

The 175th Annual General Meeting of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, held on Friday 13 July 2018 at 10am in the Lecture Theatre of the Royal Institute of British Architects

The President, Professor Stephen May, was in the Chair and welcomed members of RCVS Council and Veterinary Nurses Council in addition to other members of the profession and their guests who were in attendance.

The Registrar, Eleanor Ferguson, reported that the notice of the meeting had been published in the 2 June 2018 edition of the *Veterinary Record*. The President also read a statement from Her Majesty the Queen as Patron of the RCVS.

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 7 July 2017, which had also been made available online, were confirmed and approved as a correct record.

2. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017

The President formally presented the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017.

3. Questions

As no questions were raised regarding the Annual Report and Financial Statements 2017 the President moved to formally adopt them. This was agreed by members of RCVS Council.

4. Council elections: new members and retirements

The Registrar turned to the results of the 2018 RCVS Council election. Prior to confirming the results, however, she spoke about the impact of the Legislative Reform Order (LRO) which had been recently passed by Parliament and leads to significant changes to the composition and constituent of RCVS Council. One of the most immediate impacts was that, instead of the six candidates with the most votes being elected to Council, this has now been reduced to three candidates.

The Registrar then read the report of Electoral Reform Services relating to the election of RCVS Council members, as follows:

Order	Nominee	Votes
1	Susan Paterson	3,976
2	Mandisa Greene	3,819
3	Neil Smith	3,544

The Registrar declared that those named, who were all existing Council members, were re-elected Members of Council for a period of four years.

Turning to university appointed Council members, the Registrar confirmed that, due to governance changes, the number of university-appointed members would be reduced from two per RCVS-accredited UK University, to one. This meant that the following would no longer sit on RCVS Council: Mrs Elaine Acaster (University of London), Dr Karen Braithwaite (University of Nottingham), Dr Richard Hammond (University of Bristol), Professor Mike Herrtage (University of Cambridge), Mr Douglas Hutchison (University of Glasgow), Mr Tim King (University of Edinburgh), and Dr Kieron Salmon (University of Liverpool)

Due to the governance changes the Registrar also confirmed that Mr Richard Davis and Ms Rachel Jennings would no longer be Privy Council-appointed members of RCVS Council. Christine Middlemiss, as Chief Veterinary Officer, would, however, continue as an *ex-officio* observer of RCVS Council.

The President then formally welcomed Dr Susan Paterson, Dr Mandisa Greene and Colonel Neil Smith on to Council.

The President then went on to welcome the new lay members to RCVS Council who have been appointed through an extensive recruitment process as a result of the governance changes. These new lay members are: Mr Derek Bray, Mr Mark Castle, Ms Linda Ford, Mrs Claire McLaughlan, Mr Tim Walker and Ms Judith Worthington.

He then welcomed the two new veterinary nurse members of RCVS Council – Ms Liz Cox and Miss Racheal Marshall – who are Vice-Chair and Chair of VN Council respectively.

The President then bid farewell to all the retiring members of Council – including the following elected members: Mr David Bartram, Mr David Catlow and Dr Jacqui Molyneux.

VN Council

The Registrar reported that, due to governance changes in VN Council including a reduction in the number of elected members, no elections to VN Council were held this year.

However, the changes to governance means that VN Council now has a number of new appointed members. They were: Mrs Belinda Andrews-Jones; Ms Wendy Drinkwater and Mrs Katherine Kissick.

The Registrar then thanked the retiring members of VN Council. They were: Mrs Vicky Aspinall, Dr Niall Connell, Miss Hilary Orpet and Miss Amber Richards.

5. Date of next AGM

The next AGM was provisionally agreed to take place on Friday 12 July 2019.

6. Meeting of the RCVS Council to elect President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Professor David Argyle
- Mr Chris Barker
- Dr Karen Braithwaite
- Professor Ewan Cameron
- Professor Richard Hammond
- Mrs Andrea Jeffery
- Mr Tim King

Declarations of interests

Dr Niall Connell declared that he was a member of Vetlife and Vet Trust.

