1. Apologies
2. Approval of previous meeting’s minutes
3. Senior Reps’ Reports
4. President’s Report
5. JVP’s Report
6. Treasurer’s Report
7. Subcommittee Reports:
   a. MSG
   b. Policy
   c. Welfare
   d. Marketing & JAVS
   e. IVSA
8. Sports Weekend
9. Congress
10. AOB
11. Date of next meeting
PRESIDENTS REPORT – Alex McGhee

EMS provision in the Practice Standards Scheme

RCVS is currently revising the practice standards scheme and are including EMS provision in it. I’m meeting them to discuss exactly what students want from EMS and how they might implement it.

What do students want from EMS?

- The practice should speak to students on day one to come up with learning objectives, and have a verbal feedback session at end of placement
- Assigning a member of staff in the practice to organise the EMS
- Keep details of students for reference purposes
- Gold-standard would be a list of practical skills that can be completed during the placement, however this would come with some difficulties especially regarding stage of the course the student is in. This needs further clarification, and how specific can the skills be? For example “place 5 IV catheters” or should it be broader such as “perform a particular veterinary skill 5 times”?

The Futures Project

I’ve got the first meeting for the vet futures project. It’s being run by the BVA and RCVS to look at the future of the profession and what can be done to shape it. I’m not sure exactly what to expect but there is a section ominously titled ‘group work’ with these questions.

• Q1: Where is the veterinary profession currently adding greatest value? If it were to disappear, what would be lost?

  - The overall health of animals
  - First barrier against zoonotic dx, especially farm animals/food production animals
  - Promoting animal health and dx to the wider public...Education!!
  - Globally animals massively link with trade and are a huge part of some people’s income which could be lost

• Q2: What are the key challenges and changes we need to pay more attention to?

  - Rise in the industrialisation of farming. People’s livelihoods are being lost due to the industrialisation of farming and this could impact the quality of care vets can provide
  - Vets’ income! As more vets are produced in the UK our salary is decreasing
  - Restrictions in antimicrobial use!!
  - It is becoming more common for vets have to choose earlier on their career pathway, for example specialism! This is affecting our careers due to the pressure we feel to focus on one area sooner after graduation
  - Rise in litigation
- Increase in larger, corporate practices rather than smaller, direct contact with partners. Could this impact welfare?

- Harder for individuals to start their own practice due to the development of massive corporates. Larger corporates are making this difficult for those who want to have their own practice

- Student debt! Rising tuition fees are putting students off applying? Is this valid? We need some hard facts from students (from all income backgrounds) to decide how much tuition fees affect student’s decision to apply to university

- Job saturation….No flexibility

• **Q3: What opportunities are before us to a) bring value, and b) work innovatively?**

  - Embrace ‘one-health’ and work closer with medical profession. How can we keep the degree broad enough to work with a one-health perspective, and yet allow students to specialise earlier which is what is becoming more and more necessary?

  - Marketing the veterinary degree as a ‘degree’ rather than a vocation! Not pushing veterinary students to go into practice, and investigate career paths away from veterinary. Our final year is spent in practice which some feel is pushing students into clinical work, maybe universities should be more flexible in the EMS that students are allowed to perform

  - Better partnership with paraprofessionals, this would bring value to a veterinary practice and allow us to provide a better quality of care to our patients.

- **CPD**

  - Public relations between vets and the public. The public are hugely naive regarding our role within the UK, they should be more aware of what we do! The public don’t understand what veterinarians in the UK do/earn/work hours etc and by increasing transparency the public would appreciate us more

  - Increasing awareness of mental health issues within the profession, vet schools are really promoting this!! This is fantastic.

• **What goals should we be working towards – what’s the vision for success for 2025?**

  - Evidence-based veterinary medicine! We need facts to support these issues, not just discussion!!

**Newly titled Mind Matters Initiative**

The RCVS mental health project now has a name. They’re currently looking at Mental Health First Aid as CPD and improving vet helpline. They’re also discussing how to promote these services and mental health issues within the profession. One suggestion is an informative play!

**Meet the RCVS Day**
The day was very interesting. Unfortunately the RCVS is immovable on the subject of the SEL. So we’re in a situation where the universities blame the rcvs and call it an rcvs system, and the rcvs say the universities are free to use it how they want. While the many teething problems will be sorted the basic issue that it’s unrealistic to fill in remains. It is hugely impractical for students to fill this in correctly, feedback from Liverpool is that students do not fill SEL in properly which then makes the SEL worthless! It has been designed for the students benefit and yet does not seem to be helping in any way whatsoever. Alex is meeting with Fred Andrews on 26/01 so will have more information following this!

