RCVS Council election

- Eleven candidates standing
  – see inside for biographies and manifestos
- Quiz the candidates
  – your questions answered (see page 15)
- Voting closes at 5pm on Friday, 24 April 2015
Mr Niall Connell
BVMS CertSAO MRCVS
22 Hayston Road, Carrickstone, Cumbernauld, Glasgow G68 0BS
T 01236 452809 E laststarfalling@hotmail.com
M 07548 941183
Proposers: Patricia Colville, Freda Scott-Park

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY
Graduating from Glasgow in 1982, I worked in a mixed, mainly small animal practice in Fife for 18 months before joining PDSA. I was with PDSA for 25 years, practising in London then Glasgow. I was Senior Veterinary Surgeon at East Glasgow PDSA for 15 years. I was an honorary lecturer and examiner at Glasgow Vet School. I completed my Certificate in Small Animal Orthopaedics in 1991. I did some brief locums for small animal practices in Scotland including OOH work. I am now ill health retired because of MS. I do some work as a Vet Clinical and Professional Skills Instructor at Glasgow Vet School, involved in OSCE practical exams, communication skills classes, student portfolio assessment and standard setting. I’ve provided volunteer help with the REACH Programme (encouraging, supporting and preparing secondary school pupils to widen university participation) and Student Induction programmes. I occasionally help as an Instructor with Vets Now’s Cutting Edge Programme. I’ve been on RCVS Council and VN Council since July 2013. I’m a member of BSAVA, BVA, BVNA and BVOA. I am married to Colette and we have three grown-up children. Follow me on Twitter: @Grim_Raspberry and look me up on Linkedin: Uk.linkedin.com/in/niallconnell/

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO
I’m honoured to be on RCVS Council. Unusually, I have only served 19 months, having replaced a member transferring to the Disciplinary Committee. I now humbly seek re-election for a full term. I’m enjoying Council work and I’m learning all the time. My current roles are:
• Council Member
• VN Council Vice-Chair
• On the RCVS Project Board
• Assisting the Alternative Dispute Resolution Trial as a clinical adviser
• VN Qualifications Board Chair
• Laboratory Animal Science Board Chair

My background is 27 years’ experience in clinical practice. Vets deserve a good work life balance with proper wellbeing support. I’ve met, telephoned and emailed vets and RVNs who contacted me with issues about health and work. I want the best assistance offered to new graduates, non-UK graduates working here as well as other potentially vulnerable members of the profession. I’ve been meeting vets and vet nurses in their work places, CPD meetings, congresses and at RCVS Question Time sessions as well as keeping up with social media discussion. I want to hear how vets see their profession evolving in the future and what their hopes are. I welcome the streamlining and leaner structuring of committees within RCVS with openness and accountability. Council will benefit significantly from future plans to restructure. RCVS size and diversity will be looked at as well as meeting frequency. Just now Council can be a large and unwieldy beast and it meets too infrequently to be properly effective. I’d like to be part of the decision-making process which improves RCVS.

Responses to members’ communications and concerns must be even better and faster with no room for complacency. I promise to do my best. If you still want a friend on RCVS who listens to the profession, please vote for me again.
Mrs Joanna Dyer
BVSc DipM MRCVS
27 Wester Moor Drive, Roundswell, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 3XU
T 01271 324859       E jdvetconsulting@outlook.com
M 07870 179184

Proposers: Peter Attenburrow, William Slee

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY
I graduated from Bristol in 1986 and have worked in mixed and then small animal practice ever since. In the past I have worked as an employed vet and as a managing partner, and for 25 years was part of the out-of-hours rota. I hold a Diploma in Management and these days I am self-employed as a locum and as a veterinary business adviser. Through my work I am exposed to all aspects of small animal practice.

I live in north Devon and am the ex-wife of a farmer, so I also understand many of the issues facing large-animal and mixed practice.

Outside of work, my four children and two dogs take up quite a lot of my time! I also enjoy cycling, walking, reading and travelling.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO
My first real contact with RCVS was earlier this year when I headed a campaign focused on out-of-hours house visits. The campaign was a request that the guidance to the Code of Professional Conduct should be changed in order to better reflect owners’ responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act, and to be realistically achievable for vets working at the ‘coal face’. Through the work and intervention of many people, the guidance has subsequently been changed.

