



The British Veterinary Poultry Association

(A division of The British Veterinary Association)

From: Paul McMullin (President BVPA)

December 2008

Dear All,

This is just a brief note to let you know that all of the presentations from the Haydock Park meeting are now available on the member-only area of the web-site (user chickvet, password bc14). The meeting, held on November 27th and 29th was very successful with around 80 participants. We had a very broad ranging symposium on management systems for both layers and in meat production on our first day, including a perspective from a retailer. On our second day we had a paper dealing with RCVS plans for new post-graduate qualifications, pheasant health, red-mite control and an excellent update on Marek's disease from speakers from IAH.

The meeting was a first in a number of respects. Alan Pearson was the local organiser and arranged a special 'Lancashire Gourmet' theme for both our lunch and excellent dinner. We were treated to a number of local dishes made from ingredients donated by local companies. David Schofield presented our new large-format screen for presentations (thanks to helpful suggestions of some of those at the back at Harrogate in the Spring). Nigel Horrox, our outgoing senior vice president gave an excellent after-dinner speech on some of the lesser-known stories of international poultry practice. As Nigel will, unfortunately, be unable to attend the spring meeting in Harrogate I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedicated work on committee over the past 6 years, as well as for the administrative support supplied by his colleagues at Positive Action Publications.

I would also like to thank all of the committee and in particular Adrian Mockett for organising an excellent programme, David Schofield for his continued input as our Treasurer, Tibor Cserep for looking after the presentations, and the Merial Team (Andrew Bufton and Gavin Kelly) for ensuring that the sound system worked flawlessly.

Our chairpersons kept us well on time and the OGM was held to schedule. The main point to note (for me!) is that my term as President finishes at our next meeting, when I will be pleased to hand over to Claire Knott. I am looking forward to the role of senior VP, at least if it is akin to being a grandparent – i.e. you can hand the baby back if it starts to cry! There will be a number of opportunities for members to be candidates for committee/officer roles so please do talk to some of us on committee if you are able to help in any role. We also covered a number of ongoing issues:

1. AI Risk assessment papers produced by an industry vet/defra working group
2. Changes relating to Zoonoses Regulations from January 2009. We have since responded to the Defra consultation on the broiler NCP. Defra will be

putting out a Q&A for producers with respect to layers shortly and we will circulate this as soon as it is available.

3. Plans for Animal Health to move all export certificate generation to the Carlisle office – we have made representations to try to ensure that the change-over does not cause problems and, ideally introduce a more efficient system of certificate distribution. We will be meeting with Animal Health to progress this in early January and report the outcome.

David Schofield presented an update on our accounts highlighting that income and expenditure is largely in balance (the exceptional expenditure this year being the purchase of our large screen). He also reported on increased interest income from the Trust Fund and reported on 3 travel bursaries which have been funded, also partial funding for participants at the IAH course. For next year the next WVPA Congress at Marrakesh will be a particular focus (please see the trust fund page on the web site for more information – closing date for applications February 29th 2009).

Claire Knott reported on BVA issues and Nigel Horrox on WVPA.

Finally (and correcting an error in my last newsletter) – please note dates for our next meetings:

March 19th/20th Harrogate – special focus on turkey diseases and clinical papers – our meetings secretary will be looking for papers from all practices, especially from our younger members and those who have not presented previously!

June 17th Milton Keynes (Intervet/SPAH) – Immunology and vaccination

November 19th/20th – Bristol – topics to be confirmed.

Assuming no need to communicate further this year, my best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'P F McMullin' with a long horizontal stroke at the end. There are two small asterisks above the signature.

Paul F. McMullin MVB MSc DPMP MRCVS

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