

Delegates flock to hen CPD fund-raiser

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On a Saturday in late May, the BVNA's Kent branch held its first CPD and fund-raising day, with more than 100 veterinary nurses, reps, speakers and helpers turning up to Hadlow College in Tonbridge.

The day's aim? To raise awareness and funds for the British Hen Welfare Trust (BHWT) – the BVNA's charity of the year.

Getting things started

The day began with all delegates receiving a goodie bag, kindly supplied by Greenies.

At 10am, lectures began, with two streams running concurrently. In one lecture, the BHWT's Karron McCarthy Sadd gave an overview on hen husbandry, while in another VBS Direct demonstrated how to use low-level laser therapy, also known as the K-Laser.

Both lectures were followed by a cake break, giving delegates time to mingle with company reps while grabbing some light refreshments before the next lectures began.

Resuming, Colin Thorpe, of Merial's veterinary team, spoke about feline viruses in room one, followed by Dawn Sheppard from Docsinnovent demonstrating how to use its supraglottic airway device, the v-gel.

In room two, meanwhile, RVN Samantha Thompson spoke about veterinary nursing care plans, followed by an interactive session for the RVN by Hilary Orpet from the RCVS.



Delegates look around the exhibition space.

Thought-provoking content

Miss Orpet's talk about the RVN and the profession gave everyone a lot to think and talk about, with delegates telling me it was a "thought-provoking" lecture.

"Hilary's talk was excellent and really got me thinking about my role as a professional – especially as I have been feeling a bit 'out of love' with work recently," said one.

"We are so lucky to have people like her, and you, working so hard for us."

Fund-raising efforts

Lunch and more time to speak to reps followed, which provided the chance for people to join in with fund-raising – the tombola had already been going well, with raffle tickets selling fast. Prizes were outstanding and, to name a few, included:

- a handheld pulse oximeter kindly donated by Burtons of Maidstone
- a set of electric clippers from Eickemeyer
- three luxury dog beds
- tickets to London Zoo, with a behind-the-scenes look into its veterinary department (thanks to RVN Matthew Rendle)
- Champagne
- wine
- a picnic hamper
- a Ted Baker perfume set
- vouchers
- dog food
- a full CD box set of The Beatles Collection donated by the Apple Record Label
- veterinary books donated by Vet Professional

Also to help with the fund-raising was “Guess the name of the teddy”. This was a cute little teddy bear dressed in a nurse’s uniform named Sister Ted.

Unfortunately, nobody guessed this; however, RVN Lisa Broad from Chatham did guess the name of Doctor Ted, which was by far the closest. She took the teddy home, along with a goodie bag that included a small bottle of wine, a stethoscope and sweets.

“Guess how many sweets in the jar” was another fund-raising game that, again, was not guessed (the correct answer was 79), but RVN Samantha Hunt from Folkestone was closest with 80, so won the sweets and a goodie bag.

Down to *Babesia* business



Efforts to fund-raise, including a tombola and a raffle, saw the day raise £800 for the BHWT.

The final lectures of the day saw Mrs Thompson and Dr Thorpe speak once more. Mrs Thompson spoke on nursing the neurology patient, which included an interactive quiz with a prize at the end. In room two, meanwhile, Dr Thorpe gave us a much-needed update on Babesia – with the recent outbreak in Essex, it was an important topic to cover. As the crow flies, Essex is not that far from Kent, so it's important nurses in the area and its surrounds have a full understanding of the parasite.

Chairing the lectures in room one was Louise Duke, a final-year student who, while having stewarded for the BVNA several times before, was enjoying her first attempt at chairing. She did a great job and big thanks go to her for giving up her day to help. Over in room two, BVNA past-president Claire Fraser had chairing duties and thanks go to her too for giving up her day to help.

I received some great comments on the final lectures of the day – “the lecture on the neurological patient was my favourite, as it reminded me of the reason I became a nurse,” said one delegate. “It was delivered in a very professional manner and engaged the audience in a fun learning activity.”

The Babesia talk, meanwhile, was said to have an “excellent speaker” and a “really thorough update” that was “very informative”. All lectures were extremely well delivered and this was reflected in this great feedback.

Lots of support

Big thanks go to everyone who helped to make the day possible, including the company reps who attended and stayed for the day. Special thanks also go to Greenies for supplying the delegate bags, Emma from Merial for supplying goodies for the delegate bags, Jayne from Norbrook for the

notepads

and Docsinnovent, Merial and VBS Direct for sponsorship of their lectures.

Thanks also goes to all the speakers, Hadlow College for allowing us to use the venue, not to mention all the delegates who came along and made this day possible.

I also can't forget my team of fantastic helpers – my mum, my sister-in-law, Hannah, Sarah, Harry, Sam, Claire and Louise.



Delegates received lots of goodies on the day.