas of the association’s work. I am excited to see where we go in the coming year.

Although we are impatient to press forward, we do want to get things right. The early bird might get the worm, but it’s the second mouse that gets the cheese.

One of the great pleasures of my year has been the opportunity to attend conferences and congresses both in the UK and abroad. Whether in Telford, Birmingham, Lisbon, Barcelona or Orlando, it has been gratifying to see the enthusiasm for face to face meetings rejuvenated. Our own Congress in Manchester was of course a highlight of the year. An attractive venue, varied and innovative CPD programme and enthusiastic delegates all contributed to its success. Meeting colleagues, whether they be officers of associations or delegates, confirms that we are part of a remarkable profession. In so many ways we share similar outlooks on life. We should not downplay the challenges that we face, nor the mental health issues in the profession that must be managed, but I always try to stress the satisfaction and, yes, joy that comes from being a vet. It’s a wonderful job bringing great opportunities and we should embrace that.

Having said that, we must acknowledge the challenges faced by vets in practice following the announcement of the Competition and Marketing Authority’s review of veterinary services for household pets. Disappointingly, certain sections of the media saw this as an opportunity for a round of ‘Vet bashing’. The reality is that working vets and nurses have little influence on many of the areas that the CMA wish to investigate. We have worked with the BVA and other associations to provide a robust response to the CMA. This working group has also gone on to produce guidance for practices to assist them in ensuring they offer transparency and client choice in their work. We have now had the confirmation that the CMA will conduct a formal market investigation. This will take some 12 to 18 months to complete. We have to recognise that there will be positives to come out of the process,

and we very much hope that one such positive will be the recognition of the need for an updated Veterinary Surgeon's Act. To assist veterinary staff in responding to queries from clients, we produced a useful guide to explain veterinary fees, and highlighted our resources on providing veterinary care within budgetary restrictions.

We have also been involved in the BVA's working group on RCVS Governance as the College considers changes in its future make up, and as preparation for a new VSA. It is important that we represent our members, but also guide them in understanding the role of the RCVS. Confusion exists because, unusually, the RCVS is both a regulatory body and a Royal College, and in some ways the two functions are contradictory.

Concerns about imported diseases in dogs are an ongoing issue. *Brucella canis* was especially worrying for the profession with animal charities importing large numbers of dogs from countries where the disease is endemic. Veterinary staff were faced with an unfamiliar disease, which furthermore has zoonotic potential. Together with the BVA, SPVS and BVNA we produced a joint policy position in January to advise vets. Our scientific information document on *Brucella* gives specific advice on diagnosis and risk management and has been downloaded over 8,000 times from the BSAVA website.

BSAVA is involved in many consultations, from the above mentioned, to legislation on microchipping of cats, the XL bully ban, avian 'flu, the RCVS Under Care changes and much legislation relating to pet animals. We are indebted to Adrienne Conroy, our Head of Policy and Communication for all her work in these areas. A common theme we have heard through the preparation for our Programme of Change is that the work BSAVA does is a well-kept secret. Acknowledging that it is important to keep our members and our profession aware of that work, and that the business of the role limits our capacity for communication, we have approved the expansion of our policy department, initially by one extra position with a second to follow.

Amanda Stranack, our CEO, and I attended the recent RCVS roundtable on AI in the veterinary profession. The theme of the day was how regulation of artificial intelligence might be managed, but there were many interesting discussions including several on AI in education. We have plans for transformation of our digital offering covering not only our website and the BSAVA app, but also involving our education, publications and in fact all aspects of the association. Inevitably AI will feature, and I hope to see many benefits from its incorporation.

We are always looking at how to provide value and assistance to our members. This year we launched our Graduate Resource Hub, a free benefit for members in their first three years. Packed with information and guidance, not only clinical and non-clinical but also covering wellbeing, it has proved very popular.

Sustainability is important to us in all aspects of our work. I'm proud to say that this year BSAVA achieved silver status with Investors in the Environment, and we are working

towards green level, their top level of sustainable effort. The award reflects many aspects of the association. The publications department have done sterling work in ensuring we only use printers who are carbon neutral or balanced and printing has been moved to the UK to reduce travel. We encourage the use of digital copies of JSAP and where practical, Companion. The online library provides an alternative to print copies of our publications. We reduced our carbon footprint from travel significantly. We have installed four new electric vehicle charging stations at Woodrow House. Congress in 2023 was carbon audited and the Congress just gone will also be audited. Staff and volunteers also took part in a volunteer day for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and held a bring and buy sale at Woodrow House.