Matters for Decision by Council

Approval of the Presidential Team and Treasurer for 2018/19

The Registrar asked Council to approve the appointment of the new Presidential Team and Treasurer for 2018/2019 as follows:

President:	Amanda Boag
(Senior) Vice-President:	Professor S A May
(Junior) Vice-President:	Dr Niall Connell
Treasurer:	Dr Christopher (Kit) Sturgess

The Presidential Team and Treasurer appointments were approved.

Date of Next Meeting

The dates of the next Council meetings were confirmed as:

Thursday, 27 September 2018 at 10am

Thursday, 1 November 2018 at 10am

7. Presentation of Lord Soulsby's House of Lords Seal and Parchment

Dr Judy McArthur-Clark, RCVS Past-President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Soulsby Foundation, presented the House of Lords Seal and Parchment of Lord Soulsby of

Swaffham Prior, also an RCVS Past-President, who died in May 2017. The bequest was gratefully received by the President.

8. Presentation of Mary-Elizabeth Raw's *Mastermind* prize

The second bequest was from Mary-Elizabeth Raw who died in May 2017 and left her prized *Mastermind* bowl, won in 1989, to the College. Her cousin Sir Robert Nelson made the donation which was gratefully received by the President.

9. Presentation of the Queen's Medal

Professor Peter Clegg FRCVS was presented with the RCVS Queen's Medal in recognition of his outstanding clinical and academic career as Professor of Musculoskeletal Biology and Head of Research at the Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease, and his mentoring of PhD students in both human and veterinary medicine.

The Registrar described the Honour, awarded to a veterinary surgeon for a lifetime of outstanding contributions to the profession, and who had dedicated their career to working above and beyond the call of duty in the fields of veterinary medicine or science, or related areas.

10. Presentation of the RCVS International Award

The International Award was presented to Dr Alemayehu Hailemariam, an Ethiopian veterinarian working for the Brooke equine charity in that country, and Rachel Wright who trained as a veterinary nurse in the UK and founded the Tree of Life for Animals (TOLFA) hospital in India.

The International Award recognises veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses or lay people who have worked internationally to raise, for example, veterinary standards, veterinary education, improve animal health and welfare.

11. Presentation of RCVS Impact Award

The Impact Award was a new honour approved by RCVS Council in 2017 and recognises veterinary surgeons or veterinary nurses who had made a considerable impact affecting the profession at large, animal health and welfare or public health. The inaugural Impact Award was given to Jade Statt MRCVS, co-founder of the Street Vet charity treating dogs and cats in the UK homeless community.

12. Presentation of RCVS Inspiration Award

The Inspiration Award was a new honour approved by RCVS Council in 2017 and recognises veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses who demonstrate the ability to inspire and enthuse

others in the professional careers. The two inaugural recipients were Dr Ebony Escalona MRCVS, the founder of the Vets: Stay, Go, Diversity group, which allowed veterinary professionals to exchange ideas and information on career development, and Professor Derek Knottenbelt MRCVS, a former Emeritus Professor at the University of Liverpool who had mentored and inspired generations of veterinary students.

13. Presentation of Fellowships

A Diploma of Fellowship by Thesis was presented to:

Dr Neil Peter Hammerton Hudson

Diploma of Fellowship by Thesis, entitled: '*Veterinary admissions: analysing the journey into veterinary school and beyond.*'

Fellowship by Meritorious Contributions to Learning was presented to

Dr Judy MacArthur-Clark.

14. Presentation of Diplomas

The following Diplomas were presented:

Diploma in Small Animal Surgery (Orthopaedics)

Dr Gordon Walter Brown MRCVS

Mr Mark Adam Morton MRCVS

Diploma in Veterinary Cardiology

Mr David Peter Dickson MRCVS

Mrs Joanne Deborah Harris MRCVS

Diploma in Zoological Medicine (Mammalian)

Dr Fieke Marije Molenaar MRCVS

15. Presentation of books to the RCVS Knowledge Library from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association

Each year, the BSAVA kindly gives the RCVS Knowledge Library a copy of all of the books that the association had published in the previous year, plus a selection of books given in memory of Noel Ormrod, who died tragically during his term as Senior Vice-President of BSAVA in 1967.

On behalf of the RCVS Knowledge, Clare Boulton received the books from Philip Lhermette, BSAVA President.

