The President, Dr Jerry Davies, was in the Chair.

Members of RCVS Council, VN Council, other members of the profession and guests were present.

The Acting Registrar reported that the notice of the meeting had been published in the London Gazette on 4 May 2012. It had also been published in the Veterinary Record and the agenda was sent to every member during the third week of June 2012.

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on 1 July 2011, which had already been circulated, were confirmed and approved as a correct record.


The President formally presented the Annual Report 2012 and the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2011.

3. Questions

A statement on a number of issues had been received by a member. Two written questions had also been received from the member, as follows:

The first question asked was if the College could publish the McKelvey Report in an edited and sanitised form, thus regaining the confidence of members while avoiding the threat of legal action.

The President responded that the recommendations of the RCVS Overspend Review, otherwise known as the McKelvey Report, had been published in full, but, following external legal advice, the remainder of the report had not been published – this was because it contained personal data. The decision would be subject to an appeal to the Information Commissioner and a decision was expected soon.

The second question raised asked if the College could work closely with the British Veterinary Association in order to establish a more robust relationship with Government.

The President said that he thought the RCVS did have a good relationship with all the current governments and assemblies, together with their departments and agencies. He explained that the RCVS had regular meetings and liaison, and had been working particularly closely with Defra on the legislative reform order in recent months. He also reported that regular Joint Officer meetings with BVA took place, as well as many informal exchanges.
The President then invited questions from the floor:

An RCVS Council Member raised a question about the accounts for the Disciplinary Committee. She highlighted that the final costs in the accounts were 65% over the original budget figure, and that the final accounts figure of £1.2 million was 10% over the figure in the accounts presented at the March 2012 Council meeting. She asked what steps would be taken to ensure there would be budget limits on costs, once the legislative reform order is in place.

The President responded that it is the intention that the College will have a committee to oversee the actions of the newly separated Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Committee. He was keen for the Committees to be at arm’s length, but said it would be inappropriate for them to have carte blanche. He anticipated that the oversight committee would be the guardian between the College and the two committees, and as the Audit and Risk Committee is introduced, it would be their job to make sure the process happens effectively.

A former RCVS Council Member then raised concerns about the College’s new governance arrangements. Having looked at the report on the RCVS website, produced by TFX Consulting, he believed the problems discussed in the veterinary press in last few months, to be underplayed. He commented that the report highlighted concerns about procurement, expectations and management of the project, and the implementation and time it went live. He noted that RCVS Council had decided to put in place new arrangements and believed this to be excellent news. He expressed his hope that the new arrangements would work well, and stressed that he felt the Audit and Risk Committee should be kept fully informed by RCVS staff, and that the new Chief Executive would ensure that this would happen.

The former RCVS Council Member went on to ask if the RCVS should be a source of informed scientific opinion, a topic that had been discussed by RCVS Council and the British Veterinary Association (BVA) in the past. He had major reservations about whether the RCVS at this time should get involved, and expressed his support of the view of the BVA, and others, about this move forward. He asked if the President could say a few words about where the College was on this matter, what the aspirations of Council were in this respect and what the new initiative would cost, if taken forward.

The President replied that he was concerned that the new initiative would need to be costed, and that it was the belief of RCVS Council that there might be occasions where the College might be involved in scientific matters. The President gave the example of the antimicrobial resistance seminar taking place later in the year, as an opportunity for like-minded scientific discussion. He thought that activities such as that may from time to time be appropriate, and that the College would seek to encourage them, primarily through the RCVS Charitable Trust, and that they would hope to be self-funding. However, on this occasion, the antimicrobial resistance seminar was given a float, to get the process underway, which would be re-payable. He said he believed these sorts of exercises to be appropriate for the Trust to handle from time to time and thought the concerns of the BVA to be slightly exaggerated.

An incoming RCVS Council Member raised a question about the RCVS’s maintenance of the Register of Veterinary Practice Premises, on behalf of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), and his understanding that it was run as a not-for-profit exercise. He said he had attended a recent Council meeting and heard various explanations on how the money was being used, including cross-subsidy of other contacts between the College and the VMD. He believed that the income from the
maintenance of the Register equated to 1.5 members of RCVS staff, for which their work duties amounted to perhaps one change on the database per day. He asked if the President could give members present more comment on the running of the database, to indicate that it is truly non-profit-making.

The President answered that the figures given by the Head of Finance at the Council meeting were more complex, and that he had been assured by the relevant departments that more work was involved than that which had been described, including handling enquiries, queries and changes to data. The President was confident that the Heads of Finance and Registration had apportioned staff time appropriately to these activities. He went on to reassure the incoming Council Member that these were the sort of questions that would be addressed by the Audit and Risk Committee, once in place, and that he was confident that the calculations were correct and that the result of any enquiry would support the data provided. He commented that when the member joined RCVS Council and saw people doing their day to day jobs, he would find that things from the outside which looked straightforward were not quite as simple as they seemed.