Sustainability extends to responsible use of medicines. We are pleased to support RUMA CAE – the responsible use of medicines alliance, companion animal and equine. At Congress we reported the results of the antibiotic amnesty which we helped promote in November. The majority of results returned were from BSAVA members, which was pleasing to see but we need all those within the profession to take part. We launched the updated version of our PROTECT ME poster which is a resource used very widely in practice to guide antibiotic use and selection where appropriate. The widespread use of parasiticide drugs is another area to concentrate on. A lively debate session at Congress highlighted the need for good evidence to support safe advice, and to assess the environmental impact of these drugs. We hope to be able to assist in this area.

This year sees the 50th Anniversary of PetSavers, the branch of our charity dedicated to funding research into diseases of pets. Over 2.7 million pounds has been invested in vital clinical research and training over those years. We owe thanks to the Chair of PetSavers, Rosie Godfrey, and her committee as well as staff for organising events to highlight and celebrate the anniversary. These included a very warm sponsored trek across the Malvern hills enjoyed by staff and volunteers.

When I stepped up last June, I commented that hopefully the year would mainly consist of thanking people. There has been much more to it than that, but thanks are due to many people. I must start with my family and long suffering wife Claire who has held the fort at home during this busy year. Thanks to CVS, my employers, for enabling me to take the time to fulfil my role. Also to my colleagues at work who have endured a challenging year with manpower shortages and the CMA investigation proving a microcosm of some of the issues the whole profession has endured.

Thank you to my fellow trustees and to Amanda Stranack. Your support and advice through the year has been welcome; your hard work on behalf of BSAVA is very much appreciated. Thank you to the BSAVA staff. They are the engine room of the association and ensure we maintain our reputation for excellence in all we do. They also kindly look after my dog Nancy on her visits to Woodrow House.

Our wonderful army of volunteers who form our regional committees, or working committees and working groups give up their time to help with the running of BSAVA and in the delivery of our education and other output. They give the association its character and heart. I am so pleased that their hard work has been rewarded this year by better and better attendances at regional CPD meetings after some trying post-pandemic times. Thank you all.

In particular I must thank two trustees who are leaving Board. Alison Speakman was a fine example as my predecessor. Her support and kind words have helped me through the year. Krista Arnold steps down as Honorary Secretary. As expected, she has done a sterling job in the role. Her dedication to BSAVA over the years has been second to none. Fortunately she has taken the role of our representative to UEVP, so I am sure she will ensure that BSAVA is heard throughout Europe.

We welcome two new trustees, subject to your approval. Susan Little becomes our Junior Vice president, while Adam Gow joins as Honorary Secretary. We look forward to working with you.

I have enjoyed my year and I am grateful for the experiences I have had. Above all I have been pleased to interact with so many vets and nurses within BSAVA and in other organisations which have reinforced my firm belief that I chose the right profession. Thank you for your trust and I believe that as we move forward with a strong team. I'm excited to see how the Programme of Change develops and my pride in BSAVA is greater than ever.

23.06 Honorary Secretary Report

President, Members of the Association, honoured and distinguished guests.

As I conclude my third and final year as Honorary Secretary, I would like to begin this report by thanking my colleagues on the Board, our professional staff team at Woodrow House for their dedication and cooperation and the many volunteers who devote their time and energy to various projects.

Our association is privileged to have over 300 volunteers who contribute their time to BSAVA with goodwill and passion.

The past year has brought a variety of challenges, but together we have addressed them with skill, knowledge, organization, and the occasional touch of humour.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the veterinary profession quickly found effective ways to support our Ukrainian colleagues. BSAVA contributed to this effort in ways that align with our charitable objectives, and in 2023 we continued to support the Ukrainian veterinary profession through education by providing free BSAVA overseas memberships.

We have also continued to offer free BSAVA Congress passes to RCVS-registered veterinary refugees from all countries.

Structure, Governance and Management

There have been no changes in the association's governance or management structures in 2023.

The functionality of the current governance is continuously monitored to ensure a positive impact on the Association's operations.

Under the leadership of Freda Scott-Park and Ian Ramsey, the Council has continued to explore ways to optimize their contribution within the governance structure.