We have a Veterinary Workforce Policy!

BVA Council have finally signed off on the workforce policy. On a related note the AVS Policy was a great success. We had a clear, well thought out policy, that was published via Facebook and the website and viewed en-masse (well over 2000 views on the website) and ultimately impacted on national policy.

TREASURERS REPORT – Jenny Brazier

The reporting year runs from March to March. This year is the first year we have merged accounts with IVSA and that process is now complete and has been a success. IVSA finances were presented at their AGM yesterday.

At the start of the last reporting year the AVS balance was £31,923.40. In this reporting year we have taken £6921 in subscription fees. We are still awaiting Dublin’s, Glasgows and Surrey’s subs. We have had £852 worth of profit from AVS events and we are still waiting on profits from Dublin Sports weekend (hoping to be around £7000 as well as the return of a loan of £4028.34) and we have made a glorious £2.66 of interest.

We have spent £1317.01 on committee expenses, £3416.73 on printing and distributing JAVS, £468.20 on our new website and £4681.74 on event loans, bankline fees and other costs. This brings our current balance to £30,283.58. A very healthy figure.

We are now well and truly running online. A note for people from Ireland on claiming expenses-if you could remember to include your IBAN and swift/BIC numbers I will be able to pay you more quickly. Account numbers and sort codes are not needed for international payments.

JVP REPORT – Helena Diffey

BVA MSG:

Student debt/finance

Many members of the BVA MSG committee were shocked to hear that AVS do not provide any financial advice/support to our members. I voiced the fact that this is done quite comprehensively by universities themselves and that AVS didn’t feel that technical financial advice was within our
remit, nor was it necessary/needed. **Do we all feel the same about this? Should AVS be providing financial advice to students?**

- Each university has a very accessible and fully comprehensive student finance area which students can use as they wish! AVS may be putting themselves in a risky position if we start offering financial advice considering we don’t have the expertise to offer that level of advice.

The BVA are hoping to develop a useful section of their website regarding advice for students on finance and debt which could include:

- Guidance on what veterinary student debt meant in practical terms and how it was paid back as a proportion of salary post-graduation
- More effective signposting to existing guidance and sources of financial advice, as well as opportunities for grants and awards to supplement elements of veterinary studies, including the travel grants offered by the Overseas Group.

**Ideas include links to places such as:**
- Student finance entitlement calculator
  https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login
- UCAS guidance
  http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/student-finance

**Thoughts on this… Will this be useful? Any other good ideas/suggestions for the BVA page?**

- Break-down of costs that university pay to train a student, compared to our tuition fees!
- Jordan Sinclair suggested that in reality it is the middle-class students we need to be worried about more than low-income because those from low-income backgrounds have significant financial help from the government, it is the middle-classes that receive less funding yet still have to pay back a considerable amount of money.

**RCVS Consultation on courtesy title of ‘Dr’:** Most (but not all) members of the BVA MSG committee are ‘ambivalent’ to the proposal or against the idea, feeling that the title will not promote their standing in society and should be kept for those who have been awarded a PhD. This was the response I gave to the committee:

“**When AVS posted about the RCVS consultation on our social media platforms, including facebook and twitter, the post (unsurprisingly) received a huge amount of attention from our members and the wider public. The initial post was 'seen' by over 22,000 people, 1,719 of which followed the link to the RCVS website. We then carried out a quick poll to gauge the general reaction amongst students: 290 people voted, 281 of which were pro having the option of using the title.**

Following this we produced a brief news summary of the story on our website


Once again this received a lot of attention on social media - the post was 'liked' by over 400 people and was 'seen' by over 30,000. There are also comments by individuals under the website news items and on our facebook page.

**In conclusion, there has been an overwhelmingly positive reaction to this move by RCVS from students. The use of social media has widened our ability to survey the student body easily so AVS are confident that we are accurately representing our members.**”
Other

I also attended a ‘Parliamentary briefing’ with members of the BVA to promote the interests of BVA amongst MPs. There were really nice cakes.

Alex and I provided input into the (hopefully) final re-draft of the BVA workforce policy.

EMS grants... still on the agenda.

Google drive re-structure coming in March.

