

**Minutes from the AVS Committee Meeting Held at BVA HQ, Mansfield Street on 9th
October 2010**

In Attendance

Jennifer Hall (President)
Nicky Reynolds (Secretary)
Myfanwy Hill (JVP)
KT Fitzgerald (Treasurer)
Chris Ogden (Welfare)
Chloe Hannigan (JAVS Editor)
Adam Swallow (On Tour/Sponsorship)
George Giles (Web)
Anna Briggs (Marketing)
Lucy Bright (IVSA)
Nicola Eisenhauer (Bristol Senior)
Marie Killerby (Cambridge Senior)
Gemma Ellse (Cambridge Junior)
Becky Marr (Edinburgh Senior)
Nic Wojciechowski (Edinburgh Junior)
Clare Montgomery (Glasgow Senior)
Tom Underwood (Glasgow Junior)
Leanne Forde (Liverpool Senior)
Martha Edwards (Liverpool Junior)
Lucy Jerram (London Senior)
Sarah Finnegan (London Junior)
Naomi Fitzgibbons (Nottingham Senior)
Sophie Bagnall (Nottingham Junior)
Emma Chedgey (Dublin Senior)
Seanna Fenwick (Dublin Junior)

Apologies

Lucy Worthington (Bristol Junior)
Emma Sinclair (SVP)

Matters arising from March minutes

1. No matters arising, minutes approved by committee

Senior reps report

Edinburgh:

2. Committee has been working really hard to finish planning for Sports weekend
3. Gave a talk to the freshers in early September and will give out JAVS Lite as soon as it arrives.
4. Have been having a lot of problems with subs as university is no longer happy to pay, they are now charging freshers for the first time. Has been successful so far and had two-thirds sign up.

London:

5. Going to give a talk to freshers this week and give out JAVS Lite

*Please can senior
reps give AVS
presentation to
freshers and
hand out JAVS
Lite. Please
provide feedback
once this has
been done.*

6. Ran a stall at freshers fayre promoting AVS and BVA.
7. Have emailed university about sports to encourage students to book train tickets.

Bristol:

8. Freshers have only just started and have not had any lectures yet, planning on going in on a lecture on Thursday to give presentation and distribute JAVS Lite.
9. Committee is busying organising congress

Liverpool:

10. Gave presentation to freshers 3 weeks ago
11. Planning on giving out JAVS Lite next week
12. Having a few banking issues which should be resolved soon
13. Peer support group has been set up and is running successfully

Nottingham:

14. Gave presentation and JAVS Lite to freshers.
15. Feedback on JAVS Lite. Positive: great idea to introduce AVS and give out contact details, nice layout, professional written. Negative: would like more photos and vet related articles, lacks a section that is more light hearted, would like the committee introduction to be double page with a photo.

Cambridge:

16. Freshers have not been to vet school yet, planning on doing presentation and giving out JVS Lite next week.

Glasgow:

17. Produced an article for university fresher magazine introducing AVS and its events.
18. Is planning on giving presentation and JAVS Lite to freshers in next few weeks.
19. Ran a table quiz

Dublin:

20. AVS stand at vet soc freshers fayre promoting AVS and BVA
21. Will give out JAVS Lite and give presentation when received.
22. Looking into producing an introduction flyer with tips on surviving university

President's Report

23. New committee structure. Subcommittees: Marketing, Welfare, Education and Finance.
24. Committee members asked to fill in ballot paper with first, second and third choice subcommittee, during the break they will be assigned to a subcommittee. Following the break the subcommittees will split off to discuss current issues.

Junior Vice-President's Report

25. Has attended MSG meetings (looks at services provides for members and how to improve) and EMS database has been discussed. BVA were enthusiastic about the idea, however XL vets have launched a website of similar function. They have presented this website to MSG and requested funding from BVA. AVS is concerned that the website shows feedback which could be detrimental to both

*Jen please can you
send a copy of
your presentation
round the loop*

students and practices. BVA are discussing the situation and Myf will contact the loop for opinions when we have more information.