Membership

As of 31st December 2023, BSAVA had 10,771 members, up from 10,624 in December 2022. Recognizing the challenge of retaining and growing membership, the Membership and Marketing team leveraged insights from a previous project, resulting in improved retention and acquisition.

Membership grew 3% in fee-paying categories, with notable growth in the second half of the year. Factors contributing to this success include enhanced value propositions, smoother renewals, and new initiatives such as Student Plus membership and the Graduate Resource Hub. Further improvements in on-boarding and member engagement are expected to strengthen the membership base in 2024.

Policy

The BSAVA Policy & Communications department addressed various challenges faced by the veterinary profession by collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders to influence policy decisions and enhance animal welfare.

Key issues tackled include *Brucella canis*, dangerous dogs, avian influenza, and the responsible use of medicines. The department has contributed to numerous national consultations, such as the reviews of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations and of licensing activities involving animals. Collaborative efforts with organisations like the RCVS and BVA have led to joint policy positions on a variety of issues, and the department has also supported members with resources to explain veterinary costs and treatment options to clients.

BSAVA remains committed to representing the companion animal veterinary community and influencing policy to reflect the practical needs of veterinary practice, ensuring improved animal health and welfare.

Education

The Education committee was led by Stephanie Sorrell.

Throughout 2023, the BSAVA education department produced high-quality CPD and qualifications, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants.

Postgraduate Certificates remained in high demand, with waiting lists for oversubscribed programs. The first cohort of Diagnostic Imaging certificate students completed their elective modules, and another MSc in Veterinary Clinical Research was awarded.

Additionally, 87 vet nurses received Vet Nurse Merit Awards, a 64% increase from 2022.

Over 2,750 members engaged with the free CPD offered, with popular formats including "Clinical Rounds" and "Learn@Lunch" available via the BSAVA Library.

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee was led by Rachel Casey.

In 2023, BSAVA promoted veterinary science and research through various channels to keep members informed of relevant developments. This included blogs, newsletters (weekly and a dedicated quarterly scientific newsletter), social media, Companion, and external publications.

A new feature, 'Scientific Shorts,' was introduced in the weekly newsletter to provide updates on veterinary research. Papers from JSAP were promoted via newsletters, press releases, infographics, and articles.

The Scientific Committee produced a new document on *Dirofilaria immitis* (heartworm) due to rising infections in the UK.

The *Brucella canis* document was highly popular, with 8,007 full-text accesses in 2023.

Additionally, several Scientific Policy Statements were reviewed and updated.

PetSavers

The PetSavers Management Committee was led by Rosie Godfrey.

In 2023, BSAVA PetSavers, the team of volunteers and staff dedicated to funding research into pet diseases, continued its crucial work. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024, a series of events are planned. The Fund the Future campaign supported a PhD studentship in veterinary science, and a legacy campaign was launched to encourage donations through wills. PetSavers received significant donations from various organisations and individuals.

Recruitment began for a new fundraising manager and the first lay member joined the PetSavers management committee to offer a fresh perspective.

At BSAVA Congress 2023, PetSavers launched the Ageing Canine Toolkit and hosted student research presentations. Several research grants were awarded to support veterinary science projects.

PetSavers is committed to transparent and ethical fundraising practices, ensuring diverse funding sources to continue its important work.

Publications

The publication department was supported by the Publications Working Committee, led by Nick Bexfield.

In 2023, BSAVA book sales recovered slightly, with print sales remaining the largest revenue source. Digital sales grew, accounting for 38% of total publications revenue, aided by new institutional and veterinary practice subscriptions globally. New editions of the Formularies for cats, dogs, and exotic pets were published, contributing 12% of revenue. The Endocrinology manual and various other resources, including the updated PROTECT ME poster and client information leaflets, were also released. The BSAVA Library usage increased, featuring a new 'Graduate Resource Hub' and country-specific access for developing countries. Companion magazine continued to provide engaging CPD and news, with efforts to reduce costs and enhance sustainability. The Journal of Small Animal Practice saw a decline in article submissions but maintained over 750,000 downloads, remaining a highly accessed veterinary journal.

Regions – Community

The 12 regions of BSAVA form part of our strong community, another pillar of BSAVA's strategy. Matthew Erskin has been the Chair of Regions, providing a link between the regions and Woodrow House.