The campaign made me more aware than ever of the high incidence of mental and emotional ill-health in the profession. I have come across many veterinary professionals showing signs of stress, compassion fatigue and mental illness, and it saddens me greatly. I believe that we can improve this situation by raising awareness and by keeping our expectations of ourselves achievable and realistic.

RCVS aims to ‘enhance society through improved animal health and welfare’. However we also need to make sure we look after the carers. If we don’t create conditions conducive to maintaining the wellbeing of veterinary surgeons, then vets cannot properly look after the animals under their care.

RCVS is responsible for setting, upholding and advancing veterinary standards, and for protecting the public from vets who are unfit to practise. We also need to ensure that those vets who are good and competent (ie the vast majority) feel confidently able to achieve excellent and consistent standards, and know that they are valuable members of the profession.

None of us is perfect, and we need to know that we are not expected to be.

So why should you vote for me? Because I passionately believe that vet welfare is essential for animal welfare, and this will be my point of reference during all discussions and decisions I am involved in.
CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Tim is a Glasgow graduate of 1976, who was awarded a Master’s Degree for work carried out in its surgery department. At the Animal Health Trust, he obtained a Fellowship of the RCVS for work on equine respiratory disease.

In 1982 he joined Dr Peter Rossdale’s Newmarket practice, becoming a partner in 1984 and now senior and managing partner. A RCVS and European Specialist in equine surgery, his interests are in general and minimally invasive orthopaedic and soft tissue surgery.

He was awarded the Centenary and the Chiron Awards of the BVA and the Richard Hartley Clinical Prize of the BEVA. He gave the sixth Saki Patsaama lecture in Finland and has lectured around the world on a variety of equine surgical topics. He has had papers published on a variety of subjects and several chapters in veterinary textbooks.

He was made an honorary professor of the University of Glasgow and an associate lecturer of the University of Cambridge. He is a past president of BEVA, BVA and WEVA and a Diplomate of the ECVS and a member of its board of regents. He is vice-chairman of SPANA. He is an honorary member of BEVA, BVNA and the BAEDT.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO

I have spent most of my career in private practice, very fortunate to have worked with fantastic people during a period of amazing innovation in equine surgery. The veterinary profession has also changed dramatically during that time. Whilst I hope that it will continue to maintain its vital and diverse contribution to society, I am concerned by a number of seemingly inevitable changes, which may compromise its effectiveness.

I graduated into a male-dominated profession from a gender-balanced year group, with 50% female students. Since then, the proportion of women qualifying has significantly increased and attitudinal changes amongst recent graduates of both sexes have been driven by a desire for a better work-life balance, which is very important. However, part-time work and job-sharing by both sexes are on the increase, which will impact upon partnership and potentially drive the majority of practices into corporate ownership.

We have also seen the ambitions of several universities to create new veterinary schools, which I fear will result in the overproduction of veterinary manpower, as currently seen in southern Europe. It is unclear what the RCVS can do, if anything, to regulate the numbers of new graduates, but if new graduate numbers escalate as appears likely, unemployment, lower salaries and a reduction in status of veterinary surgeons seem inescapable.

I have experience of general and specialist practice, have taught veterinary students, carried out clinical research and have an interest in veterinary politics. Above all I care passionately about a profession, which has provided me with a fascinating job and a reasonable living. I hope the experience gained during my career has equipped me to contribute to defining the future of our profession, which has in my opinion reached a crossroads.
CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

On qualifying from Dublin, I joined a mixed practice in Lancashire, then relocating to practice in Northern Ireland where I became a partner. In 1995, I went to work for a large commercial company where I became their European marketing manager. In 1998, I moved to the Royal Veterinary College and ran their Clinical Services Department, comprising the equine, large and small animal hospitals/practices and the diagnostic labs. In 2008, I became Chief Executive of Langford Veterinary Services Ltd which runs the Hospitals, practices and clinical labs for the University of Bristol. I recently moved to Willows Referral Centre as CEO.

I have been interested in veterinary politics for many years being involved in BSAVA at regional and national level, becoming their first woman President in 1995. I have served on BVA Council as well as being a RCVS Councillor where I have sat on most Committees including being President in 2005. I have chaired Advisory, the veterinary and veterinary nursing Preliminary Investigation Committees and the Primary Qualifications Sub Committee. I am RCVS representative on the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, chairing their Statutory Bodies Working Group. I have undertaken vet school accreditation visits in the UK, Europe and Australia.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO

Changes to the veterinary profession continue to happen rapidly including the way the College conducts its business. I completely agree and support the efforts to be more transparent and have always advocated the College being proactive in its dealings with its members, government, other organisations and the public. The profession must not be on the back foot.