AVS has been approached by the RVC Student Development Committee who would like AVS to set up a UK-wide database whereby students can offer and request for accommodation where they have EMS placements, in order to reduce the cost of EMS. Essentially the same as our ‘VetBed’ idea that was discussed at our last few meetings. I highlighted all the possible problems and logistical issue with this sort of project and explained why we had not pursued it before now. I am still not very keen on the idea, especially without carrying out a proper survey to find out whether it is something students want and would make use of. Thoughts?

- This seems completely unrealistic. Sharing people’s data? Allowing vets to share someone else’s house? Can we promote something like this!? Are we liable for any problems that might occur if we back this initiative?

JVP QUERIES

How are the wikivet responsibilities going senior reps?

Edinburgh: Posters up, the university was involved in the early stages of Wikivet so the organisation is already very much promoted at the university

Notts: Nothing done but students quite aware of this already

Dublin: We are meeting with the current ambassador

Liverpool: Wikivet rep has been elected (Amelia)

Glasgow: Too busy with Congress but students already very aware of Wikivet

Cambridge: Not widely used, students not very aware of it

RVC: Very well used and publicized already

Bristol: Already has an established Wikivet ambassador who has now passed the role on to AVS to take further

Surrey: Helena to forward details on to Lydia who will then take further at the university
EDINBURGH REPORT – Lisa Main

Everyone had a great weekend in Dublin! (Although we’re still dealing with some bus issues - nightmare!)

AVS Welfare Day was in November and was really well attended - we had free cakes, a free raffle and stands from the central university.

Our last AWF talk was in October about the ‘Euthanasia of Healthy Pets’ - had an amazing turnout with about 150 people - best yet!

Ran a 1st year Q and A session on exams and moving out of halls

Coming up we have welfare week, a 1st year prep for lambing and transition to 3rd year talk for 2nd years and GEP’s

For the 1st time we’re running a careers fair for 4th and 5th years - this is going to be after Easter and we have various veterinary companies and recent graduates coming to talk about applying for jobs and what they expect from new grads.

Going to send out an email next week to look for a new junior rep (so sad to be leaving!) so hope to have them with us at the March meeting. For the first time we’ll be opening this up to both 1st and 2nd years at Edinburgh (used to be just 2nd years) so that our reps will have more of an opportunity to sit on the central committee if they want to!

EDINBURGH QUERIES

Congress tickets - we’ve been trying really hard at Edinburgh to promote AVS as ‘more than just Sports Weekend’, especially when signing up new 1st years (ours don’t join automatically like in the rest of the vet schools) and so a lot of people were really disappointed when they didn’t get Congress tickets, and were complaining that there were a lot less of these available than Sports Weekend tickets. Is there any way that now Congress is a bit better known as a really good event to go to that we could increase the number of students that could come? (I have no idea if this would be possible, and with it being in Liverpool next year I’m sure we won’t have as much interest as this year, but when I was initially selling tickets before Christmas I could have sold about 70 - over double the allocation and almost as many as I took to Sports!)
BRISTOL REPORT – Thomas Cantor

Everyone really enjoyed AVS Dublin! Thanks to Hannah for holding the ferry for my later bus!!! One girl did have to go A&E on the first night as she hit her head but she was fine and had a really good remaining time. Other than that went very smoothly, thanks Amy.

Had an “AVS trip” to Bath Christmas Market. Had a good response initially to emails and facebook events but less than I’d hope turn up on the day. Still good fun for those that did manage to come and maybe something to work on next year.

We have been invited to meetings during this term to start planning a new part of the course, formalising teaching on wellbeing as part of the curriculum. This is with Centaur soc’s welfare rep and staff (inspired by Liverpools peer support day).

Blooming Monday was advertised to the students and staff. Helped to brighten up exam time!

AWF talk arranged for 12th March.

Planning for Bristol Sports Weekend going well at the moment.

BRISTOL QUERIES

No Queries (Next Centaur committee meeting in a few weeks so may put some things up on the facebook page after that).

LONDON REPORT – Georgie Lethbridge

Everyone had a great time at Sports weekend- thank you Dublin! We are currently in the process of organising an AWF talk for this term or early next term.

Blooming Monday prep is all going well, fingers crossed for a great day.

Also I’m really sorry to not be at Congress, hope you guys all have a great time and everything looks amazing!