26. Welfare cards-BSAVA are still keen to produce them and are currently creating proofs. Will contain useful clinical information on the inside and helplines on the outside.
27. Has been looking into getting pin badges for committee members.

Treasurer's Report

28. Request for subs have not been sent yet.
29. Over summer reviewed finances, £3,100 deficit. Additional expenses 10/11 £5763 (marketing, survey) so looking into cost cutting: reduce travel expenses, reschedule handover meeting, relocate spring meeting? Reduce hotel accommodation costs. Income increases: subs- £1.60 a year from next academic year (unchanged for this year £1.10), sponsorship.
30. IVSA requested an increase in subs from 10p per person to 20p AVS are unable to do this but have offered IVSA a £500 loan along with advice on marketing and finances.
31. Looking into producing a uniform sponsorship tariff for AVS.

JAVS

32. Deadline for Autumn JAVS is Wednesday 13th October and should be published in the third week of November.
33. Chloe thanked BVA for their continued support, both pastorally and financially.
34. Thank you for sending email and please send a reminder.
35. JAVS Lite. Aim was to give introduction to AVS. Budgeted to be 8-10 pages. Please can senior reps provide feedback on JAVS Lite both positive and negative. Will hopefully be part of fresher pack next year but has been a great success this year.
36. Have redesigned JAVS- more modern. Similar sections, plus welfare and an interactive page. Trying to make JAVS more interactive: email JAVS editor, AVS twitter, section on AVS facebook page.
37. Want to continue to improve JAVS, ideas and comments welcome.

Marketing update

38. New two year position this year. Aim to and produce a more professional image for AVS.
39. New logo, please include on any correspondence or presentations. Centaur-inline with BVA logo, snake- medicine. Looks more modern. Also new slogan- 'The voice of veterinary students of great Britain and Ireland'. Idea that we are trying to voice our members' opinions and not just the committees.
40. Website has been updated and launched.
41. Aiming to produce freshers packs next year. An A4 folder with information from different companies and JAVS Lite. Please email with ideas and comments.
42. Producing rollerbanners for each vet school, which will be ready for Nottingham welfare day. To be used at events and during presentations.
43. AVS noticeboards, aiming to make them more standardised with a section at bottom for reps photos.
44. AVS presentation- generic presentation to be used at each vet school to give an introduction to AVS.

Please can KT circulate a copy of her presentation to the loop

Please can senior reps remind students that deadline for Autumn JAVS is 13th Oct

Reminder that committee members are expected to make a contribution to JAVS

Committee please email Chloe with feedback, comments and ideas about JAVS/JAVS Lite.

Can all reps use new logo on any AVS related correspondence.

Reps to email Ana with ideas for freshers pack/ marketing strategy

Please can reps report back to Anna their views on generic AVS correspondence.

Reps to encourage students to join AVS facebook page, twitter and website

45. Discussed having all correspondence cleared by marketing department before they are sent out. Perhaps produce template documents for correspondence and presentations. Aim to reduce number and size of emails being sent to students.
46. Reps should encourage students to join facebook page and follow on twitter.

Website

47. New website which has a newsletter function on, if get enough students signed up could reduce the number of emails sent by reps.
48. When you sign in you are signing up to be an online member, not member of AVS.
49. Member only area, encourage people to sign up. Contains surveys, is a potential problem of non members signing up.
50. Students need to sign up using university email address.
51. Committee will have access to the AVS twitter account. George will send email with username and password. Please can reps update in an appropriate manner. 'We all have common sense... just don't anger the press or pet food companies!' (Jen Hall). No opinions unless directly from subcommittees.
52. Can committee members please bear in mind that both facebook and twitter are public and all official communication should go through email loop and website. The use of such social media will have to be reconsidered if they are being misused.

