

**AVS Meeting - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007, 2pm**  
**BVA HQ, Mansfield Street**

**Minutes**

In attendance:

Heather Niman (President/Chair)  
Julie Dauncey (JVP/Edinburgh Snr)  
John Remnant (Secretary)  
Helen Kidd (Treasurer)  
Emma Sinclair (JAVS editor)  
Dave Sugden (Webmaster)  
Jack Ashby (Liverpool Snr)  
Charlotte Berry (Liverpool Jnr)  
Lucy Croft (Bristol Snr)  
Alana O’Kane (Bristol Jnr)  
Kristina Kirk (RVC Snr/Ski rep)  
Alice McCutchen (RVC Jnr)  
Toby Trimble (Nottingham)  
Maiyanne Ben-David (Nottingham)  
Gráinne Baxter (Dublin Jnr)  
Una O’Toole (Dublin Snr)  
Jimmy Wiseman (Dublin)  
Stewart Barr (Glasgow Snr)  
Antonia Bamba (Glasgow Jnr)  
Kristen James (Welfare rep)  
Natalie Haddon (Cambridge Snr)  
Karmen Watson (Cambridge Jnr)  
John Vernon (Edinburgh Jnr)  
Ellie Ross (IVSA – stand in for Jenny Sinclair)  
Derek Thorpe (BVA)  
Tim Sainty (BVA)  
Alex Corbishley (Guest)

1. Apologies

Alexis Holley (SVP)  
Kristen James (Welfare)  
Jenny Sinclair (IVSA)

## 2. Rep Feedback

It was decided to trial a section of the meeting for reps to feedback on their activities since the last meeting. This part, early in the meeting, would enable the committee to receive progress updates on ongoing projects not tabled for further discussion on the agenda as well as providing reps a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas. It is also an opportunity for reps to raise issues brought to them by students at their universities, for either brief discussion or for entry into the agenda for the next meeting.

- Liverpool
  - Poor response to EMS surveys
  - BVA talk booked
  - Good response for sports weekend, preparations going well
  - Concerned about the ways re-sit examination results are given (NEXT MEETING)
  
- Nottingham
  - Congress preparations going smoothly
  - Prepared for sports weekend
  
- RVC
  - Prepared for Sports
  - Struggling to set-up BVA/AVS noticeboard
  - Talks on sports weekend and AVS given to first year
  
- Dublin
  - Organising sports weekend
  
- Glasgow
  - Set-up for BVA/AVS noticeboard
  - EMS surveys sent out
  - Sports weekend preparations going well
  - Concerns raised about funding (NEXT MEETING)
  
- Bristol
  - Intercalated degrees information sent in
  - EMS survey replies coming in
  - Clinical BVA talk has taken place, awaiting pre-clinical talk
  - Sports weekend preparations going well

- Edinburgh
  - Sports weekend preparations going well
  - BVA/AVS noticeboard set-up
  
- Cambridge
  - AVS presentation to first year done
  - BVA/AVS noticeboard set up
  - EMS surveys replies coming in

### 3. Presidents report

*Written copy Attached*

### 4. Vice-presidents report

Accurate data on funding from the EMS survey is needed to take to MSG (BVA – Members Services Group)

### 5. Treasurers report

Subs of £1 per student are required from each school (€1 per student from Dublin).

Money is due from Liverpool and Edinburgh.

The accounts are awaiting auditing. A Summary of the accounts will be presented at the next meeting.

### 6. IVSA

IVSA-UK thanked AVS for paying the UK subscription to IVSA.

IVSA has had a very active year with most of the UK schools being involved in exchanges; including visits to Oslo, Helsinki, Poland and Romania.

IVSA-UK is bidding to host the IVSA symposium in the December of 2008.

### 7. JAVS

The proof has been completed and sent to the Publishers. The winner of the £50 cash prize for the best article was won by Danny Chambers from Liverpool.

Everyone on the committee is reminded that they are expected to write an article for each edition.

It was suggested that JAVS was given out directly to students during lectures etc. rather than being left for them to pick up themselves.

#### 8. Website

The AVS website has been updated. The committee have been asked to send in a photo and short biography.

#### 9. BVA/AVS Survey

The last AVS survey took place in January 2005. The next one is due in January 2008. It was decided that a survey sub-committee should be formed, consisting of an English student at an English school, an English student at a Scottish school and a Scottish student at a Scottish school. Helen Kidd, Julie Dauncey and Heather Niman volunteered.

#### 10. Tax

AVS was recently sent a copy of letter sent to the RCVS detailing plans HM Customs and Excise to alter tax on pensions paid to students. Currently if a person's parents die whilst they are still in full time education then the pension their parent were receiving may be paid to them until they leave full time education. HM Customs and Excise plans to increase taxation on these payments if made to dependents over the age of 23. Whilst this may only affect a few veterinary students; AVS felt very strongly that this is unfair and discriminates against those students on a longer than average course such as ours. AVS will send a written response along with the BVA.

#### 11. Pet food debate

Thanks were given to Alex Corbishley (former Cambridge Snr rep) for organising the pet food debate on behalf of AVS. The debate will take place on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Robinson College, Cambridge. AVS agreed to fund dinner for the speakers.

## 12. Sports Weekend

Sports weekend is oversubscribed this year.

The Saturday night venue has a large enough capacity but the Friday night venue does not. The last people to request a place will be offered a £30 ticket (£20 reduction) in return for attending an alternative venue (tbc) on the Friday night.

Logistical arrangements etc. will be forwarded to reps shortly. Reps are urged to remind their students they will be travelling to the Republic of Ireland which is outside the UK and therefore they will require a European Health Insurance Card and that their mobile phones may not function correctly.