LONDON QUERIES

How many weeks of EMS are you allowed to do in third year? There has been some discussion on allowing third years to do more EMS if they would like to.
Notts: 6 weeks
Liverpool: No limits
Glasgow: No limits
Cambridge: No limits
RVC: 10 weeks
Bristol: No limits
Dublin: No limits

How many Uni’s allow past papers/past exam questions? We only have 1 past paper we are allowed to use for each exam.

- Past papers are emailed around before exams at Edinburgh
- Nottingham have formative exams which become available in the period before exams
- Dublin have all past-papers available
- Liverpool have some past papers available, and module formatives
- Glasgow: 4th years have a formative exam in Sept, but lots of past papers are available for modules throughout the year
- Cambridge: Officially no past papers are allowed to be distributed....
- At Bristol some modules will have past-papers made available but mostly past papers are distributed by students

NOTTINGHAM REPORT – Jon Mayer

Everyone had a good time at sports weekend! Even the guy with Supraventricular tachycardia... he did win the Vet Soc award for best exit from a Sports Weekend!

We had our annual Welfare Day in October which Rosie organised, she did a fantastic Job and now she is involved in more welfare initiatives: Mental Health Week, Nottingham in Feb. - Rosie to elaborate.

Puppy Parties: Guide-dogs are organising puppy parties to help students relieve stress and also just for fun!!

NOTTINGHAM QUERIES

1. Event promotion - Blooming Monday is an example, event was promoted via email and Facebook posts. Short of going to every lecture and saying this is what’s happening what can you do? What do other uni’s do? we have an internal email and Facebook pages for each year. It’s getting past the ignore/delete cycle. I’m writing some SOPs almost as checklist for Nottingham specific promotion hoops to jump through.
Email, facebook group, central AVS facebook page, stand up in lectures, notice boards

2. Milk prices, is it possible to organise a series of talks across all the vet schools? Could potentially do this in coordination with central FAVS, building relationships....

This is quite closely linked to our profession....let’s get students engaged first! JAVS article twitter/facebook!! We need to get some wider student perspective to back-up what we are stating before taking this further. HOWEVER we as AVS are keen to work more closely with FAVS and UNZVS.

3. Drug licensing, a colleague mentioned about what they saw on placement. As it currently stands licensing is based on profitability and not evidence.

   For Example Antibiotics;

   Blanket EU regulations to prevent resistance may mean only using licenced products. This won’t work in reality as licensing is not based on resistance-use etc. So will most likely enhance antibiotic resistance e.g. baytril only licenced antibiotic for exotics, fluoroquinolones. So if you stay true to the cascade then we’re not responsibly using them.

   Antibiotics being sold cheaper than vet practices, by wholesalers online, to farms encourage unnecessary use of antibiotics often when it is not indicated and without direction from vets. Despite the vets having to issue a prescription for POM-V’s. Farmers don’t always follow these prescriptions and threaten to leave practice if not given cheaper access to antibiotics (extreme example). Monensin (Kexxtone boluses) used off label as “growth promoter”.

   This can become a welfare issue as farmers are using the wrong antibiotics when they’re not indicative while also not using pain relief because they are managing these cases themselves without talking to vets.

   Drug company can cancel a product leaving vets in a panic on what to use! While wholesalers promote price focused treatment rather than advice focused treatments.

   Any further thoughts on what we can do? This is going to affect us in practice with potential sudden loss of drugs either due to EU policy/ off licence bans... How can we protect our right to go off label.

   Vet essential drugs list? like WHO’s essential drug list.

NOTTINGHAM DISCUSSION

Antibiotic Awareness Day!!! Recently held at Bristol so this would be fantastic to replicate at other vet schools!!

DUBLIN REPORT – Amy Fitzgerald

Thanks everyone for all the cooperation at sports, ye helped make it such a great weekend :-)

We are finding it difficult to get the college to cooperate with sending out information to the students. I think the Dublin reps are going to have to meet with the office staff and try to find out why this is happening. However, last year when I was doing other jobs for Zoe, the staff were also very unhelpful, so I think we need to have a very strong argument when we go in the door as to why the college can’t push out AVS because VetSoc is now fully up and running.

After Sports the college was wrapping up the semester with exams so not much happened at the end of 2014.

This was our first week back and our annual Vet Rag week was held in aid of Donal Walsh Life Foundation. VetSoc put together a number of events - the Silent Auction, Vet Pantomime and the infamous Pub run. They also held a coffee morning ‘Keep Calm and Drink Tea’ on Wednesday when the college results were announced.