16. Chief Executive & Secretary's address

Ms Lizzie Lockett, gave an overview of what the College had been doing and how it has been fulfilling the ambitions of the Strategic Plan since her appointment, citing projects such as the RCVS Leadership Initiative, the Graduate Outcomes project and the College's ongoing work with the BVA and Government on Brexit.

She also said increasing efforts were being made to make the College more proactive in its approach to regulation, rather than reacting to events as they happened.

She then handed over to the outgoing Chair of VN Council, Ms Liz Cox RVN, for her address.

17. Outgoing VN Council Chair's address

In her address, Liz spoke about her 'love affair' with veterinary nursing, how she had been inspired to become a VN by witnessing what they do first-hand at the age of 13 during the treatment of her family dog. How, a few years after qualifying as a veterinary nurse, she had become disillusioned with a lack of career progression and left the profession, only to return some years later because she missed the impact that veterinary nurses could have on clients and their pets and the satisfaction that brings.

She added that she looked forward to an expanded veterinary nursing role, with greater scope for career progression and expanded responsibilities so that veterinary nursing could fulfil its potential as a career for life.

Following Liz's address Racheal Marshall was invested as the new Chair of VN Council with Liz becoming a Vice-Chair alongside VN Council member Matthew Rendle.

18. Outgoing President's address

In Professor Stephen May's final address as RCVS President he spoke about the RCVS being the archetypal "complete professional regulator" that protected the public and their animals through setting standards for entry to the profession, and empowering members of

the veterinary professions through codes of conduct aimed at supporting professional capability and wellbeing.

In particular, he emphasised what emerged as one of the main themes of the day, the need to nurture the new generation of vets and nurses, and move away from a blame culture to one where professionals were more willing to admit, and learn from, their mistakes.

In reviewing his year as President, Stephen also spoke about the ongoing discussions around the veterinary workforce, which may be affected by the UK leaving the EU, the review into the legislative framework for the veterinary professions and some of the debates and controversies around the College's position on homeopathy and complementary and alternative medicines in general.

Both of these have been challenges, but at the same time they have provided opportunities to emphasise the importance of the profession to Society and explain what the profession stood for.

Stephen then thanked fellow members of Council, the Operational Board, and RCVS staff, his colleagues at the Royal Veterinary College and the professions as a whole, as well as his family who had supported him through his busy year.

19. Introduction of new President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer

The President said a few words of thanks about the departing Senior Vice-President Dr Christopher Tufnell.

He then introduced Amanda Boag as President.

Amanda Boag, Professor Stephen May and Dr Niall Connell each formally assumed their new offices, as President, Senior Vice-President and Junior Vice-President respectively.

The new President (Amanda) said a few words about new Senior Vice-President Professor Stephen May thanking him for his erudition and calm nature throughout his presidential year.

The President welcomed Dr Niall Connell as Junior Vice-President.

The President made some remarks in acceptance of the office outlining some of the key themes she would be pursuing in her presidential year including diversity by ensuring that the profession better reflected the society it serviced and harnessing change to ensure that the profession remained modern and fit-for-purpose in today's society.

20. Guest speaker – Professor Derek Knottenbelt

This year's guest speaker was the aforementioned Derek Knottenbelt who gave a talk entitled 'Empowering our successors' about how established members of the profession can help young veterinary graduates develop into well-rounded, capable and resilient veterinary surgeons and nurses.

Among the subjects covered in the talk was the importance of failure as a character and competence building exercise for professionals and not always something deserving of censure of blame.

He said: "Certain types of error are deserving of censure, such as recklessness and choosing to work when one is not fit. However, other failures can be seen as praiseworthy, particularly where individuals have good reasons for working (slightly) beyond their normal area of practice, and appropriately intervening where a prognosis is otherwise poor.

"All of us will have been mentored by individuals who have influenced our own professional course, and will be eternally grateful to them. It was often in the context of our failures that their encouragement and praise, in focusing us on the opportunities for learning, proved to be amazing tools for bringing success.

"The new graduates of today are quite simply the best possible young people to secure our future. The profession will have a lot to answer for if we cannot embrace them within a professional 'learning culture' and give them a life of fulfilment and happiness."