

BCVSp meeting trustees and nominated trustees
November 10 2023

Attending

Celia Marr

Davina Anderson

Mark Bowen

Richard Meeson

Bob Partridge

Caroline Prymak

Apologies Richard Hepburn, Amanda Paul, Renate Statinhova, Anna Nutt

An update was given on current status, including the re-establishment of the banking facilities and website. We have 47 new members following the recent emailing.

1. New name. Discussion of options, some members had expressed a wish to drop the term 'british' and it is important that then name clearly defines what we do. Conclusion that the name Veterinary Specialists. We would need to go back to the members for a vote to change the name.
2. We are establishing easier ways to pay membership and we are also potentially going to approach the corporates to see if they want to pay for a group membership. We could also look at free membership for Associates to encourage brand awareness and engagement (ie residents and interns)
3. We have had an approach from Linnaeus to see if they can use our Referral Hospital Practice Standard Scheme. We discussed this and shared the basic principles of the system that was put together 3 years ago, and agreed that this could be a way forwards on a self certification system for a badge of accreditation by the BCVSp to drive the recognition of Specialist hospitals. We have two options : to go back to RCVS and see if their appetite for this has changed since the last time PSS presented to the Council, or to drive it forwards ourselves. Corporates might also be a potential source of funding for public outreach activities in general
4. Next meeting is scheduled with BVA : items on agenda to include under care guidelines, owners registering with multiple vets, engagement with Specialists (all disciplines)
5. Appointments : Richard Meeson EBVS National Representative from 10.11.23, Caroline Prymak Public Engagement officer from 1.1.24, Bob Partridge Treasurer from 1.1.24 (all will be subject to endorsement at a general member meeting)
6. Next exec team meeting January 5th
7. Next member meeting – townhall, online format, set up soon as website payments sorted

Actions:

RH to complete necessary paperwork for payment mechanism changes

DA to look at constitution and work out what we need to do to make changes, also look at charities commission website and see what is required by them for any changes.

CM set up yes/no poll on VSA rebranding and circulate to all members

CM explore whether there are any costs/disadvantages/optimal mechanisms to providing free Associate membership from website perspective

CM, DA meet with Terry Emmerson (Linnaeus) to discuss PSS Hospital proposal and group memberships

MB to set up other similar meetings with corporates

RH & BP to liaise re treasurer hand-over

CM & CP to liaise re website info for Public engagement

DA & MB to nominate RM as EBVS national rep.

ALL to seek other possible Executive board members in non-companion animal sectors or non client facing

ALL try to research case reports for difficulty recruiting specialists