The College has much to do in the next four years to ensure it continues to move forward with the new Charter. I am proud of the profession and how it has faced and adapted to changes over the years, not least in how women vets are now more involved in every aspect of work. It is important that their views are heard on Council however.

I believe that my experience working in different areas of the profession, particularly running practices, means I understand the stresses facing members today. I have used my time on Council to support and drive forward strategies for the future and improve standards across all areas of College business from practice standards, disciplinary processes, education and support for new graduates. I have sat on all the major College committees and have always worked hard on each of these as I believe you should not simply turn up if people have trusted you with their vote.

My career has touched practice, industry and education. Having worked in two universities I also have an insight into the outlook and aspirations of the future generation of vets as the profession prepares for the future, and want to ensure their needs and aspirations are considered and met.

I promise that if elected, I will endeavour to continue working hard for the profession so that it can remain esteemed and highly thought of by the public.
Mr Richard Hillman
BVSc CertVA MRCVS
The Freemasons, Fairoak, Eccleshall, Staffordshire ST21 6PW
T 01630 620284 E richard@hillmanvets.co.uk
M 07739 814559

Proposers: Richard Holborow, Nicky Paull

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY
- Qualified Liverpool 1982
- Certificate Veterinary Anaesthesia in 1985
- Application for RCVS Advanced Practitioner status pending
- Established single-branch small animal practice in 1985 expanding by start-up, acquisition and merger to six branches.
- Founding partner of Northside Emergency Veterinary Clinic, Birmingham
- Founding Director of West Midlands Vets. Now Clinical Director of WMV with eight clinics across the West Midlands
- Clinical Director of Hillmanvets in Independent Vet Care (IVC) with special interest in the IVC Graduate Academy.

Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS)
Council member 2001-2011

Special interests
- Recent graduate support:
  • established the Recent Graduate Support Officer role on SPVS Council
  • established the Recent Graduate Support helpline
  • established the final year student CV reading service
  • frequent speaker on small animal practice at the annual Final Year Conference in Lancaster
  • established Young Vets in the Snow CPD introducing recent graduates to quality CPD with a social side
  VetXML: liaison between industry stakeholders, IT people and SPVS Council in early days of this highly conceptual project

President of SPVS 2008-2009
- Experience in chairing meetings and committees.
- Liaison with practising vets, representational and regulatory bodies containing professional and lay members.

Director of company trading as dotVet Practice Management Software solution
Snowboarder, dog walker and would-be-pianist

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO
I am passionate about general veterinary practice (G VetP) and, if elected, will do everything I can to promote your views to, and through, the RCVS Council.

Since qualifying from Liverpool in 1982 I have spent all of my working life in G VetP, initially in mixed and then small animal practice. Like you, every single day I go to work to do the very best I can for my patients, their owners, my co-workers and the practice. Not everyone understands, like we do, the tensions and pressures practitioners deal with and the need to balance these often conflicting interests. The RCVS’s primary function is to regulate vets but that has to be achieved through a sensible, pragmatic approach and sometimes lay and non-practising members of Council, and employees of the College, make decisions and develop policy without a full understanding of the effects they will have, expecting us practitioners to implement them without question.

The RCVS has made massive strides forward in the last few years, particularly in the areas of Practice Standards Scheme and the disciplinary process, but there are still many challenges ahead and we need experienced, competent, passionate people to represent the profession such that progress is continued, but not at the expense of traditional values.

I have a long experience in representational veterinary politics through the SPVS and have earned a reputation for dogged but positive negotiation such that your views were always expressed in a concise and forthright way. After a brief break from veterinary politics to recharge my energy I now feel that I can further your views, aims and ideals through Royal College Council.

