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Dear FVS Member

We are writing to the membership to explain some important changes to the administration of the Society which reflect the challenges that we now face.

We are a relatively small society and a Specialist Division of the British Veterinary Association (BVA). The majority of members are involved in aquaculture and its support areas, although we have a strong active group of members also involved with ornamental fish in practice or in public aquaria.

The FVS has achieved a lot:

- Regular meetings of vets and biologists involved in fish health work which have helped bring the various people involved together,
- Representation at national level meetings,
- Fish Welfare Symposium which was published as a book,
- Publication of a well-respected and peer-reviewed Journal
- Occasional newsletters,
- New website.

The Society is managed by several officers, currently

- President – Peter Scott
- Senior Vice President – Andrew Grant
- Junior Vice President – Jimmy Turnbull
- Meetings Secretary – Fiona MacDonald
- Treasurer / membership Secretary – Willie Wildgoose
- Publications officer – David Sutherland
- Elected member (as required)

It is a condition of our status as a Specialist Division of BVA that all Officers be BVA members (or at least eligible to be so) and this cannot change. Historically the Committee has been drawn from those in the aquaculture sector perhaps because these members more readily appreciate the need to be able to represent our interests in the area of legislation both locally and internationally.

We propose to make some changes in a number of areas

### 1. Constitution

The present constitution is largely unchanged from the early days of the Society and needs to be updated. We have been working on a completely new Constitution which will be published on the website and voted on at the next AGM. We hope that members will look at it and raise issues on the discussion boards of the new website so that comments and answers are there for all to appreciate. We hope to make better use of electronic communication both for consultation with members and to overcome difficulties of poor attendance at AGMs. The new draft constitution will clearly set out categories of membership, voting rights and other administrative arrangements. We will send out an email to all members with the proposed new Constitution (which will also be available from the website).

### 2. Membership administration

We have a very restricted pool of, quite frankly, ageing members — it took a year to replace our Treasurer. We need younger members to get involved and help develop the Society to better suit their needs for the future.

In the short term, we are committed to reducing the work load on existing Committee members.

- Payment of subscriptions

This will become completely electronic other than in a few exceptional cases. With this letter is a Standing Order Mandate. If you have not set up a SO arrangement for the current annual rate of £60, please do so without delay, so that from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 all members will pay this way.

If you have not paid your annual subscription (£60) for 2011, please continue your membership and arrange the correct payment through your bank or the FVS website. We will also accept credit card payments via Paypal through the website.

**It would be appreciated however if members use Standing Orders as this reduces work and costs for you and the Treasurer.**

The annual membership period runs from January to December and members who have not paid by the end of March each year will be deemed to have left the Society and will need to re-apply for membership – and will not receive mailings. Failure to pay membership subscriptions will result in one reminder and then being deleted from the list of members. It simply isn't fair to expect busy people to chase members to pay their subscriptions.

We have acquired sponsorship from three very generous drug companies (**Intervet-Schering Plough, Pharmaq, and Novartis Animal Vaccines**) which has given us good financial stability and enabled us to maintain a modest fee for membership.

### 3. Meetings

Historically we have held two scientific meetings per year. To improve networking, we are switching from two one-day meetings per year to **a single two-day meeting** most likely to be in the Edinburgh area although this is open for discussion at the AGM. The first is on **19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011** at the Norton House Hotel in Edinburgh (more details are enclosed and will soon be on the FVS website).

Our Committee meetings have always been held in the evenings before the scientific meetings, but we have experimented with Skype and find that very effective meetings can be held that way. This reduces the administrative burden on the Secretary and means that we can be more efficient and take decisions quickly.

#### 4. Communication

New **website** - we would welcome any offers from members, especially those familiar with Joomla software to be involved in managing it into the future. It isn't difficult and this is a good way to contribute to the Society.

Our **Journal** costs a considerable amount to publish per issue due to the combination of high quality and small numbers. This can only continue due to generous sponsorship from supporting sponsors. In the future, all individual papers will also be put on the website and this may well be the first step in an eventual transition to a purely electronic publication.

We hope that members appreciate the need for these changes and will become more actively involved with your Society in the future. The Fish Veterinary Society provides a forum which can and does bring together all of professionals working in the fish health sector. It is an access point for pharmaceutical companies and provides an ideal route for getting information into this highly specialist sector. With your help we can take this forward, use the electronic medium more and more.

Yours faithfully

*Peter Scott*

*Andrew Grant*

*Jimmy Turnbull*

Peter Scott FRCVS  
President

Andrew Grant MRCVS  
Senior Vice President

James F. Turnbull MRCVS  
Junior Vice President

Any feedback please to: [president@fish-vet-society.org.uk](mailto:president@fish-vet-society.org.uk), or phone 01962-813554