

## Biographies of those seeking re-election or election to the Board



### David Black

BVM&S DBR DVetMed FRCVS

**I am seeking re-election for a one-year term, to the post of Non-Executive Director.**

I have served on the Board of the VDS since 2012, becoming Senior Independent Director in 2019 and Chair in 2020. My report on the last year is included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements, but in summary it has been an interesting, stimulating and challenging first year as Chair!

During my time as a NED, I have tried to bring constructive challenge whilst at the same time supporting the Executive Directors and wider VDS team. As Chair, I am passionate about building a strong and healthy culture, with an "As One" ethos, as we work to continue addressing the needs of our members within a mutual organisation that is highly regulated. Topics that are high on our agenda alongside business strategy are risk management, diversity and inclusion, ESG (Environmental, Societal and Governance), and veterinary sustainability.

I remain a vet first and foremost, and feel I am fortunate to be in a position of having real insights into the profession, as a clinician, a practice owner, and as part of wider networks of collaborating veterinary businesses, both in the UK and further afield. Yet I am acutely aware of the responsibilities and requirements, both personal and corporate, of being on the Board of a regulated insurance company.

I feel we must never lose sight of the mutuality and unique focus on being a company developed to protect and support veterinary professionals, practices and businesses, enabling them to focus on animal health and welfare. I would be honoured to continue to be part of the team that strives every day to provide a high-quality service to our members and if re-elected I commit to continue working hard on your behalf.



### Richard Clapham

**I am seeking election to the Board for a three year term, as Non-Executive Director.**

I am currently the Global CEO for DUAL Group having joined in 2016. DUAL is the world's largest international underwriting agency and Lloyd's largest international cover holder based in 16 countries and providing over 50 insurance products.

I have over 37 years' experience in the industry, having spent a decade at XL Catlin, where I was a member of

the group underwriting board, and prior to that I led Markel's professional indemnity division.

Outside of work, I have extensive equestrian interests and enjoy nothing more than a weekend racing down the mountains during the ski season.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year of getting to understand more about VDS. The pace of change in insurance is considerable and I hope I can bring some of these perspectives to the VDS.



### Andrew Davies

BVet Med CertCHP FRCVS

**I am seeking election to the Board for a three year term, as Non-Executive Director.**

I am a farmer's son from South Wales who qualified from the RVC in 1986, gaining the RCVS Certificate in Cattle Health and Production in 1992 and associated Advanced Practitioner status. I worked in South Devon and New Zealand before becoming a partner in Southfield Veterinary Centre, Dorchester in 1991. We merged the farm side with a neighbouring practice in 2009 to become Synergy Farm Health, now a 40-vet farm only practice servicing farms across Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire and East Devon and also working with many allied organisations within the agricultural industry, food chain and veterinary academia.

I have been in the role of Managing Director since its inception and am proud to lead and work alongside a fantastic team at Synergy. I still retain a clinical interest including Responsible Use of Medicines/AMR and proactive Herd Health Planning for intensive calf rearing systems.

Since the introduction of TB tendering in 2015, I have also

been POV (Principal Official Veterinarian) for XLFarmcare West Ltd, the West region Delivery Partner for Veterinary Services to DEFRA.

I also have responsibilities for POM-VPS Medicines Procurement for XLVets UK Ltd and am a Governor for Kingston Maurward College, Dorset.

I was delighted on behalf of the whole Synergy team to win the UK Food & Farming Industry Animal Health Adviser of the Year award in 2019. It was then even more humbling that I was recognised and privileged to be awarded an FRCVS for Meritorious Contribution to the Profession in 2020.

It would be an honour and a privilege to be elected to the Board of VDS as a Non-Executive Director. I bring both a large-animal veterinary background and also a breadth of practice management and leadership experience to provide insight and ideas to aid in ensuring VDS continue to deliver their trusted and invaluable role to members in this ever-changing world.

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### Gudrun Ravetz

BVSc GDL Cert Mgmt MRCVS

**I am seeking election to the Board for a three year term, as Non-Executive Director.**

I qualified from Liverpool in 2002 and worked in a number of companion animal clinical settings as well as working in veterinary management and industry. I undertook a Graduate Diploma in Law in 2010. I have always been heavily involved in all aspects of the veterinary profession and was President of the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons in 2012 and in 2015 I joined the British Veterinary Association (BVA) Officer team and was President of the BVA in 2016/17. I have had a particular interest in workforce matters within the profession and during my time at the BVA worked on this area in conjunction with the University of Exeter. This led me to speak at national and international veterinary conferences regarding the

challenges and opportunities facing the profession and particularly on the challenges and opportunities around workforce matters.

Most recently I chaired the BVAs Good Workplace Working Group. I am also a Director and Chair of Vet Sustain.

I am honoured to stand for the position of Non-Executive Director of the VDS. The VDS is highly valued and trusted by its members and I look forward to working for the good of the membership. As a business as well as a profession it is important that our values around the Environment, Social and Governance are embedded in our everyday activities.

I hope to share my knowledge, pragmatism and enthusiasm to help the VDS to continue to be a thriving and sustainable mutual working for its members.