I would consider it an honour and a privilege to serve on your behalf and would be grateful if you could take the time to vote for me.
CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

I had a relatively nomadic childhood, growing up in Europe and the USA and an early decision to become a vet led me to remain in Germany to finish my secondary education when my family returned to the USA to ensure I would achieve the grades needed to attend vet school. I was accepted to the Tierarztliche Hochschule Hannover, Germany in 1990. During my time there I went on an exchange year to the School of Veterinary Medicine, Cambridge University and after graduating from Hannover in 1996 I returned there for an internship in equine surgery, followed by a PhD in veterinary anaesthesia (completed in 2002). After leaving Cambridge I started an ECVS residency at Dublin Vet School, UCD in large animal surgery, which I successfully completed in 2006. At this point I decided to try my hand in the private sector and worked in two equine practices in the Midlands and Essex, but realised that my real calling was academia. I returned to teaching in March 2010 and since 2014 I have been employed by the Nottingham Vet School as an Assistant Professor in Clinical and Professional Skills, teaching vet students from year one through to rotations.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO

Veterinary education has been a large part of my life since starting my studies in 1996. First experiencing it as a student both in Hannover and Cambridge, and then as both a learner (intern/PhD/resident), but also as a teacher of clinical and pre-clinical students in Cambridge, Dublin and other vet schools during externships as part of my specialisation training. Even during the years in general equine practice I was involved in educating the visiting CEMS students on calls and during surgery. It was during this period in general practice where I realised how much I enjoyed the teaching and that it was an important driving factor in how I wanted to further my career. Therefore I returned to academia and to teaching in particular. This is reflected in my achievement of a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Practice resulting in first a Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy and more recently a Senior Fellowship.

I think I can bring a lot of educational experience from not only different schools (and eras), but also from different countries to the Royal College. Education and further education within our profession will always remain an ever-increasingly important element. We owe it to our profession, but also to the animal-owning public and the public in a wider ‘One Health’ sense to ensure that we are as cutting edge in our knowledge and as honest as possible in our professional duties.

Achieving this can only benefit the standing of our profession in the public as well as the political area. It is my opinion that we owe it to ourselves to insist on being involved in policies that affect our profession, the health of our patients and as a result the health of our clients both in the companion and the production animal sectors.

Dr Heidi Janicke
PhD DipECVS MRCVS
SVMS, University of Nottingham, College Road, Sutton Bonington, Loughborough LE12 5RD
T 0115 951 6530 E heidi.janicke@nottingham.ac.uk
M 07974 697618

Proposers: Rhiannon Bolton, Sarah Cripps
Miss Hannah Jordan
BSc(Hons) BVetMed(Hons) MRCVS
2 Hanley Court, Hanley Road, London N4 3QB
M 07900 421237 E hannahlouisejordan@gmail.com
Proposers: Chloe Booth, Lisa Yates

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY
Following a veterinary science degree at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), I continued there to study veterinary medicine. Alongside the degrees I worked for the E-Media team on the RVC website, Wikivet, and separately on the new students’ union website. As student rep for the International Veterinary Student Association, the opportunity to both meet and learn from colleagues around the world helped me to appreciate the calibre of the veterinary profession.

After graduating, I undertook locum work before I began my role as Parliamentary Veterinary Intern. Despite my appetite for veterinary-related policy I have both a personal and professional need to continue in practice, which I find hugely rewarding. At present, I work as a PDSA Volunteer Vet once a week. My parliamentary role supports provision of a voice for the veterinary profession and has allowed me to listen and learn about the issues it faces. Consequently, I have gained a good working knowledge of its structure, procedures, strengths and weaknesses.

I am an active member of the BVA and in my free time I love exploring outdoors on foot, bike or horseback. This year I ran my first trail half-marathon and hope to improve my time this summer.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO
I hope to be able to contribute to the veterinary profession as it looks to the future and adapts to a changing national, European and global environment. I believe that input from vets in all their guises, be they practitioners, business owners, academics, policy-makers or civil servants, is essential for the balanced function of the RCVS and will ensure that it continues to demonstrate the full value of the profession to wider society. Maintaining the high standards to which we hold our profession, not least as guardians of animal welfare, is an integral component of our future success on all fronts.

The recently approved new Royal Charter is an exciting development in the modernisation of the RCVS and continued work in support of efficient, even-handed and cost-effective self-regulation is vital. Recognising veterinary nursing as a profession is a great step forward and I would support further moves toward transparency of regulation of veterinary paraprofessionals. The new objects in the Royal Charter provide for a greater role as a Royal College of learned professionals and I wish to offer a young vet perspective in shaping this role in the future.

Veterinary education is an issue close to my heart. As a profession operating within Europe, I feel strongly that UK veterinary education needs to be competitive and provide graduates with the professional and inter-professional skills necessary to succeed within the practice and without. I am keen to see language-testing extended to cover European-qualified vets that come to work in the UK.