**DUBLIN QUERIES**

Has anyone ever had difficulty communicating with the staff about AVS? Or in getting them to cooperate?

- Currently if Dublin want to send out an email to the vet school, the reps need to email the vet school, who then forward the email out. This has some difficulties when the vet school fails to forward out emails. The reps are going to talk with the vet school about this and hopefully sort the issue.

**GLASGOW REPORT – Alex Andryszak**

FANTASTIC EVENT GUYS! Very well organised lectures/practicals!!! Looks like Glasgow will make a couple of hundred £’s once sports profits come in. More will be known at the March handover meeting :)

Glasgow has also officially started Peer-Support!! Lots of advertisement in the vet school about this so another fantastic achievement.
LIVERPOOL REPORT – Sarah Boland

Everyone had an amazing sports weekend - thank you so much Dublin crew, I know what it’s like trying to organise it and all the Liverpudlians had a brilliant time.

A member of the LUVS committee has taken over as WikiVet ambassador as myself an El felt we weren’t able to promote it as well as someone with fewer commitments.

I have spoken to the EMS coordinators as well as the rotation officer and the professional responsibilities lecturer about the ridiculous EMS requirements in Liverpool. They have changed most of the things we have requested and are meeting with 5th years that are worried about their ability to complete EMS before graduation. The staff did claim that the 28 day processing rule will become widespread throughout the Unis and that they won’t change it in Liverpool as it will be a universal requirement soon.

LIVERPOOL QUERIES

We are trying to come up with a date that would suit for congress 2016. **Could I please get dates in February that would not suit other universities due to exams.** A huge number of Liverpool students were once again disappointed that they could not attend due to congress coinciding with exams. We are going to send out an email looking for a committee at the end of next week - after preclin exams.

LIVERPOOL DISCUSSION

**ACTION POINT: WE NEED THE CONGRESS DATE WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK!! TO SORT ON FACEBOOK.** Also considering larger intake for Congress due to increasing popularity. **DATES DATES DATES!!!! We need to find a date within Jan - Feb that can support all vet schools.**

CAMBRIDGE REPORT – Eleanor Myerscough

Welfare:
Our welfare day last Friday was a great success- lots of people turned up to a talk by Vetlife’s Jane Coatesworth. There was also lots of bright clothing for Blooming Monday.
We will be having another welfare day for pre-clins later this term

We are having an AWF talk on welfare at slaughter later this term

New clinical skills lab finally opened last Wednesday. There’s some good stuff (thanks for all the advice!), though it's still not clear exactly when and how we'll be using it.
Still not allowed to start final year rotations before passing fifth year exams- it looks like they won’t budge on the issue.

I was very sad not to be able to come to Sports Weekend- I have had very good reports though!

CAMBRIDGE QUERIES

Does everyone else have online lecture notes? We are given paper handouts, and the organisation is sometimes a bit haphazard- our notes are meant to be online as well but very rarely are:

Nottingham - All lectures/practical sheets are online for the entire course. All students given a laptop at the start of the course
Bristol - paper handouts and online
RVC - online and paper handouts, plus lectures are recorded
Glasgow - online and paper handouts, some recorded lectures
Liverpool - mostly online, very few paper handouts
Dublin - mostly online, very few paper handouts
Edinburgh - all paper handouts
Surrey - all online

SURREY:
- Need to do a comprehensive RA before every placement!! This is unrealistic and should be moved to after the placement!

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

*MSG REPORT – Helena Diffey*

Pre-Clinical EMS guide - has been written by MSG committee, edited and formatted by marketing. It is now being tweaked by a professional graphic designer and is going to be printed and distributed alongside the next issue of JAVS. Thank you to all contributors!

*JUNIOR & SENIOR REPS:* When you receive it with JAVS PLEASE make sure it falls directly into the hands of ALL FIRST YEARS. Take it to their lectures and make everyone take their own copy home. We have invested AVS time and money (around £350 printing costs and £120 designer costs, subsidised by the BVA) because we felt it was a worthwhile project. The *distribution is key!*
Student and Grad profiles - thank you for everyone for providing us with your profiles. We have 7 graduate profiles so far, again thank you to those who have contributed to these. We could probably still do with a few more so please think of some good candidates and send them the info! Do you need me to send this out again? How should we disseminate the grad profiles? Could be released one by one on facebook, put in JAVS? To be discussed by James.