A former RCVS Council Member then raised two points. His first question concerned his belief that the majority of people in the room would not have seen the RCVS Statement of Accounts, which, in the previous agenda item, members had been asked to approve. He stated that the accounts were available online and in hard copy, but weren’t available when the circulation was posted out to members. He commented that the RCVS Review (which was included in the circulation) was interesting, but was not an Annual Report, and asked if in future, the complete Annual Report could be sent in the post.

The former RCVS Council Member’s second comment covered the question previously raised, regarding the College’s role as a source of scientific veterinary opinion. He stated that this policy had actually been approved by Council in November 2000, and he wondered why it had taken 10-11 years for the BVA to realise it was there and to object to it. As an RCVS Council member at the time, he thought then it was the right thing for the College to have in its mission statement and he still hoped that this continued to be the case.

The President thanked him for his last comment and, regarding the Annual Report, said he was sure this was something that could be looked in to. However, he expressed caution about sending large amounts of material in the post, as the College was moving, as far as possible, to the electronic delivery of such material.

An RCVS Council Member commented on the variations between the accounts presented in March 2012 and the final accounts published, and suggested that the Audit and Risk Committee be tasked with ensuring that the draft accounts more closely reflected the final published accounts in the future.

The President thanked him for his comment.

Further to the comment about the maintenance of the Register of Veterinary Practice Premises, and the President’s response, an RCVS Council Member, pointed out that the figures quoted in Council meetings had been taken from calculations provided by staff in the Finance department at the RCVS. He said that he and another RCVS Council Member were denied the details, following a vote by Council not to seek to clarify the position on this matter. He agreed with the point and thanked the member for raising it, but believed it to be a matter that would be best dealt with by the Audit and Risk Committee, and said that he would be raising it with them in due order.
As there were no further questions or comments, the President moved the adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2011. This was agreed.

4. Council elections: New Members and Retirements

The Acting Registrar read the report of Electoral Reform Services relating to the election of Councillors, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Amanda Boag</td>
<td>1,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Catherine Goldie</td>
<td>1,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Christopher Barker</td>
<td>1,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Barry Johnson</td>
<td>1,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Richard Stevenson</td>
<td>1,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Stephen May</td>
<td>1,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Christopher Sturgess</td>
<td>1,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Robert Ellis</td>
<td>1,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>David Mason</td>
<td>963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Edward Gillams</td>
<td>909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Christopher House</td>
<td>843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Charles Gruchy</td>
<td>806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jonathan Ruben</td>
<td>801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tom Lonsdale</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Acting Registrar declared that the first six of those named were elected Members of Council for a period of four years.

The President formally welcomed Ms Amanda Boag, Mr Christopher Barker, and Professor Stephen May – a former Royal Veterinary College appointee – as newly-elected Members of Council.

The President announced that Professor Duncan Maskell and Professor Michael Herrtage, from the University of Cambridge, had been re-appointed for a further four-year term of Office. Professor Stuart Reid, from the Royal Veterinary College, had been re-appointed for a further four-year term of office. Professor Susan Dawson and Dr Tim Nuttall, from the University of Liverpool, had been re-appointed for a further four-year term of office. Privy Council-appointed member, Mr Nigel Gibbens, was also re-appointed for a further four-year term of office.

The President took the opportunity to thank retiring Lay Observer on the Preliminary Investigation Committee, Jane Ramsay, for her work on the Committee, and welcomed new Lay Observer, Sarah Pond, to the team.

The President bid farewell to the three retiring Members of Council – Dr Chris Chesney, Dr Bertie Ellis and Mr Charles Gruchy – and thanked them for their hard work and commitment on behalf of the College.
The Acting Registrar reported that Mrs Elizabeth Figg had been elected to the Veterinary Nurses Council and started a four-year term, and that existing member Mrs Kathy Kissick had been re-elected for a further four-year term. Mrs Penny Swindlehurst had also been re-appointed for a further four-year term as a lay member of VN Council.

The Acting Registrar also announced that Mrs Kathy Kissick had been elected new VN Council Chairman, replacing Miss Liz Branscombe, who had chaired VN Council for the last three years. The President gave special thanks to Liz Branscombe for her work as VN Council Chairman. Liz Branscombe became VN Council Vice-Chairman and VN Council Financial Liaison Officer, while Col Neil Smith became the other VN Council Vice-Chairman. The new members were welcomed to VN Council by the new Chairman.

The President thanked retiring member of VN Council, Miss Tanya Caley, for her hard work over the last year.

The President then convened a Council meeting to discuss the composition of the Audit and Risk Committee and to confirm the new Officer team. This has been minuted separately.