The Dublin reps answered questions regarding arrangements from specific colleges.

[John Remnant (Secretary) had to leave; minutes from this point were taken by Jack Ashby (Liverpool Snr)]

## 13. Ski Trip

Krissy - Fliers. t-shirts and posters - posters are too big so will get them later. Deadline for money on internet is December - using on the piste company. 14th until the 22nd dec. Because it's cheaper than New Year - going to Tignes instead of Val D'Isere but its well close anyway. Staying in a small self catered hotel, taking the whole thing over in rooms of 4. Lots of bars and pubs in the town. Booking is all done through the on the piste website. Book equip, food and training if you want (breakfast packages). Last night there is a big mountain meal.

Dublin welcome at the ski trip? - Of course!

Dublin are now full members of avs - now AVS of Great Britain and Ireland not of UK

Will email on the piste for the actual name of the hotel.

£289 plus equipment, food drinks etc. Snow is much better in Tignes than Val D'Isere.

Ski on the glacier that's there too!

Look for info on website but poster and flier is pretty good.

#### 14. Nottingham Congress

February 1st, 2nd and 3rd this year, different to usual. has emailed to ask for any problems, Glasgow said maybe. Theme is working animals pushed to the limits - how vets deal with it. BSAVA etc have workshops, so they are going to do equine- and ultrasonography workshops, plus good drinking sessions. Can't sort out socials until they know how much money they have. If they get 350 ppl at £35 per head (no dignitaries included as such) then they'll need £9350 from sponsorship. BVA will help - Tim - have they asked Nick Blayney - heather will sort. Booklet with advertising is how companies will be advertised plus offer companies a stand esp if they're giving an increased amount of money. 350 ppl limit is because the big notts conference centre is booked for the weekend so it will be in a local hotel. Please big it up, but realise it's to a different crowd. Really push it, will be enjoyable, and mention it as part of lecture to students.

Social - Hotel will take an 18 piece swing band, Friday night is a pub crawl - campus 11, will be amazing, coaches are organised to supply transport.

BVA involvement at congress is always massive, how do we invite them to help? Need to discuss goodie bags to be given away at congress - response, need to talk to nick to open it officially and come to dinner and his place will be sponsored as usual, esp as he gives a speech etc.

AVS meeting will be on the Friday night, we will have the meeting whilst everyone else is doing campus 14.

AGM venue is in a pub on the Sunday.

Will email everyone on the loop with further details after sports.

#### 15. Publicity

Ooops on plans for freshers week. Make sure boards are up to date. Get presentations done to all years. Also increase JAVS publicity - 30th October distribution date - presentation at same time.

Lastly hoodies - yaaaay!

BVA and AVS boards - logos and AVS posters and leaflets plus annual AVS report plus flyers for AVS Travel grants one set for each Snr rep.

### 16. Internships/residencies

Get the forms back in ASAP

### 17. EMS

Going well, problems with spread sheet- because concise questions have been ranted on so it's hard to put it in. But persevere and if troubles ask Julie. Amount done by Glasgow wasn't appreciated by most of the students but also by staff Martin Sullivan (vice dean and ems co-ordinator) because there could be time better spent on teaching because year size is +++ and causing rotation time to be increased, so the holidays are getting shorter because of the extended term time needed for this.

26 week hike up done 10 years ago was set up by the RCVS, so we can't do anything about it, maybe we should start asking students what they think re- not enough time because of ems or because of lack of funding meaning need more time for a job and then less time re-em. Plus how well it's distributed between the different types of EMS. Lecturer should take it up with AVTRW because we have no power against RCVS with that, should we take it forward? general consensus is that we should continue with EMS funding survey and had a discussion about how valuable PCEMS is re- cheap labour - conclusion is as we haven't had complaints from students so we won't take it up just yet, vote : discussed enough so concentrate on clin EMS for now, re-assess this situation if it comes up again later.

Ireland switched from a compulsory to a voluntary system.

### 18. OOH

Commitments are being recorded, re-discrepancies between vet schools, sensitive area because of teaching value from the work you get.

Rotation year-

Non-rotation year OOH - lambing OOH during lectures, barn time, OOH in hols to cover housekeeping at ICU etc. anything above basic 9 til 5.

Feedback in reasonable detail from 5th yrs to John.

### 19. Vetlife

Vet benevolent fund - launched at BVA Belfast - their new website is a portal to help websites, is geared towards graduates, they want to gear it more to vet school to help in any way and have approached us to see what we can do, i.e. ask students what they want re-mentally health and get back to heather - ask welfare reps. Counseling details are in , well done guys.  
Check on website for AVS that details for the counseling details are correct.

## 20. AVTRW

Reward for vet teaching - can we please nominate a member of research or teaching staff for their contribution, re-heathers email that she will send out and ask your years for what they think. Nominations can be from teachers or students and can be any member of the teaching staff. Heather will do a presentation at their congress probs about funding, ask heather if you want her to include ought else.

## 21. Other Business

- London have a full programme throughout 5thyr, non flexible, others can organise theirs but don't end up with much holiday anyway, therefore submit timetable/plan to heather and we'll compare it and look for it being unfair/a risk to student mental health/welfare etc. send how many of your weeks timetabled out of lectures that you have had free and how many you have worked compulsorily and whether you found it as an issue.
- Re-sit/progress committee: unfairness about the disruption caused to students? Ask years if they have any issues about it and see if this survey can be used to improve, using your vet schools vetsoc, the situation re-vivas and progress committees? Got that crappy external examiner excluded from that role re-welfare of students in vivas. Square it with unis re-good communication over this before AVS sticks its head in.