Things that we haven’t done:

‘Fitness to Practice: A dummies guide’ [Welfare & Advice] - possibly also turned into a poster for all vet schools.

EMS Health & Safety [Welfare & Advice]

App ... last meeting “will be ready by Christmas” :S

POLICY REPORT – Alex McGhee

POLICY QUERIES

POLICY DISCUSSION POINTS

We should resurrect the EMS survey!!! This is in regards to the decreasing length of EMS debate.

WELFARE REPORT – FLISS BARBER

Report

• Animal Welfare Foundation
  Talks are going well, we have two at each vet school can you please let me know when you have organized a talk so we can help publicize it.
  For those that don’t know AWF is the Animal Welfare Foundation, the BVA’s charity. They fund two animal welfare talk/debates at each vet school (apart from UCD) on any animal welfare topic. They offer free attendance to the AVS committee to the AWF forum in May. I recommend you attend at least once whilst you are still young and wild and free. Florence will email you closer to the time. Follow this link to see some of the debates that were recorded this year.
  http://www.bva-awf.org.uk/videos/2014/awf-discussion-forum

• Veterinary Benevolent Fund
  VBF are keen to support students in any way that they can, also to raise awareness of the support they offer vets once they are out in practice, let me know if you would like more stickers/business cards/promotional material.

Events

Let’s compile a calendar of the welfare events running throughout the vet schools and ask the wonderful James if he can squeeze it onto his wonderful website. Then people can pinch excellent
ideas off each other! Also it would be nice to know what went down well and not so well.

Surrey
Amelie and I popped down on the week beginning 20/10/14 to help at a student welfare day the aim was “to help our student develop skills to help with resilience in the face of pressure, rather than increase any anxiety about the vet course and profession.” Rather a mission statement but we will give it our best crack! Very impressed by level of thought put into veterinary professional welfare strand. They are very open to AVS’ input so let me know if there is something that has worked for your university that you feel Surrey will benefit from. They are also beginning student peer support.

Footnotes
1. For those that don’t know VBF runs “Vetlife” http://www.vetlife.org.uk/ which provides support for vet professionals. It does this by several means including “vethelpline” the telephone helpline for emotional support of the vet profession, it also provides financial support for vets going through difficult periods in their lives.

**MARKETING REPORT – Amelie Geddis**

**JAVS REPORT – Jordan Sinclair**

JAVS Spring is in the making. Similar amount of submissions this time. Make sure that juniors are forwarding on the reminder emails.

**WEB REPORT – James Bladon**

Excellent few months for web. Key highlights;

- New website going well, positive feedback
  - Audience 7,800 (Jan 2,940), Pageviews 14,000 (Jan 3,990)
  - Top news - Vet School Policy 2,704 ‘Dr’ title 2,327
  - Lots of scope for additions and extra content. News key in getting people onto site.
  - More tools for student engagement needed.
Facebook use increased, great engagement
  - Likes from 1,466 (5/3/14) up to 2,716 (25/1/14)
  - Sports Weekend Video 7,208
  - Still need more committee engagement.

Twitter
  - Much less engagement than FB. Possibly reflects audience. Steady increase. Important as this is our only mutual engagement with BVA.
  - Elections being trialled online for the first time. Watch this space! Going well so far.

What I need

Everyone to have invited all their friends to like the page. Great so far, but even more committee engagement on FB, twitter and the website please. 5* reviews. Content ideas and interesting news. Event pictures and write ups (perhaps make this a permanent feature). Thanks for using the Google Drive calendar.

Plans and Questions for this year

- Facebook target - 4,000 likes by March 2016
- Expand website to have more student engagement. Encourage access by highlighting.
- Google advertisement. Want to come top of ‘vet student’ listings.
- App - need a clear plan. £65/yr Apple License, £16 Google Play, App Software Cost
- Video about AVS for promotional use. Live streams. Events. Does use justify camcorder?
- Adobe Connect. Is a renewal warranted given limited use?
- Amelie needs numbers for media pack
- Discuss potential website benefits in working with IVSA. Work with new promotions officer.
• AHEMS guide to be put on website.
• Where should grad profiles be put up? We’re at page limit (20). Expansion?
• There are no blooming monday photos on the drive. Sad face...Don’t disappoint James!!
• Work with new BVA web person - are they in place now?
• Get Lydia on Google Drive - DONE
• T-shirt ‘I survived sports weekend’. Lots of website potential.

