

**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURISTS**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD VIA ZOOM**  
**24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

**PRESENT:** PRESIDENT: Heike Kopac, TREASURER: Gary Cregan, COUNCIL: Emma Hedderson, Charles Foster, Gwen Covey-Crump, Jennifer Porter, Dietrich von Schweinitz

1. **Apologies for absence** - no apologies were received. HK opened the meeting.
  
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019** – these were agreed and signed by the President. Proposed by HK, seconded by GC.
  
3. **Matters Arising** – no additional matters were discussed
  
4. **Officer's Reports for 2021**
  - i) **President's Report** - The President discussed the difficulties of the last year, including cancellation of courses and the financial impact of this. A lot has been done towards the provision of courses online. The online Congress has done very well today and we now have to look forward to how we can put this into practice with the other courses. The intention is to run online courses alongside practical meetings/sessions. The next step will be to sort out the Foundation Course as per the recent presentation by JP. At the moment we are all trying to catch up after the dramatic changes brought on by last year, but the ABVA has coped very well.  
JP thanked HK for stepping up to take on the Presidency and also for her contribution to today's meeting.
  - ii) **Treasurer's Report** – GC congratulated all organisers/speakers for today's meeting. GC summarised the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2020. Turnover increased from £80,665 to £90,905 between 2019 and 2020. In 2020 we ran a deficit of £4887 compared to that of £10,077 for the previous year. Reserves have fallen from £116,500 (2019) to £111,613 (2020). Standing out on the income/expenditure are membership fees which were £23,968 in 2019, reducing to £16,670 in 2020. We ran more Foundation Courses in the year ending March 2020, leading to an increase in related income from £24,600 in 2019 to £48,510 in 2020. This highlights the importance of the Foundation Course to the Association. Our income rose from £81,567 to £91,809 in 2020. In terms of expenditure, Council meeting expenses have reduced. Printing costs and carriage also reduced and should improve further with the online provision of the newsletter. We have also saved money on trade stands. Professional fees are much the same.

When we look forward to the current year, there has to be some warnings. We will see a huge fall-off in income, but admin fees remain the same, alongside the costs of JP and DvS.

Bank accounts - in March 2020, the main deposit account held £65,000, a smaller account £16,000 and the current account £58110. The current account balance is now approximately

£23,000. We will need to move some money from the deposit account to cover the costs of the online courses.

Membership numbers are similar - we are retaining members.

The Spring Meeting was well attended and we achieved sponsorship to cover the majority of costs.

JP commented that we have maintained a very healthy bank balance over the years and so we have had reserves to cope with the last year. We also invested in the membership area of the website. The dip in membership is likely to be related to the offering of an extension to membership due to Covid. We have done well to maintain membership numbers given that we have not enrolled many new members as a result of Foundation Courses. We are not currently in a position to increase membership fees but may get some cancelled members returning once we are able to offer more courses online.

Looking forward to the online Foundation Course, if delegate numbers remain similar to previous years, even the first year should generate some profit after the subtraction of setup fees.

5. **Accounts** – Accounts from 2019-2020 were considered and accepted. They were approved by Jennifer Porter and seconded by Heike Kopac.
6. **RESOLVED:** Murray Smith were appointed as accountants/auditors of the Association for 2021-2022 and the Trustees were authorised to fix their remuneration. Proposed by Gary Cregan and seconded by Paul Cockerham.
7. **RESOLVED:** The re-appointment of the British Medical Acupuncture Society was discussed and agreed. This was proposed by Gary Cregan and seconded by Heike Kopac. JP added sincere thanks to the staff of the BMAS office, led by Julie Cummings. The last year has been very challenging but the communication and help from them has been fantastic as always.
8. **Council Membership** – The present Council members will remain on Council and were all re-elected. Proposed by JP and seconded by HK . The Council appointed two new members in 2020 - Gwen and Emma and would like to officially welcome them and thank them for their contributions so far.

### **Any other business**

Paul Cockerham asked for more details about the online Foundation Course and the provision of practical sessions. JP advised that there will still be a practical aspect with practicals run in smaller numbers, both for Covid compliance but also to try to improve the quality of the

sessions. Normally there would be four practicals on the Foundation Course, but now there will be 2day sessions run throughout the year, either canine or equine. We would ask that they attend two days of practical teaching, and the species is their choice. Recap lectures/discussion will be interspersed with practicals. These would be run by one lecturer and one lab assistant.

Currently Linda Boggie and Alex MacDonald are on board and the platform is ready to go.

The fascia course will continue but there is not the suitability here for online teaching as the course is so hands-on.

JP would like to develop courses for RVNs in support for acupuncture patients/clinics/communication etc.

There was also a discussion today regarding a course on client interaction and support for clients caring for patients with chronic pain.