



RICHARD GARD



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Group visits one of the world's leading clinical teaching hospitals – page 16

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More calls for a veterinary union

■ "I tried contacting the BVA ... but they were of no help other than telling me that I was right, but there was nothing they could do about it."

■ "I am actually having to take my employer to an employment tribunal to get justice."

■ "If there was a union, I would sign up straight away! Really, why has it taken so long?"

These are just three of the comments received since the last issue. – for more, turn to page 28

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Professor Ed Hall (left), president of the BSAVA, with the president-elect, Dr Richard Dixon, at the recent VPMA congress (report on page 39). A preview of next month's BSAVA congress (2nd-5th April), including an interview with Dr Dixon, begins on page 4.

AWARDS FOR PRACTICES WITH WOW! FACTOR



The winning practices in the first Veterinary Practice WOW! Awards received their prizes of a gourmet dinner and £500 at the Athenaeum Hotel on London's Piccadilly last month. They will also receive a plaque to display in their practices. Shown above is the team from Village Vet in Potters Bar, Herts., winner in the category for practices with no more than 10 full-time of FTE staff, flanked by representatives of the firms which sponsored the awards – Ray Cox (left) of Medifinance and Gavin Willis of Paradigm Design; they are (from left): Ashley Gray, Kirsty Parker, Charlotte Searle and John Kidman. The partner who entered the practice for the award, Russell Welsh, was unable to attend. Below is the team from Your Vets at Rayleigh Weir, Essex, winner in the category for practices with more than 10 full-time or FTE staff, flanked by John Tandy (left), the consultant editor of Veterinary Practice, and Roger Gullidge of Paradigm Design; they are (from left): Holly Bassett, Kelly Hanmore, Nat Roche and Michelle Warwick.



THE winning practices in the first WOW! Awards, set up to recognise excellence in front-of-house design, facilities and service, were outstanding, according to the judges. Village Vet in Potters Bar and Your Vets in Rayleigh beat off stiff competition to win their respective categories.

Runners-up to Village Vet in the small practice category were Beeches Veterinary Centre in Melksham, Wilts., and Walker & Wikely Veterinary Surgeons in Oakengates, Shropshire; runners-up to Your Vets in the larger practice category were Abbey Vet Centre in Chester-le-Street and Cedarmount Veterinary Clinic in Bangor, Co. Down.

Highly commended entries in the smaller practice category were Congleton Veterinary Centre in Cheshire, Corner House Equine Clinic in Warwickshire and Keynsham Veterinary Surgery in Bristol; and in the larger practice category Animed Veterinary Hospital in Southampton and Severn Veterinary Centre – Berkeley House in Worcester.

Superb entries were received from across the UK and it was sad to have to eliminate so many of them in order to name winners, the judges commented.

Jenna Maryniak visits the two winning practices – page 30



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