MARKETING DISCUSSION

App - We need a clear plan regarding what AVS wants to go with this. What do students want from this? Can we do a poll?

Camcorder - Let’s do a year trial using the BVA camcorder and see how useful it really is. If we don’t have a continuous need for a camcorder it might not be financially viable so let’s reassess after the trial period.

BVA has a new web-editor starting at the end of January, James to introduce himself and discuss collaboration between AVS and BVA

I survived AVS Sports merchandise etc, would this be worth looking further into? It could be a good source of income, but we need to put some thought into storage of the products, demand, etc.

Adobe connect....Can we find a better/cheaper alternative and also is it really needed!? Will it be worth the money? Helena used Google-Hangout and found that quite good.

ACTION PLAN:

BY WEDNESDAY 28TH PLEASE CAN EVERYONE UPLOAD PHOTOS/VIDEOS INTO THE GOOGLEDRIVE FOLDER WHICH JAMES WILL SET UP FOR AVS CONGRESS 2015.

IVSA REPORT (Jan 2014 - Jan 2015) – Vicky Carliell

What we’ve achieved in 2014-15

• Hosted the 64th IVSA Symposium at Edinburgh and Nottingham in December. 80 delegates from Tunisia to Taiwan attended for 8 days of lectures, workshops, cultural events, IVSA general assemblies, and socialising.

• Started IVSA at Surrey vet school. We now have two enthusiastic Surrey reps who are already planning their first exchange.

• Added a new position to our committee, the Veterinary Public Health Officer. Our VPHO produces regular newsletters to increase awareness of and interest in VPH. The first 4 issues are available online: http://www.flipsnack.com/9FFCA5B8B7A/ftiqraf5 and have
been well received, with students, lecturers and vets sending in comments and articles.

- Held IVSA talks and events at several UK&I vet schools, such as the working as a vet in developing countries talk in Liverpool, antibiotics awareness day at Bristol, and EMS abroad evening at RVC.

- Our Exchange Officer has helped several IVSA members from other countries to find EMS placements and accommodation in the UK.

- Launched a new facebook page (to replace our facebook group). We’re working to build our likes and increase our reach, in conjunction with our Twitter account and website.

- Held group exchanges including Nottingham-Thessaloniki, Edinburgh-Finland, Liverpool-Sweden, Bristol-Naples.

- Five IVSA UK&I members attended the 63rd IVSA symposium in Turkey in January, 7 attended the 63rd Congress in Indonesia in July, and several attended other events such as the Springbreak in Naples.

What we have planned for 2015-16

- Fix our website!

- Increase awareness of IVSA by holding more IVSA talks and events and better utilisation of our website, twitter, and facebook accounts.

- Make the Exchange Officer more efficient by increasing collaboration with the IVSA vet school reps.

- Collaborate with BVA Overseas Group book scheme to assist with collection and distribution of donated books.

- Hold a collection for the charity Computers 4 Africa.

- Improve our admin and organisation – online file storage, pre-prepared agendas for meetings etc.

SPORTS WEEKEND REPORT – Amy Fitzgerald

Thanks everyone for coming and organising to get your members across the English Channel, wouldn’t have been the same without all of you.

I think it was generally pretty 'Irish' and that's what we were hoping to achieve. I know we left Liverpool down with the standard of our sports day in comparison to theirs but in end we opted for the cheaper option because Dublin venues weren’t close to what we were budgeting for and driving out of Dublin would have been impractical.

I have no doubt Bristol will do an amazing job and totally out do and grow on Dublins attempt. All I will say is to make sure you do have a great committee- I was naive and
decided to let everyone that volunteered to help be part of specific groups and retrospectively it was too many cooks and it did always end up with me then getting spread too thin.

As people know by now the best advice is to get the biggies sorted as early as possible. Sponsorship (not easy to come across no matter how much effort you put into it), night time venues and the sports ground were key areas because you can’t sort transport, entertainment etc unless you have them. I kept a single diary for Sports with everything from meeting details, jobs to be done and contact details written in. It’s amazing how much it helps to have things in one place with everything written down in case of any disagreement on details between committee members etc.

Ideally get things done as early as possible but there will always be a delay on stuff and your back will be up against the wall towards the end so my advice is mind yourself by surrounding yourself with people who want to make the weekend a success- you become very surprised by the kindness some people show, and ask for help when you need it. I definitely took on more responsibility with trying to contact everyone then I should have.

Hope you had fun, and best of luck Bristol !!!