

**The One Hundred and Seventy-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, held on Friday 7 July 2017, at the Royal Institute of British Architects,**  
The President, Dr Christopher Tufnell, was in the Chair.

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

The Registrar, Eleanor Ferguson, reported that the notice of the meeting had been published in the 27 May 2017 edition of the *Veterinary Record* and in the June 2017 edition of *RCVS News*.

**1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on 15 July 2016, which had 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 2016**

The President formally presented the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016.

**3. Questions**

As no questions were raised, the President moved the adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2016. This was agreed.

**4. Council elections: new members and retirements**

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

Order	Nominee	Votes
1	Caroline Allen	3,073
2	Sarah Brown	2,799
3	Danny Chambers	2,634
4	Christopher Tufnell	2,430
5	Cheryl Scudamore	2,087
6	Martin Peaty	1,909

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

The President announced that there were no changes to university-appointed Council members.

Mr Richard Davies was reappointed as a Privy Council- appointed member for a further one-year term.

The President then formally welcomed Dr Caroline Allen, Miss Sarah Brown, Dr Danny Chambers, Dr Cheryl Scudamore and Mr Martin Peaty as newly elected Members of Council.

The President bid farewell to the four retiring Members of Council — Dr Jeremy Davies, Dr Christopher Gray, Mr Peter Jinman, Dr Bradley Viner and Dr Thomas Witte.

## **VN Council**

The Registrar reported that Andrea Jeffery had been re-elected for a further four-year term and Susan Howarth had been elected to VN Council for a four-year term.

Liz Cox, as Chair of VN Council, welcomed Susan Howarth to VN Council.

Ms Cox then thanked retiring members Marie Rippingale, Peter Robinson and Neil Smith.

### **5. Date of next AGM**

The next AGM will take place on Friday, 13 July 2018\*

### **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
- Dr Karen Braithwaite
- Professor Ewan Cameron
- Mr Nigel Gibbens
- Dr Christopher Gray
- Professor Richard Hammond
- Mr Douglas Hutchison
- Mrs Andrea Jeffery
- Mr Tim King
- Dr Kieron Salmon
- Col Neil Smith
- Dr Christopher (Kit) Sturgess
- Dr Thomas Witte

#### **Declarations of interests**

There were no additional declarations of interest.

#### **Matters for Decision by Council**

##### **Approval of the Presidential Team and Treasurer for 2017-2018**

The Registrar asked Council to approve the appointment of the new Presidential Team and Treasurer for 2017/2018 as follows:

President: Professor Stephen May  
Vice-President: Dr Christopher Tufnell  
Vice-President: Ms Amanda Boag  
Treasurer: Dr Christopher (Kit) Sturgess

The new Presidential Team and Treasurer were approved.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as being on Thursday, 28 September 2017 (to be held in Committee). The next public meeting of Council was confirmed as being on Thursday, 2 November 2017.

**7. Presentation of the Queen's Medal**

Dr James Barry Johnson DL BVSc DVSc(hc) MRCVS was presented with the Queen's Medal.

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.

**8. Presentation of Veterinary Nursing Golden Jubilee Award**

The Veterinary Nurses Council's Golden Jubilee Award, the highest honour that can be awarded to a veterinary nurse, was presented to Katherine Elizabeth Kissick RVN.

**9. Presentation of RCVS International Award**

The International Award is for veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses or laypeople who have worked internationally from either within or outside the UK and have made an outstanding contribution on issues that are in line with the College's mission to enhance society through improved animal health and welfare.

The RCVS International Award was presented to Mr Christophe Buhot

**10. Presentation of Honorary Associateship**

Honorary Associateships were presented to:

Heather Armstrong DVM(Hon)

Professor Duncan Maskell MA PhD FMedSci

**11. Presentation of Fellowships by Thesis**

A Fellowship was presented to:

*Dr Francis Thomas Scullion MVB PhD FRCVS*

Diploma of Fellowship by thesis, titled 'A Study of Factors Affecting Racing Performance in Young Homing Pigeons (*Columbia livia*)'.

