

# AHDA

## **AHDA – July Newsletter**

### **AHDA Conference Postponed**

In light of the ongoing Corona Virus situation, AHDA has made the difficult decision to postpone the AHDA Conference planned for January 13th and 14th 2021. The whole event is now rolled over to 2022 and is booked in for the 12th and 13th January 2022 at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole.

The venue, the Hilton Metropole Hotel at the NEC is still currently closed and with uncertainty of how the next few months might pan out, it has been agreed that the best option would be to postpone now, ahead of the planning, preparation and financial commitment over the coming weeks and months, for all concerned.

This is a great disappointment as the AHDA Conference is seen as one of the industry highlights at the start of each year. It will be the first time that the event has not taken place in the Association's 35 year history. For sponsors, exhibitors and delegates alike it is a key focal point and many would take the opportunity to build their own meetings and events around the Conference.

The Association AGM will still take place and is scheduled for Tuesday 12th January. The location has yet to be decided and could even be a virtual AGM if the need arises.

Whilst the event is being postponed, it will give us all a greater lead in time for 2022 and so over the coming months we will be starting to put the initial plans in place and contacting exhibitors and sponsors alike. So that we can all look forward to being back at the AHDA Conference in full swing for January 12th and 13th 2022.

### **Continued support to AHDA Members and RAMA (SQPs)**

The work of AHDA continues and as AHDA is represented on a wide range of national groups and organisations, this has continued. Like many others, in this new world, contacts and meetings have moved from being face to face, to being held on line with virtual meetings through Teams, Zoom, WebEx etc.

There is a huge amount of discussion taking place at present with the UK Government looking at forward thinking policies for animal health and welfare. AHDA is represented at these meetings and contributing where needed. There are certainly exciting times ahead.

AHDA will continue to represent AHDA member's views 52 weeks a year and also feed back to the membership potential changes and any future implications that might affect the industry as a whole. Should you or your company have any concerns, problems or issues that AHDA could assist with, please contact the AHDA office.

### **Additional support to RAMA (SQPs)**

AHDA is looking to support RAMA (SQPs) who, through lockdown, have been extremely busy. So AHDA is looking at additional CPD support across all sectors and more detail about this will follow shortly. This should also help to compensate for those RAMA (SQPs) who attend the AHDA Conference, gaining CPD points.

### **Credit to AHDA members**

Credit again must go to the AHDA member distributor retailers and all those connected with the animal health industry who have continued to operate through this crisis to ensure the continued supply of essential products and services for animal health and welfare.

It has been an exceptional time for everyone through this pandemic; however the resilience, determination and sheer hard work has been a credit to all concerned.

### **From the last AHDA Conference**

Back in January, AHDA held a very successful AHDA Conference and Exhibition at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole Hotel at the NEC, a packed exhibition hall, 500 delegates and a very impressive line up of speakers. On the Wednesday evening we had the Gala Dinner during which

Phillip Holden was awarded the Chris Hamilton memorial award for outstanding service to the animal health industry. Delegates also raised an amazing £2234.00 for the Farming Community Network (FCN) who supports the farming industry. The second highest request to FCN is for help regarding mental health issues and we hope that this donation will, in some small way, help to continue the fantastic work that they carry out.

Through the restrictions of Corona Virus the cheque was handed over in a virtual way back in May.

**Bryan Lovegrove, AHDA Secretary General presenting the cheque for **£2234.00** to Vickie Beers, National Partnership Manager for FCN**



Facebook page

- <https://www.facebook.com/animalhealthdistributorsassociation/>

**If any AHDA member company has any particular concerns or challenges please contact the AHDA office.**

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