Communicating what the profession does to the general public can be difficult and in tandem with the evolution of the Practice Standards Scheme and clinical audit, I feel that evidence-based veterinary medicine (EBVM) must underpin this. I aim to support moves to integrate EBVM and research into clinical practice.
Mr Thomas Lonsdale
BVetMed MRCVS
PO Box 6096, Windsor Delivery Centre, NSW 2756, Australia
T +61 2 4577 7061       E tom@rawmeatybones.com
M +61 437 2928 00        W www.rawmeatybones.com

Proposers: Roger Meacock, Andrew Stephens

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY
1972 – London graduate.
1991 – Blew whistle on junk pet-food cult C+T Sydney
1993 – Preventative Dentistry PGFVS
1994 – Feeding vs Nutrition AVP
1994 – Cybernetic Hypothesis J Vet Dent (Postulates new ecological theory of health and disease as extension of Gaia Hypothesis.)
1994–7 – Junk pet-food cult brought four disciplinary actions before NSW Vet Board.
1995 – Periodontal disease and leucopenia JSAP
2001 – Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health
Dr Tom Hungerford OBE (Founding Director Sydney University PGFVS):
– Thanks for the book — BRAVO
– Tell the people who won’t review their views that: ‘The foolish and the dead never change their opinions.’ Maybe that is an overstatement — as the ‘brain-dead’ may also refuse to revise.
– Anyhow there are many who adopt the stance of: ‘Don’t confuse me with facts, my mind is made up.’
Dr Douglas Bryden AM (Director Sydney University PGFVS):
– Every graduate and undergraduate veterinarian should read the book … how important it is to listen carefully to others who may have a pearl of wisdom to share.
2014 – Most Supportive Vet Award
– Met with RCVS President and staff. Suggested collaboration but rebuffed.
2015 – Research projects:
– Matrix metalloproteinase and C-reactive protein.
– FOI research: Junk pet-food grease in seven Australian vet schools.
– Science Death Experiment.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO
‘The obscure we see eventually. The completely obvious, it seems, takes longer. Edward Murrow.
‘The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.’ Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

‘The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.’ Edmund Burke

Veterinary incomes mainly derive from treating pets — pets addicted to junk pet food.

Denied their birthright of appropriate nutrients, teeth cleaning and mental stimulation — raw meaty bones diet fundamentals — the junk food addicts’ suffering begins with the first glutinous slurp. Thereafter nasty ingredients, vile mouth rot and obesity predispose pets to a litany of end-stage diseases.

Unfortunately veterinary schools in league with prominent companies deny the obvious in their monster display of the Semmelweis reflex.

Veterinary associations, snouts deep in the junk pet-food trough, host conferences in partnership with multinational pet-food makers.

Veterinary journals advertise junk pet food. Bogus ‘research’ papers never mentioning the main determinants of pet disease — junk diet, rotten gums, carbohydrate driven obesity — extol the alleged benefits of artificial pet food and specifically condemn natural diets.

Brainwashed students become blinkered practitioners over-servicing a population of junk-food poisoned pets but seldom if ever confronting the key determinants of pet disease and suffering.

Alas a complicit RCVS when ‘Setting Veterinary Standards’ fails to see, hear or speak about the junk pet-food fraud — hypocrisy writ large and sinister manifestation of the rotten callous venal scam.

In previous years I’ve called for a full parliamentary inquiry. Now I believe that the RCVS Council should be dismissed and an administrator appointed pending the outcome of that inquiry. I recommend that there be legal proceedings against prominent companies, veterinary institutions and individuals in respect to breach of contract, animal cruelty, theft and deception.

Please vote to show that you care.

Thank you.
Mr James Main
BVM&S MRCVS
Kingston Common Farm, Kingston Lisle, Wantage, Oxfordshire OX12 9QT

T 01367 820124  E jamesmain99@hotmail.co.uk
M 07831 093971  W www.jamesmainvet.com

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY
I qualified from Edinburgh in 1982 and after five years in mixed and equine practice I joined a four-man mixed practice in Newbury in 1987 (now Donnington Grove Veterinary Group) becoming an equine partner in 1988. On my retirement in May 2014 the practice consisted of 20 equine and ten small animal/farm vets working from three sites. Presently as well as being an equine veterinary consultant, I am concentrating on a start up veterinary pharmaceutical company and running a small farm and stud.