In 2023, our regional CPD programme adapted by offering both attended and virtual meetings to accommodate varying preferences within the veterinary profession. While in-person courses faced challenges in attracting sufficient attendees, virtual events saw stable participation rates. The Links Veterinary Initiative Programme delivered across different regions non-clinical training on issues like non-accidental injury and domestic abuse.

Regional Committees showed strong commitment, gathering to plan 2024 activities and brainstorming innovative CPD courses. As of early 2024, course participation numbers are increasing, underscoring the program's value to members and the dedication of our regional volunteers.

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 like FECAVA (Federation of Companion Animal Veterinary Associations), WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association) and UEVP (Union of European Veterinary Practitioners). Our international representatives in 2023 were Patricia Colville (FECAVA), Mark R. Johnston (WSAVA) and Mike Jessop (UEVP).

Sustainability

BSAVA prioritises environmental responsibility through its Sustainability Working Group (SWG) and initiatives across all departments.

In 2023, BSAVA achieved a silver accreditation from Investors in the Environment, advancing from Bronze in a year, and reduced its carbon footprint by 79% from 2019 to 2022.

Sustainability remains a priority, with all publishing now done in the UK using carbon-balanced paper. The association promotes responsible antibiotic use and hosts resources on sustainability in the BSAVA Library.

BSAVA was audited by Carbon Footprint for its Congress, setting a benchmark for veterinary conferences globally. New electric vehicle charging stations at Woodrow House further support environmental goals.

As I step down from the Board after my tenure as Honorary Secretary, I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to have served alongside such dedicated colleagues and staff. Though my role on the Board concludes, my journey with BSAVA continues as a volunteer, now representing our association with UEVP – an international role that resonates deeply with my Austro-Swiss heritage.

In the words of James Herriot, *'I hope to make the world a little better place for animals in my corner of it.'* With this spirit, I look forward to continuing our work together, advancing veterinary care and advocacy both locally and globally. Thank you all for your support and commitment. Let us strive onward, united in our passion for the health and welfare of all creatures great and small.

24.07 Honorary Treasurers Report

In the financial year to 31 December 2023 (FY23) the Association continued to face some significant operational challenges with the introduction of a new CRM system and the on-going transfer of data to the finance system. These issues caused difficulties in producing the monthly management accounts but were eventually resolved in time to complete the year-end financial results. The audit process, conducted by new auditors, WR Partners, was successfully completed and the Association given a clean bill of health.

We are indebted to Anthony Welsh our Head of Finance and his team for their commitment and diligence in overcoming the issues around transferring data from the old finance system to the new. It has been a challenging process at times.

Financial review for year to 31 December 2023

The audited Association accounts for the financial year ending December 2023 disclose an operating deficit of £867K. (see table overleaf) and year end cash holdings of £1.324m.

Gains from our investment portfolio (managed by RBC Brewin Dolphin) amounted to £1.149m, a reversal from the £1.051m losses generated during the prior year and a figure which improved our overall result to a surplus to £281K.

As suggested at the 2022 AGM, the Board of Trustees engaged Consorticon* at the start of 2023 to work with the Association to provide external expertise and insight into a programme of change to revitalise the BSAVA. The un-budgeted costs incurred in that programme during 2023 contributed to the operating deficit for the year but were covered by Designated Reserves set aside for this purpose. This work was expected to continue during 2024 and it is anticipated that the operating results for the Association will improve in 2025 and return to positive territory during 2026.

The Association is fortunate to retain significant Reserves to protect against the deficit in 2023 and the likely deficit during 2024 as we work through the Programme of Change. Of the total Reserve of £13.158m, £409K is restricted for PetSavers while a further £7.455m is designated by the Board of Trustees for various projects, including the Programme of Change. This leaves General reserves of £5.293m which will allow the Association to continue to operate in an uncertain environment and to weather any changes over the next few years.

Financial Review post 31 December 2023

The Association budget for 2024 reflected our opinion that the business environment would remain challenging but removing the anticipated costs for the Programme of Change, an effective operating deficit of approx. £98K would be achieved.

The result to the end of April 2024 is an operating deficit of £607K against our budget projection for the same period of £745K and while there is some time to go before the end of the year, we appear to be tracking well.