5. Presentation of Honorary Associateship
   Dr Douglas McGregor BA MD DPhil (not present)

6. Honorary Fellowship by Election
   Dr Thomas Hildebrandt PhD MRCVS
   Professor Lance Lanyon CBE BVSc PhD DSc FMedSci MRCVS

7. Presentation of Fellowships
   David George Sidney Burch BVetMed MRCVS
   Dr Annamaria Nagy DrMedVet MRCVS

8. Presentation of Diplomas
   Diploma in Cattle Health and Production
   Richard Lindsay Cooper BVSc CertCHP MRCVS
   Jonathan Mark Edward Statham MA VetMB CertCHP MRCVS

   Diploma in Equine Orthopaedics
   Matthew Ronald William Smith BVetMed CertES(Orth) DipECVS MRCVS (not present)

   Diploma in Laboratory Animal Science
   Alexandra Louise Whittaker MA VetMB DWEL MRCVS (not present)

   Diploma in Sheep Health and Production
   Heather Susan Stevenson BVMS CertSHP MRCVS (not present)
Diploma in Small Animal Surgery (Orthopaedics)
Neil James Burton BVSc CertSAS MRCVS (not present)
Alasdair Iain Colquhoun Renwick BVMS CertSAS MRCVS

Diploma in Veterinary Dermatology
Dr Stephen Charles Shaw BVetMed CertSAD PhD MRCVS

Diploma in Veterinary Ophthalmology
Robert Charles Lowe BVSc CertVOphthal MRCVS
Natasha Victoria Maria Mitchell MVB CertVOphthal MRCVS

Diploma in Zoological Medicine (Avian)
Michelle Georgina Barrows BVMS CertZooMed MRCVS

9. Presentation of Diplomas in Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Small Animal)
Emma Patricia Aitken RVN
Kathryn Barnes RVN (not present)
Debbie Bartram RVN
Ursula Izabella Bradshaw RVN
Katherine Ann Brown RVN
Sharon Jayne Brown RVN
Katie Lauren Buckler RVN (not present)
Adele Louise Curry RVN (not present)
Laura Jane Daniels RVN (not present)
Katie Louise Foley RVN (not present)
Hayley Sarah Griffiths RVN
Kelly-Marie Harrington RVN
Monique Jones RVN (not present)
Sarah Emma Kane RVN (not present)
Rebecca Louise Kelly RVN
Laureen Ruth Kennedy RVN (not present)
Eve Loftus RVN (not present)
Rebecca Lunn RVN (not present)
Andrea Phillippa Markland RVN (not present)
Amy Louise Martin RVN (not present)
Stephanie McGarragh RVN (not present)
Gina Mary Parkes RVN (not present)
Rachel Leanne Perry RVN (not present)
Anna Lisa Reeves VN
Fiona Margaret Robb RVN (not present)
Sian Eve Santini RVN (not present)
Laura Katy Sheldon RVN
Michelle Emma Westlake RVN
Alison Jane Young RVN
10. Presentation of VN Golden Jubilee Award
The Veterinary Nursing Golden Jubilee Award was presented to Miss Susan Francis Badger, by the President and Kathy Kissick, Chairman of VN Council.

11. Presentation of RCVS Charitable Trust Grant
The President announced a new scheme from the RCVS Charitable Trust: the RCVS Trust Grant Alumni Association. He explained how this new scheme would provide added value to past and present grantees and create an innovative community.

To mark the beginning of the RCVS Trust Grant Alumni Association, a formal acknowledgement was present to Hannah Geere, the first member of the association, by the Chairman of the RCVS Charitable Trust Board of Trustees, Mrs Jill Nute.

12. Presentation of books to the RCVS Charitable Trust Library from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association
Each year, the BSAVA kindly gives the RCVS Charitable Trust Library a copy of all of the books that the association has 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 Trust Library, Librarian Clare Boulton received the books from Mr Mark Johnston, BSAVA President.

13. President’s Address
The President spoke about the positive changes that had taken place, and the fresh initiatives that had commenced in response to the challenges of the past year. These included the appointment of the new Chief Executive/Secretary, new Codes of Professional Conduct, online CPD recording system, Health Protocol and Performance Protocol and work on the Legislative Reform Order.

He highlighted how proud he was of the veterinary nursing profession reaching its 50th anniversary and the pleasure of welcoming new graduates to the profession.

The President thanked former Registrar Miss Jane Hern, and Mr Gordon Hockey for stepping in as Acting Registrar, and his fellow Officers. On behalf of the profession, he also congratulated Professor Lord Trees on his introduction to the House of Lords and gave thanks to Lord Soulsby for his contributions over the last 22 years.

14. Meeting of the RCVS Council to elect President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer
The Acting Registrar reported that at its meeting in March 2012, Council had approved the following Office holders for 2012-2013:

President: Ms J R Molyneux
Vice-President: Dr J V Davies
Vice-President: Col N C Smith
The President said a few words about the departing Vice-President Mr Peter Jinman, thanking him for the support he had given him throughout his term as President, and presenting him with a Past President’s badge.

15. **Introduction of new President**
Ms Jacqui Molyneux, Dr Jerry Davies and Col Neil Smith each formally assumed office.

The new President made a few brief remarks in acceptance of the office, thanked new Vice-President Jerry Davies, and welcomed new Vice-President Neil Smith to the Officer team.

16. **Date of next AGM**
Friday, 5 July 2013.