

## BVPA Spring meeting, 23-24 March 2017, Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate

Poultry vets recently gathered in Harrogate for the BVPA Spring Meeting with a rich international mix of delegates and speakers. The theme of the meeting was 'New and Emerging Diseases' enhanced by some fascinating clinical reports.

To set the scene Richard Irvine (APHA) presented a beginner's guide to surveillance with examples of current threats under the mantle of Actionable Intelligence. Other papers covered such diverse topics as viral arthritis, red mites and gizzard erosion.

The scientific programme was perfectly complemented by dinner, the highlight of which was the after dinner speech by BVA President Gudrun Ravetz, whose talk gave us insights into her breathtakingly busy life. Her theme of the Veterinary Family is very relevant in these times of political and social change.

The Association's AGM was a lively well-attended affair. David Welchman handed over the



Presidency to Phil Hammond. Phil is a partner in a specialist poultry practice in Norfolk and in his spare time chairs the 2017 WVPA Congress organising committee. David now assumes the role of Senior Vice President, and thanked Keith Warner for his tireless support as SVP. Richard Irvine becomes the new Junior Vice President. The Association welcomed a number of new members, including several women and young graduates.

The meeting demonstrated the interaction between poultry vets and the wider veterinary community, and specifically with the BVA on issues such as antimicrobial resistance, Brexit, surveillance and farm assurance schemes.

Association members play vital roles in dealing with the recent outbreaks of Avian Influenza, both at farm level and in determining national policy. At the time of writing the restriction to house free-range poultry are being lifted.

In addition to these roles the Association is running an investigation into the vexing problem of respiratory disease in gamebirds.

The meeting presentations are available on the members' section of the BVPA website.

If you are not a member please visit the website <http://www.bvpa.org.uk/> for information about joining the Association.

Finally, a reminder that the BVPA is hosting the World Veterinary Poultry Association Congress in Edinburgh, 4-8 September, <http://www.wvpac2017.com/>. Do please join us at this landmark event in poultry veterinary science.

John Tasker  
BVPA, March 2017