For over ten years I was the appointed veterinary surgeon to the National Trainers Federation serving on the Jockey Club Veterinary Committee. I received a BEVA trust scholarship in 1986 studying arthroscopic surgery at Penn and Colorado State Universities. I have spoken at BEVA and The British Medical Ultrasound Society Annual Congresses.

I have had first-hand experience of the RCVS disciplinary procedures which was a humbling experience but has given me insight and understanding of their standards and ethics.

Other interests include rugby (boots just about hung up), tennis, running, music (my wife is an opera singer), wine and cooking.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO
I have spent my life immersed in animals. I grew up with the usual dogs and cats, an excessive number of horses, a flock of two hundred sheep and a herd of beef cattle. I have been lucky to have been able to follow my passion. I have worked with some of the most dedicated professionals who typify what being a veterinary surgeon means. It means putting yourself out. It means sometimes getting out of bed at four in the morning. It means biting your lip when a client is being difficult. It means upholding the beliefs, responsibilities and standards of being a veterinary surgeon.

With seven veterinary schools in the UK producing upward of 1,200 new graduates per year, I am concerned that these graduates (some with large student debts) will not receive the same opportunities as myself. Veterinary practice has changed dramatically over the last 30 years with more scope for diagnosis and treatment, corporate ownership and a larger, more educated clientele with higher expectations and internet access. In my view the market forces of universities should not dictate the number of new veterinary graduates per year entering our profession. The RCVS needs to take a stronger stance otherwise I am concerned our new graduates could become disillusioned with lack of job opportunities, poor remuneration, loss of responsibilities, and unable to fulfil their ambitions and passions.

I am proud of our profession, after all if an item is being checked it is called vetted not doctored!! This is mainly thanks to the RCVS upholding high standards but I believe that the RCVS needs to improve its communication and understanding of the humble practitioner. Additionally I do not think that the RCVS is aware of the potential implications of corporate ownership on the structure and ambitions of veterinary practice.
CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Qualified from Edinburgh, I was a farm vet for 14 years, a partner in a 15-vet practice. I joined a major pharmaceutical company to gain further experience of business management, marketing and sales, working with practices across the UK.

I joined Defra as a veterinary advisor and then moved into non-veterinary senior management roles, in Whitehall departments including the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Justice. I was Principal Private Secretary to three Secretaries of State for Scotland, handling a diverse policy portfolio, working across Whitehall, No 10 and the Devolved Administrations. I have a deep understanding of how Whitehall operates.

I am a Non-Executive Director on the Boards of Moredun (which promotes animal health and welfare through research and education) and Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) (which delivers education, research and consultancy in the rural sector). I bring my experience of the veterinary sector and senior executive roles in the Civil Service.

I am a BVA member, a facilitator for the London BVA YVN, a trustee of the BVA’s Animal Welfare Foundation. I was on BCVA Council, 2004–2010 and Programme Secretary for the BCVA Congress. I enjoy photography and have exhibited in London.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO

I wish to offer my insight, breadth of experience, fresh outlook and unique perspective for the benefit of the RCVS and the profession.

I have worked as a cattle vet and in roles at national and international levels, in the private and public sectors. I have experience at senior levels across government, leading projects across departments. I have actively maintained my involvement in the veterinary profession throughout my career. I was the Conference Organiser for the One Health Conference last year bringing together vets and medics to focus on antimicrobial resistance, zoonoses and infection control. I am passionate about the one health concept and the benefits of multidisciplinary working.

My Non-Executive Director roles draw on my experience and interests in veterinary and scientific matters, and experience gained in government including strategic business and financial planning, human resources, communications and governance. I bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance and resources.

A veterinary degree prepares us for many stimulating and rewarding roles. This is of relevance to the increasing numbers of veterinary graduates. While many graduates focus on a clinical career, it is important to remain flexible and innovative, to respond to the changing dynamics of the employment market. I believe graduates of all ages should be encouraged to view their veterinary degree in its widest possible context and have the confidence to seek out opportunities that draw on our unique veterinary skills, knowledge and talents.

My extensive experience in government and non-executive roles, where high standards of governance and propriety, collective decision making and transparency are key, would be of value to the RCVS Council, supporting its ambition to be a first-rate regulator. I am keen to ensure that good governance is at the very heart of a modern RCVS.
**CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY**

I fell in love with veterinary medicine at the age of nine. I graduated from Glasgow Vet School in 1971 and stayed on in veterinary pathology for three years, before going into mixed practice in Lincolnshire.