Since January 2024, our investment portfolio has again made significant gains, rebounding from the losses incurred during 2022 and to the end of April has risen by £410K. Global market volatility continues to impact on our investment portfolio, although less so in 2023 and 2024 (so far), and as always, it is important to remember that the management of this portfolio should be viewed in the long term.

Dr Gorman proposed the adoption of the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurers reports “en bloc” and asked for a seconder.

Seconder: Mr M J Johnston
For: All
Carried unanimously

24.08 Election of Board Members for 2024 - 2025

Dr Gorman said: “The following nominations have been received for the election of Officers of the for the Association year 2024 - 2025:

President	Dr J Hoad
Senior Vice President	Dr C Gorman
Vice President	Dr D Godfrey
Junior Vice President	Dr S Little
Honorary Treasurer	Dr J Hughes
Honorary Secretary	Dr A Gow
Co-opted Board Member	Mr P Graham
Non-Executive Director	Mr S Spill
CEO/Trustee	Mrs A Walton (aka Miss A Stranack)

Dr Gorman asked if there were any other nominations, there were none, Dr Gorman therefore asked for a Proposer and Seconder for the nominations.

**Proposer: Mr P Beynon
Seconder: Dr F Barr
For: All
Carried unanimously**

24.09 Appointment of Representative on BVA Council

Dr Gorman advised that the BSAVA Representative on BVA Council will be Dr J Hoad.

24.10 Appointment of Auditors for 2024 - 2025

Mr Hughes said: “Following consideration, the recommendation of the Board is that the Association should appoint as its Auditors W R Partners, for the forthcoming financial year.”

Dr Gorman asked for a Seconder for the appointment of auditors for 2023 -2024.

**Seconder: Mr A Bradley
For All
Carried unanimously**

24.11 Presentation of Armada Bowls

As Honorary Secretary it is an honour to make this presentation of the Armada Bowls.

At the end of his term as Honorary Secretary in 1963, Nick Henderson presented the Association with an Armada dish on which the names of all future Honorary Secretaries would be engraved and fill a special place in BSAVA history. In Simon Orr’s year there was no room left, even for a three-lettered surname! One day, Simon was wandering round an

antiques fair when he happened upon an almost identical Armada dish, which he presented to the Association at the end of his term of office.

In BSAVA folklore the story is repeated of the AGM when the Honorary Secretary did not have the Armada Bowl because it was being engraved. In order to ensure that the Honorary Secretary of the time was not standing here empty handed a couple of peanut bowls were procured from the Hyatt, however the substitution did not go unnoticed as unfortunately Simon was in the audience. Thankfully I have the real Armada Bowls here today.

So Adam can you come forward to so that I can present you with the bowls as we welcome you to the Officer team?

24.12 Induction of New President

Dr Gorman advised that it was his great pleasure to introduce our incoming President, Julian Hoad. Many of you will know Julian well.

Julian qualified from the RVC in 1996. He started his veterinary career in Phil Lhermette's practice, where I am sure he was encouraged to develop his expertise in endoscopy, laparoscopy and telling bad jokes. After working in two more small animal practices, he settled at Crossways Vet Group in Sussex, where he became partner, then sole owner.

Julian is a long term member of BSAVA, and a long term volunteer. He joined the South East region committee Surrey and Sussex as it was, becoming its Chair. He has worked on our Education, PetSavers and Publications committees. Julian is also an honorary member of BVNA having served on their Education and Scientific Committee. He has contributed articles to various veterinary nursing journals, as well as a chapter for the BSAVA Manual of Canine Practice. He is one of the editors of the forthcoming 3rd Edition of the Manual of Advanced Veterinary Nursing. Julian's charm and patience combine with a varied skill set (including a fine curry repertoire) which make him eminently suitable to take on the role of BSAVA President.

Julian, just remember some advice from an old quotation: "The words you speak today should be soft and tender, for tomorrow you may have to eat them."

Thank you, Carl, for your introduction.

Members of the Association and distinguished guests.

I thank Carl for his warm words - I have already taken the liberty of writing a strict denial to anything he might have said about me, but I think I probably won't need to...

Picasso once said: 'Good artists borrow, Great artists Steal'. I hope to be, at the very least, a Good President, so I thought I'd start off by stealing most of the speech ideas from previous Presidents.