**12. Presentation of Fellowships**

Fellowships were presented to:

*Dr Anthony Walter David Lepper BVetMed PhD FRCVS*

For Meritorious Contributions to Learning on the subject 'Veterinary Pathology, Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology, Veterinary Immunology

Dr Lepper's award was collected on his behalf by his son David Lepper.

Fellowship by Meritorious Contributions to Knowledge

*Professor Andrew Alexander Cunningham BVMS DipECZM PhD FRCVS*

**13. Presentation of Diplomas**

Diplomas were presented to:

**Diploma in Equine Surgery Soft Tissue**

Mr Lewis Coldwell Ravic Smith BVetMed CertES(Orth) DipECVS MRCVS

**Diploma in Pig Medicine**

Miss Alexandra Jane Thomsett BVetMed CertPM MRCVS

**Diploma in Small Animal Surgery (Orthopaedics)**

Miss Miranda Jane Aiken MA VetMB CertSAS MRCVS

Dr Duncan Michael Barnes MA VetMB CertSAS MRCVS

**Diploma in Zoological Medicine (Reptilian)**

Miss Sarah Louise Pellett BA VetMB BSc CertAVP(ZM) MRCVS

Dr Nathalie Chantal Wissink Argilaga CertAVP(ZM) MRCVS

**14. 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 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 Knowledge, Clare Boulton received the books from John Chitty, BSAVA President.

**15. Chief Executive & Secretary's address**

Mr Nick Stace, Chief Executive, then gave his final address as CEO ahead of him leaving the College in September to take up a post at the Prince's Trust. He gave an overview of his time at the College, citing achievements such as the Vet and VN Futures projects and imparted three pieces of advice: that the College continues to embrace change; that the profession be in charge of its future; and, that the College looks after its people. He praised Council members and Presidents that he has worked with as well as RCVS staff.

He then handed over to the outgoing President Dr Christopher Tufnell for his address.

**16. President's address**

In his address, Chris spoke about the enormous contribution veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses make to fostering and enhancing the bond between animals and humans. He said that he was privileged to have worked on a number of important and interesting projects during his presidential year, and picked out Brexit and innovation as being the most important.

Before handing over to the guest speaker Chris thanked his family, fellow Council members and RCVS staff for supporting him during his year as President.

**17. Talk from guest speaker Dr Ebony Escalona MRCVS**

This year's guest speaker was Ebony Escalona from Brooke: Action for Working Horses and Donkeys, an international welfare charity that works to improve the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules and the people who depend on them.

Her talk, entitled 'Jump outside the veterinary box: widening our horizon', considered a number of issues including how veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses can contribute to One Health, combating career disillusionment through career diversification and innovation.

She described how, through her work with the Brooke, she uses her veterinary and animal welfare knowledge to educate communities in places such as Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Senegal so that they reap the benefits of having working animals that are fit, healthy and well looked after.

She also cited the vital role of technology in disseminating information to communities, mentioning the Brooke's new Learn Appeal, in which animal welfare education content is preloaded onto a 'computer capsule' that can be used in areas where the internet and access to electricity are limited or non-existent.

On the subject of career disillusionment, Ebony said that the power and reach of social media could be a tool to help spread inspiration and advice to members of the profession.

**18. Introduction of new President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer**

The President said a few words of thanks about the departing Vice-President Dr Bradley Viner

He then introduced Professor Stephen May as President.

Professor May, Dr Tufnell and Ms Boag each formally assumed their new offices, as President, Senior Vice-President and Junior Vice-President respectively.

The new President said a few words about new Vice-President Dr Tufnell, thanking him for his wise and good-humoured leadership of the College over the past year.

The President welcomed Ms Boag as new Vice-President.

The President made some remarks in acceptance of the office, and outlined the need to develop a culture of nurture and learning for the profession within his presidential year as opposed to a blame and cover-up culture. He added that his other priorities for the year would include working with the British Veterinary Association and other stakeholders on Brexit, the graduate outcomes project and the Legislation Working Party, which would be looking afresh at the Veterinary Surgeons Act.