Welfare

53. Vetlife student support meeting- looking at new initiatives.
54. Chris sent round for updates on welfare systems at each university. Still need replies from: Nottingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Liverpool.
55. Annual welfare discussion forum. Discussed whether the Animal welfare act is working and focused on the importance of 'A life worth living'. Interactive session to decide was put to the minister, which was the control of import of exotic pets.
56. Welfare committees-members of staff and students. Talk about student support and services available and review the current welfare system. Trialling at Nottingham. Aim in future to set up a welfare committee at each vet school.
57. Welfare survey at Nottingham on the services available, trying to get the student perspective not just committee. Aim to focus welfare system and establish what they need to work on.
58. Welfare day at Nottingham in 2 weeks time. Services will have stand: tutors, university, welfare rep, vet specific organisations such as vetlife, YVN, BVA, AVS etc. Also talks including one from vet helpline. Members of staff have been invited to attend, including staff from other vet schools. So far staff members from Glasgow, RVC and Bristol are attending, they will meet the committee, observe how the day runs, discuss new initiatives and show support. If there are any students who would like to attend please contact Chris.
59. Currently vet life don't have a point of contact for Dublin, please can rep provide contact details of the appropriate person.
60. Planning on writing an article for JAVS about welfare day.
61. Discussed at BVA congress the mental health and stress issues in vet students/new graduates.
62. Can senior reps please provide information on widening participation in their vet school (apart from RVC and Dublin). Cheryl Scudamore at RVC looking into widening participation, going into primary schools and particularly encouraging

Reps to encourage students to use the website and sign up-with their university email address.

Marketing to send a launch email with a link to new website to loop

Committee to update AVS twitter and facebook page

George to police content of official AVS facebook page.

Can reps please reply to Chris to update him on the welfare system at their vet school.

Reps to find out if welfare reps from their own university (particularly Glasgow, RVC and Bristol) would like to attend welfare day.

Dublin rep to provide contact details for vetlife

Reps please email heads of department or some one who might know and report back to chris on widening participation

boys and children from less affluent backgrounds to apply-AVS to help where possible.

63. Vetlife posters and stickers to be put up around vet schools. 'Stickers to stick on things!'

*Reps to put up
vetlife posters ad
stickers*

Subcommittees

64. Subcommittees split off to discuss important and current issues.
- Welfare: Different systems, a lot of variability. Most have a 'Mummy and Daddys' mentor system with variable success. Need a consistent system to use across universities.
 - Education: Clinical skills, preparation for EMS, specialisation, EMS database, rotation comparison.
 - Finance: Long course, EMS, hours, tuition fees, Scottish students at Scottish universities, English students at Scottish universities, post graduates, going to email finance loop to keep up to date with documents and resources, compare travel expenses at each vet school, assess financial section of survey.
65. Subcommittees to work on the AVS survey section relating to their subcommittee. Aim to improve and condense. Going to look into running survey online to try and increase response and survey make information more accurate (especially financial).

*Please can Tim
circulate a copy of
the last survey and
the outcomes to
the loop.*

IVSA

66. Powerpoint presentation from on IVSA which will go out to all vet schools to increase awareness of IVSA and encourage involvement.
67. Lucy and Myf attended the EAEVE conference 'Vet 2020' in Vienna in May. Attended by staff and students from vet schools approved to be members EAEVE discussing veterinary education along with some amazing social activities. Work groups looked at various issues and it was important that UK representatives attended as in the UK and Ireland the job of a vet is very different to many of the other countries (cheese vet!). Results of work groups are available at: www.vetmeduni.ac.at/eaeeve2010 'Vet for health, vet for food, vet for the planet' was an important concept.
68. IVSA Symposium 3rd-11th January in Slovenia. Looking particularly at different career options.
69. Encourage students to make the most of what IVSA has to offer- exchanges, clinical EMS database (by students for students). AVS reps to work with IVSA reps and help promote IVSA.