I am very humbled - and experiencing a huge amount of imposter syndrome - as I stand here today as (I think) your 67th President. It is certainly the pinnacle of my veterinary career, and the greatest honour yet bestowed on me in life (it certainly knocks being milk monitor at my junior school into a crooked hat. Although I was 25 at the time...). Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking (another line I stole), I thought I would break from usual tradition and so I have written a poem encapsulating my journey to the Presidency.

Here we go - with apologies to Alfred, Lord Tennyson

In Surrey and Sussex Region, in 1996
I started volunteering: adding my choices to the mix
of CPD and lectures, practicals and courses
All to do with dogs and cats, but never cows and horses
For this was the BSAVA, my friends, the BSAVA.

It wasn't long before my fellow volunteers
asked me to join the committee they all served on for years.
No less than former President, my good friend Dr Johnson
asked me if I could be the region's next chairman
Of the local BSAVA, the BSAVA.

Unfortunately, I was quite naive: there was something I'd forgot.
And I received a call from Carole, saying 'Oy, you stupid clot!'
Apparently, to be chairman of a region- and this you must remember
It is vitally important that you become a member
Of the BSAVA, my friends, the BSAVA.

I did better going forward, and did gradually progress
to serve on other groups and teams, like Education and Congress.
I've always felt quite lucky to be part of this estate
A privilege to be among the veterinary greats
Within the BSAVA, beloved BSAVA.

And every year the Congress was some days of education
and party night, and banquet - a fun-filled celebration
At Congress I feel my batteries get really fully charged
As I discuss my cases with colleagues at the bar.
The bar at BSAVA, my friends, at BSAVA.

And now I stand in footsteps, in footsteps of the great and wise
I hope I'm fit to fill the steps, of the amazing girls and guys
who have led this association for nearly 70 years
The dedicated volunteers I'm proud to call my peers.

The board of the BSAVA, the BSAVA.

It's hard to follow such an act as Dr Carl Gorman
For the association, the job he's done is Storming.
And as far as hon secs go - there's no miss or mister
that can do a job as thoroughly as our amazing Krista
I owe a debt of gratitude ,and other sappy platitudes
to Alison, Peter and all the others; my veterinary sisters and brothers
of family BSAVA, my BSAVA.

David Godfrey's next in line - he'll take the chain next year
Assuming the programme of change works out
and BSAVA's still here.
I joke of course - it'll really zoom from strength to strength
And the new intake -Adam and Susan also have service history of great length
I'll work hard and be steered well by CEO Amanda
and I'm sure that next year I will successfully hand yer
A bigger, brighter BSAVA, yes BSAVA.

We continue to live in exciting times at BSAVA - the Program of Change, which was started
in Alison's year, is continuing and hopefully I have timed it right, in that I will soon get the
praise for the changes that Carl has instigated. Unfortunately, the CMA investigation hasn't
ended, so unless I can get them to drag it on into David's term then that will fall on my
watch. I wish to thank Carl for his unceasing devotion to the BSAVA and for his hard work
as President over the past year!

As ever, I join a team of amazing - utterly amazing - staff at Woodrow House, led by
Amanda Stranack as our CEO. Although I said it rather flippantly at the end of the poem, I
really do believe that the BSAVA will continue to go from strength to strength and will
continue to maintain its relevance and position as the indispensable voice of the small
animal veterinary profession. It doesn't do this without help, and I am very lucky to have
David Godfrey as Vice President. David Gow joins us as Honorary Secretary and Susan
Little returns to the BSAVA fold as Junior Vice President. Jim Hughes continues his
hypercompetent role as Honorary Treasurer and Steve Spill carries on as the ever needed
voice of reason - our Non-executive Director. Sadly this means that Krista Arnold will leave
us, and I wish her the very best of luck as she - quite literally - rides off into the sunset. Also
riding off into the sunset, though not as literally is Alison Speakman, who joins the
distinguished ranks of Past Presidents. It is difficult to quantify how much I have learnt
from Alison; and I'm afraid I still have your number on speed dial - so I'm afraid there will
continue to be no escape from me - sorry Alison!

I will be aided and abetted by my colleagues on Board, Council, A&M, ARC and the VDC
and our amazing volunteers all over the country and I cannot thank you enough for putting
your faith in me as your new President.

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

The next Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday 19th June 2025 at Woodrow House, time will be advised closer to the date. There being no other business the meeting concluded.