

Thank you Chris for that emotional presidents final address and we're so sorry that you can't be here in person with us today after your eventful term in office but realise of course that in a marriage the happiness of the wife takes priority!

The year has seen huge and unexpected changes as Chris has described not only for us as an association but also for the veterinary profession as a whole. I hope that next year doesn't hold quite so many surprises for me. In fact when I was asked to stand for the junior vice president's role 3 yrs ago, I was assured that 'I didn't have to do much' attend a couple of committee meetings, write an article or 2 for the magazine if I felt like it, nothing too onerous at all. So in complete naivety I accepted the offer and literally 3 weeks later the RCVS published their changes to their position statement on complementary therapies. Never has the term 'baptism of fire' been more appropriate.

I have to say that Chris was amazing during this period with the RCVS. It can hardly have been the presidency he was expecting either but he led from the front, gave clear direction in the Associations response into this attack on the very integrity of both it and homeopathy in general and was tireless in pursuing the defence of homeopathy, both in attending the marches and the meetings with the RCVS, in the one of them turning up in a T shirt over his shirt and tie saying 'Homeopaths do it Naturally' which caused a few raised eyebrows and generally being an inspiration in committee meetings. I know that various health problems have obstructed his participation quite so much this year but I believe he really was the man for the job when it mattered most and I for one will always be eternally grateful for his guiding hand, voice of determination and grammatical corrections in important documents. Thank you Chris

I hope the 3 years of my presidency will not be so eventful. I hope I can live up to Chris's example and provide clear leadership and steer the association smoothly during my term in office. I feel we have a strong team with Sara taking on the treasurer role and Nazrene stepping up to secretary which was doubly difficult given the circumstances of Stu's death. I know she's had a lot to wrestle with initially as we had access problems to BAHVS documents on Stu's computer but she's already dealt with these issues in a calm and practical way so thank you both Naz and Sara. I know I am also lucky in having the wisdom and experience of Pete to call upon, the enthusiasm and inspiration of Geoff and the encouragement and support of Barbara and Mark Elliot who are also on the committee and of course the dedication of Malene in overseeing the magazine, website and Facebook page. We really wouldn't be half the organisation we are without all of these people working away selflessly behind the scenes. I would also like to say a special thank you to Jane who has now completed her term as senior vice president, her voice of reason and integrity has been a shining example in the last few years. She can now be released from the chains of office, thank you so much Jane for all you have done for the association over the years. As we can't present you with the obligatory bunch of flowers, you'll find a token of our appreciation will be delivered to you in the next few days.

I guess you may be wondering what sort of president you'll be getting for the next 3 years. A slightly nervous one may be the answer at the moment but I hope also one who listens to the

voice of the members and who wants to move the association on from where it has been in the last few years to a new beginning.

I believe that one of the biggest problems affecting our association is the lack of younger vets training in homeopathy. As you know I took on the responsibility of updating member's details for the find a vet section on the website and emailed most of you individually and to be honest my findings were quite scary. There were several members who had retired and several more that did very little homeopathy due to a combination of reasons. I hope during my term in office to increase awareness of homeopathy among younger vets and increase the number of vets training in homeopathy. To that end my first project is a joint one with Mark Elliot in producing a booklet on holistic therapies to go out to all final year vet students and nurses for the next 3 years. Articles for this have mostly been written, a designer and sponsors are in place and we are hoping to distribute it before the end of the year. Next year we hope to expand it into a book that will include more detail about a greater range of therapies. I hope to strengthen our links with other complementary therapy organisations and I hope to continue Chris's program of regional meetings once Covid restrictions allow. Above all I hope to be someone that will listen to the concerns and ideas of the members because without you there would be no association.

So thank you and wish me luck!