In 1978, I moved to a traditional, two-man, 95% farm, practice in Warwickshire. I bought the practice in 1982 and, over the next eight years built it up to a three-centre, five-vet, modern mixed practice.

We were a veterinary nurse training practice and I lectured to veterinary nurses at Matthew Bolton College, Birmingham. I was an Agricultural Training Board and Open University tutor. I sold the practice in 1990 and after a period of locum work, moved into single-handed, small animal practice in Dubai. An interesting period of professional isolation followed, which meant dealing with any eventuality that arose.

Back in UK after ten years, I worked again in mixed, mainly small animal practice until the end of October 2012. Since then I have been involved in regular small animal locum work.

I am president of the Warwickshire Veterinary Clinical Club and I represented them on BVA Council. I was a member of RCVS Council for five months in 2014.

**CANDIDATE MANIFESTO**

**Our profession needs to be:**

- **Balanced**: we need to redress the balance on RCVS Council to reflect that 70% of the profession is in first-opinion practice.
- **Practical**: we need to ensure that as evidence-based medicine advances, we don’t lose sight of the art.
- **Confident**: we need to establish more clinical confidence in our graduates on day one.

**Balanced**

Over 70% of our members are from general practice, most public concerns are generated by general practice and yet we are represented by only 25% of Council members. First-opinion practice needs to be better represented on RCVS Council. For 40 years I have lived and breathed general practice. With my first-hand experience of the Council, I shall be a strong and devoted voice for first-opinion practice within a professional body that belongs to us all.

**Practical**

This great profession does a fantastic job, but as the science of veterinary medicine advances we must tread carefully and not lose sight of the art, particularly within general practice. The clients we support are real people, who want to do the best for their pets, at a price they can afford. If elected again to Council, it will be my steadfast endeavour to ensure that the standards we set and uphold support the need for pragmatism.

**Confident**

The transition from student to practice is the single most significant cause of stress for our graduates and the practices employing them. They come out of a supportive academic environment into a front-line that requires them to be clinically confident on day one. It is vital that we re-examine this transition and create a framework of education in which graduates obtain practical proficiency to make them confident before entering practice.
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED
Once you’ve read what this year’s candidates have to say about themselves, why not listen to how they address the issues you’ve raised with them directly?

We’re running ‘Quiz the candidates’ again this year, where we’ve invited you to submit the one question you would like the candidates to answer.

Following the deadline for questions on 9 March 2015, we’ve asked all candidates to video/audio record their answers to two questions of their choice, and briefly explain what they feel sets them apart as a potential member of RCVS Council, in no more than two-and-a-half minutes.

We’re collating your questions as we go to press, but in previous years, the topics have included:

- Practice Standards Scheme
- RCVS role and activities
- Vet schools
- Education
- Veterinary well-being
- 24/7 emergency cover
- Animal welfare
- Veterinary medicines
- Veterinary (un)employment
- Veterinary practice

The video/audio recordings will be published on our website at www.rcvs.org.uk/vetvote15 on 19 March, and will be available until the voting deadline at 5pm on Friday, 24 April 2015.
Background information

• RCVS Council is made up of 42 members: four are appointed by the Privy Council, 14 by the veterinary schools and 24 by direct election. Each member is appointed for a four-year term of office.

• Every year, six members of Council retire at the Annual General Meeting, though they are eligible for re-election.

• In 2015, two existing Council members and nine new candidates are up for election. Full details about all candidates are also available on our website at www.rcvs.org.uk/vetvote15

• You may vote online, or by post. Full voting instructions are printed on the separate ballot paper enclosed with this booklet.

• If your ballot paper is not enclosed, please contact Ian Holloway at the RCVS (020 7202 0727 or i.holloway@rcvs.org.uk) who will arrange for an official duplicate to be sent to you.

• The result of the election will be formally announced at the Annual General Meeting of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons which will be held on Friday, 10 July 2015, at One Great George Street, London.

• The RCVS Council Election is run independently by Electoral Reform Services – the country’s leading provider of ballot advisory and management services to UK and worldwide organisations.

• The deadline for receipt of all votes is 5pm on Friday, 24 April 2015.

Vote online* at www.votebyinternet.com/vetvote15

Vote by post by returning your ballot paper in the pre-paid envelope provided

*You will need the two-part security code printed on your ballot paper