*Please can Lucy
circulate her
powerpoint
presentation on
IVSA to the loop.*

*Reps to help
promote work of
IVSA and what it
can offer students*

Sports Weekend

70. 5th-7th November- Highland Games
71. Rep guidelines distributed- please ensure you read these carefully.
72. Currently accommodation appears to be a problem, which always seems to be. Keep pushing; go into lectures and over estimate number of students each house can take.
73. £45 ticket (plus transport costs)
74. Limited tickets- allocations and themes:
RVC: 160 (FY avatar)
Liverpool: 160 Ancient Egyptians

*Please can Becky
circulate rep
guidelines
electronically to
the loop.*

Cambridge: 60 (It is noted that if Marie gets over 60 attendees she will eat a very large hat)

Bristol: 120 Dennis the Menace

Dublin: 140 Convicts

Nottingham: 120

Edinburgh: 240 Rocky Horror

Glasgow: 200 Clowns (FY 300 Spartans)

75. Please let Becky know ticket numbers by the 24th October
76. Posters are in transit, please promote event to ensure there is a good turnout.
77. Sports: 5 aside football (m and f), rugby (m and f) and mixed hockey.
78. Edinburgh are strict on ID- driving license or passport.
79. PLEASE follow the instructions provided to help the weekend run smoothly!
80. Reps you are responsible for students at sports. Please enforce to them that there will be consequences if there is any inappropriate behaviour.
81. Attendance of non vets- see statement. If ticket allocations aren't filled let Becky know so she can allocate them to another university.

Congress

82. 4th-6th February at Bristol
83. Committee formed, have all been assigned jobs and are working well together
84. Still pushing for sponsorship. Have managed to secure Bayer-scrub tops instead of t-shirts.
85. Theme- 'I really should know that but I don't...' areas covered briefly or not at all in curriculum. Wildlife casualty, pet insurance schemes, equine dentistry aging, blood tubes. Ideas welcome.
86. Lectures and practicals at Langford on Sat.
87. Hoping to have a careers fair and representatives from the BVA specialist divisions
88. Ball will be combined with centaur ball (ticket for full congress £5 more than just ball to encourage attendance) expecting 550-600 people. Will include a Charity raffle.
89. AGM will be on Saturday between lectures to encourage attendance. Committee meeting will be on Sunday 6th February, it will be a handover meeting to new committee members and will not be as long as a normal meeting –please make the effort to attend. This will also allow the committee to enjoy Friday night. Roles opening up at congress: JAVS editor and JVP.
90. Please promote congress and try to increase awareness of the event.

On Tour Update

91. 19th- 21st March. Go ape and outdoor pursuit's weekend around Welsh border and central England. Small, relaxed event similar to last year.
92. Has managed to secure a tub of joint supplements and dog food as sponsorship.
93. Important not to make a loss on the event this year, otherwise it will be unlikely to continue.
94. Please promote it to students.
95. Activity vote: Riding and archery-7, Kayaking-10. Ask previous attendees opinion.

Sponsorship rep

96. Position formed to increase Adam's role on the committee and also help increase AVS income.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY:
Reps to update Becky with ticket sales so if you do not use your ticket allocation they can be given to another university- ticket numbers by 24th Oct

Please promote sports as much as possible to students

Jen to circulate statement on non-vet attendance at sports

Reps to promote Congress and encourage attendance

Please promote on tour to students and try to encourage attendance.

97. To liaise with Derek and KT to create a sponsorship plan for AVS.
98. If reps have any possible contacts for sponsorship please forward to Derek or Adam

Any other business

99. AVS reps must be members of BVA, student membership has changed and full membership has been reduced from £60 to £36.
100. Please put up BVA responsible use of antimicrobials poster
101. BVA Overseas grants information to put on noticeboards.
102. YVN- support network for final years and new graduates. AVS to work closely with them to promote and encourage final years to join.
103. Next meeting will be on Sunday 6th February at Bristol Congress.

**ACTION TO BE
TAKEN BY:**
*Adam and KT to
work on
sponsorship plan*

*If you have
sponsorship
contacts please
forward to Adam*

*Can committee
members please
ensure they are
BVA members*

*Reps to put up BVA
posters*