

Paul McMullin

Subject: FW: BVPA Spring Newsletter 2008 - Including Summer Meeting Programme and Registration form - for E-mail list and also mailing please.



The British Veterinary Poultry Association

(A division of The British Veterinary Association)

From: Paul McMullin (President BVPA)

April 22nd 2008

Dear All,

This is a slightly belated Spring Newsletter, but then again Spring has not been in too much of a hurry this year (so much for global warming)!

Spring Meeting

Our 'Late Winter' meeting in Harrogate on March 13th/14th was very well attended and appears to have been much appreciated by the attendees. Although unable to attend himself, the then acting CVO, Fred Landeg was very helpful in facilitating a broad range of speakers for the AI Symposium on our first day. This included an overview of the epidemiology of HPAI H5N1 from Mirzet Sabirovic of DEFRA, and the role of ornithological expertise in its control from Andy Musgrove, of the British Trust for Ornithology (Andy is also a member of DEFRA's Ornithological Expert Panel). We also had the benefit of Sjaak de Wit's experience in dealing with AI in the Netherlands, and Anthony Greenleaves and his now very experienced team from Bury St Edmunds Animal Health, as well as the lessons learned for industry (from Jeremy Hall of Bernard Matthews Ltd). We are especially grateful to our 2 practitioner speakers, Steve Lister and Daniel Parker for 'telling it as it was'! All of which nicely set the scene for the final presentation from David Mouat covering the policy issues at DEFRA and our 10-speaker question time at the end of the session - now I know why David Dimbleby restricts himself to 5 guests!

Unfortunately the AI session over-ran a bit but the material (both in presentations and in the question-time) was of such interest this this was a small price to pay. Our 'duck colleagues' patiently waited for the 2nd Keith Gooderham Waterfowl lecture. This was given on the topic of 'The past, present and future of duck breeding' by Mr Frederic Grimaud, President of Grimaud Freres one of the major breeders of ducks in Europe. Frederic covered his topic very well and certainly advanced us towards the goals for this lecture set out by Keith last year.

Our Friday morning session included 3 speakers supported by the BVPA Trust Fund - Sara Perez and David Welchman reporting on their attendance at the WVPA meeting in Beijing last September, and Professor Khalid Bouzoubaa to tell us about the next WVPA meeting to be held in Morocco next year and also about respiratory disease in hot climates. We also had excellent papers from Kannan Ganapathy and Clive Naylor on Avian Peumovirus, Jane Cook on IB, David Burch on treatment of Blackhead, and clinical papers from our stalwart clinicians Messrs Lister and Parker to round of another very full session.

No BVPA meeting would be complete without our dinner. We were lucky to have 2 guest speakers on this occasion - BVA President Nick Blayney and ex-CVO Keith Meldrum who describes himself currently as an 'equine consultant' but still clearly has a keen interest in veterinary politics, and while

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he made clear in advance that he 'does not do jokes' clearly enjoyed discussing the insights from his days as CVO, in particular 'curried eggs'! It was my pleasure to announce the award of the Cliff Stuart Award to Philip Hammond, the newest partner in Crowshall Veterinary Services, as well as the 'Presidents Quaich' to Tibor Cserep for all of the hard work he has put into BVPA over the years, in particular ensuring that the presentations run smoothly. Members gave generously at raffle time (not sure whether it was Nigel's or Sarah's charm!) - we made £475 which I nominated to Cancer Research UK. When I went on their web site to make the donation I noted that donations could be made *in memoriam*. It reminded me that when our colleague Howard Hellig died last year, his family had requested donations to Leukaemia Research *in lieu* of flowers. With Tish's permission I made this donation in Howard's name. In spite of the fact that she had an arm in a cast from a recent fall, Tish typed out a letter of thanks to the association for the gesture on behalf of herself and daughters - she said they were all 'really chuffed'. She also asked me to convey her thanks to all members, including those who donated to Leukaemia Research at the time.

Our AGM had to be put off to 8:30 on Friday morning but in spite of this we had a good turnout. The reports are available on the member-only of the web site (under 'Annual General Meeting' strangely enough!) as are all of the presentations (except Mr Grimaud's paper which we hope to add shortly). Keith Warner was proposed as a new member of committee and approved by the meeting, and kindly agreed to serve.

Our thanks are due to the Swallow St George Hotel for their usual efficient provision of all of the services which we required, all the committee for their hard work in preparing this meeting, in particular Adrian Mockett with such a big programme, and Andrew Bufton, as always, getting the sound set up and keeping it working..

Other Matters

The committee continue to 'beaver away' at the ongoing issues. Claire has responded to a detailed questionnaire on 'Cost and Responsibility Sharing' - and the RCVS have asked us to comment on the relevance of their practice accreditation scheme to poultry practice (if you have comments on this please direct to Alan Pearson (alan@30bonds.freeserve.co.uk) in the first instance, and no later than the end of May).

Future Meetings

Finally, I am pleased to attach the programme and registration form for our summer meeting to be held on June 18th at Institute for Animal Health, Compton. Early registration is recommended. A special thanks to Dave Cavanagh for acting as local organiser on this as I know how much else he has 'on his plate'.

Don't forget to keep November 27th/28th in your diaries for the Winter Meeting when we head of to the North West (Haydock Park). Alan Pearson is already well on with the arrangements. The 'working title' for the main topic is, with a, perhaps grudging, 'doff of the cap' towards Jamie & Hugh, "Poultry Production Systems - Health and Welfare Across the Spectrum"

Both the last Harrogate presentations and the dates of the next meetings dates are in the member-only area of the web site.

Best Regards

Paul

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