

**Thomas Fearnley and Anna Maxwell**

**LUVS Co-Presidents**

**Institute of Veterinary Science**

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To the incoming cohort of vet freshers 2023,

Firstly, congratulations on getting a confirmed place at Liverpool Vet School! You should be extremely proud of such an achievement; all your hours of hard work have paid off! You will soon be studying at the **best** vet school for the next 5 years - not biased at all!!

We have decided to do things a little different this year, and have opted for a co-presidency, meaning you are fortunate enough to get two for the price of one! This year’s co-presidency consists of Anna Maxwell and Thomas Fearnley and we are both keen to ensure the best experience for this coming year! We will introduce ourselves separately, and at the same time tell you a bit more about the Liverpool University Veterinary Society (LUVS).

Here's a little bit about us!

* Hello first years of 2023! My name is Anna, and I’m from a busy dairy farm in North Northumberland, so I like talking about all things cows! When not doing vet things, I enjoy running and hiking with my Border Terriers Fudge, Rolo and Nancy. I am also a keen musician and can often be found with my violin in hand, especially when there’s ceilidh dancing involved! LUVS has been a key part in my vet school journey so far and really does provide a vital role in enriching your experience! This can be through talks, sports teams, parties and fancy events!
* Hi, I’m Tom and I come from a village just south of Lancaster. When not in lectures, I enjoy the gym and a lot of sport, including captaining the vet mixed hockey club for a year and playing at high level for the uni. You’ll also catch me up in the Lakes, whether it be camping, walking my Labrador Rolo, or sending the bike down some trails. Coming from the middle of nowhere, I immediately felt welcomed by LUVS through our amazing fresher events during welcome week and the sports societies who really try to create a family atmosphere! Your time with LUVS will be hugely varied, from black tie events like our Summer Ball, to evening talks via the sub-societies with special guests who can be massively entertaining! As sports are a mainstay of LUVS, I recommend trying to fit in as many taster sessions at the start of the year as you can; all of them require zero experience or equipment and will coach you at whatever level you might be!

Our aim as presidents is to provide each and every one of you with a packed and memorable year, and if you have any questions or queries, please don’t hesitate to contact us on luvspres@liverpool.ac.uk! Remember to work hard and play hard and you will do well in vet school!

LUVS isn’t just about sport though! We have a wide array of sub societies who provide specialist talks and fun practical days involving the species they support. Our seven sports teams welcome all abilities and players can attend either for the social or competitive element! We highly recommend you have a go at anything you would like to try, don’t be shy, we were all new once! You can find out more about each sub-society using the links on the Welcome Week Page.

We take student welfare and wellbeing very seriously in LUVS, and through the support networks in LUVS, the Vet School, University and wider veterinary community, we can confidently say that help is always close by should you ever need it. We also have an amazing team of Peer Supporters, which consists of our very own vet students, trained by the university counselling service. Peer supporters are amazing and can provide confidential help and advice should we ever need it during our time here. We also have a fantastic “Buddy System”, which sees first years individually matched up with older years with the aim of providing them with support and advice on literally anything; from revision methods to bus routes, to recommended places to eat! At the very least, they are a friendly face around campus, and you can look forward to meeting them, and the rest of your buddy family, during welcome week!

We have close connections to many other national organisations, such as the Association of Veterinary Students (AVS), who’s representatives are our way of communicating with the British Veterinary Association (BVA). The International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA) links vet schools and organising exchanges across the world, as well as helping to provide excellent learning resources through our current reps.

**LUVS Freshers Week 2023**

To properly welcome you into the vet school from day one, we have created the perfect opportunity for you to let your hair down and get a taste of LUVS and university life with our very own Vet Freshers Week during week 1 of term. We are the only society to do this, and it is one of the highlights of the year. All the events are completely FREE for LUVS members (another great incentive to join the best society in Liverpool!) and provide a great opportunity for you to meet new people and make some incredible memories. The events you can look forward to include: Meet the buddy, bar crawls, pub quizzes, a cake, coffee and chat afternoon, buddy meal, oh … and not to mention lots of fancy dress! Keep your eyes peeled for more details!

**Membership**

It is not compulsory to join LUVS as a vet or biovet student, but we strongly recommend you do, as your time here will not be the same without it! Payment to sign up to LUVS is a one-off fee of £75, and gives you membership to a lifetime of support, as well as access to fantastic opportunities while you’re at Liverpool, such as:

* Free access to all freshers’ events in first semester
* Free Vet Freshers’ Week t-shirt
* Free freshers ‘welcome pack’
* Free entry to LUVS talks
* Discounted, sometimes free entry to LUVS events throughout all five years
* A ‘buddy family’ to guide you through your time at Liverpool
* Lifelong membership through entry into the Alumni Association upon graduating, as well as free and discounted access to Alumni events as a student LUVS member
* Drinks deals
* AVS membership for vet students, allowing participation in fantastic nationwide events with other vet schools, such as the infamous Sports Weekend.
* Access to JAVS journals, bursaries and competitions
* Free Vet times subscription - follow the link to sign up to their sign up form <https://vettimes2.typeform.com/to/ED3Anj>
* Eligibility to join the LUVS committee and have your say on how the society and vet school operate
* Eligibility to join any of the subsocieties and sports teams the vet school has to offer

Securing a LUVS membership really is great thing to do to kick start to your time here at Liverpool, we highly recommend it!

**If we’ve managed to tempt you, please follow these steps:**

1. Please make a bank transfer of £75 online to **Liverpool University Veterinary Society**

Account number: 20590223

Sort code: 20-51-43

**PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AS THE REFERENCE** so that we can keep track of your payment and of our new members.

1. When you have made the payment, please fill out this google doc, confirming you have made the payment.

 <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejIhNNk-VTmImQTnZsVofCHH4j6nuGmORMwLuxAB6Y7vgeeQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail_form_link>

1. Please make this payment by 01/09/2023 so that we can ensure everything is in place for when you arrive later that month.

We’ve rambled on enough now, so to find out any more information, check out our website <http://www.luvs.org.uk> to get to know your committee for 2023/24! We have a public Facebook page ‘Liverpool University Veterinary Society’ which you can find and like, and then add yourself to ‘Liverpool Veterinary Society (LUVS) 2023-2024’, which is our members-only Facebook page for this year. Also, especially for your cohort, we have set up the Facebook page ‘Liverpool Vets 2023 – 2028’. The links to these and our other social media outlets can be found below.

Just to finish off, we’d all just like to say a MASSIVE CONGRATULATIONS. Liverpool is an amazing city and we’re a very friendly bunch here in the vet school. Hopefully, this letter has given you an insight into the wonderful world of LUVS, we’re all looking forward to meeting you all very soon! If you have any questions, please email us (luvspres@liverpool.ac.uk). For the meantime, on behalf of ourselves, Kate (Leahurst VP), Anna (Liverpool VP), Alice (Secretary), Phil (Treasurer) and the rest of the committee, we’d like to say WELL DONE, and we shall see you all very soon.

With lots of LUVS love,

Tom and Anna

LUVS Co-Presidents 2023-24

**Website links**

President email - luvspres@liverpool.ac.uk

Website - [www.luvs.org.uk](http://www.luvs.org.uk)

Public LUVS Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/livunivets>

Members-only LUVS Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/253004918232338/>

Incoming freshers Facebook page (lots of useful info will be posted on here) – Liverpool Vets 2023-28 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/302397885528429>

PRELUVED (page for Liverpool vet students to buy and sell second hand items- great for textbooks, waterproofs, vet school clothing etc.) - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/607941139361779>

Instagram and Twitter - @livunivets