



The UK Association for Gestalt Practitioners

## 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2020 UKAGP Annual General Meeting took place online using Zoom on Saturday 20th June, 2020, 11.15-12.00pm.

**Members Present:** Akers, Timothy; Asherson Bartram, Claire; Beauchamp, Liz; Beckham, Daisy; Blend, Jon; Bodini, Silvia; Bradshaw, Anna; Burda, Karolina; Burt, Maria; Christopher, Lucy; Connolly, Peter; Crowe, Jemma; Darvasi, David; Dias, Ron; Dornellas Fontanelle, Raphaela; Dowsett, Lynn; Duff, Vienna; Eugenio, Vicky; Graham, Judy; Greenway, Ian; Gulias, Andreea; Hamlyn, Anne; Hampton, Joan; Harris, Belinda; Hodgson, Di; Holford, Hilary; Holmeide, Miriam; Houston, Gaie; Jani, Maya; Jelendorf, Nika; Kellett, Rachael; Kosmin, Jane; Kruszelnicka, Beata; Lanham, John Paul; Lochle, Nina; London, Roderic; Lynn, Kay; Mackintosh, Peri; Mellish, Joanna; Mierkowski, Piotr; Mouzo, Yosel; Nightingale, Ruth; O'Neil, Caro; Oaks, Rebecca; Page, Faye; Parsons-Smith, Alec; Pidgeon, Hugh; Renssen, Caroline Françoise; Riordan, Jane; Smears, Liz; Swoboda, Katy; Turton, Mike; Warner-Bore, Simon; Watt, Loretta; Williams, Marc; Windsor, Terri; Wiseman, Louise; Woodward, Nichola.

<b>Ref.:</b> <b>AGM20</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome:</b> Belinda Harris (BH), Chair welcomed the members to the AGM and laid out the agenda and nominations process.
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> James Bailey and Adam Souter
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of 2019 AGM:</b> The Minutes of the 2019 UKAGP AGM were agreed and signed by the UKAGP Chair, BH: Proposer Liz Beauchamp (LB); seconded by Vicky Eugenio (VE). <b>Matters Arising:</b> BH stated that all matters arising from the 2019 AGM minutes were addressed on the agenda.

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## Report from the Chair

BH presented her report to the meeting. Key points are as follows:

- The OC has experienced challenges with engagement, due to many personal and contextual factors, including the early departure of Chris O'Malley and Julia Martin from the committee, so resources have felt stretched at times. Lockdown has enabled the OC to attend to housekeeping matters.
- The Secretary and Vice Chair positions have been vacant for two years and we hope that this will change from today.
- BH thanked Piotr Mierkowski (PM) for his work on the Newsletter, which is an engaging and uplifting resource for all UKAGP subscribers. The recent bulletin on self-care during Covid was well-received. We hope to build on publicity with a stronger social media presence.
- The OC hopes that the deferred conference can proceed on 31st October in London and that everyone will join for this.
- Liz Smears (LS) joined the OC last year and is planning opportunities to engage through online trainee meeting and /or training events. We are mindful that trainees represent our core membership base.
- On Research, Christine Stevens has been active on our behalf and, with BH, approached EAGT for funding for a pilot project to develop our capacity to produce pragmatic case studies, which showcase Gestalt practice.
- The Consultative Group did not meet this year and we now plan to reform this as two groups, a Training Institute Group and a wider Consultative Group.
- Issues of equality and diversity have become figural due to global and national events, and our latest newsletter reflects this. We take such issues very seriously and are hoping to focus on this more this year.
- Concerns about sustainability. The conference is our main earner and we need to explore other ways to make money. Two of the three annual OC meetings will now happen online, we have moved to annual membership renewal and we have a strategy for increasing Joint EAGT-UKAGP membership.

<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>2019 UKAGP Financial Report</b></p> <p>Liz Beauchamp (LB), Treasurer presented the UKAGP finance report and the official accounts. The full version of the accounts were circulated to members with AGM documentation prior to the meeting. The key points presented are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The 2019 UKAGP residential conference at Lane End generated a lot of energy and enthusiasm and made a small profit.</li> <li>● 18 Trainees attended on subsidised tickets, which impacted the profit.</li> <li>● LB thanked Alec Parsons-Smith (APS) for work on Administration and highlighted his work in streamlining UKAGP processes and investing in key systems.</li> <li>● We continue to invest in G-suite and the website. Getting the balance between spending on developing the website and maintaining reasonable cash reserves is a constant challenge.</li> <li>● Travel costs look high but we have members of the OC living further apart. The use of Zoom for meetings is reducing that.</li> <li>● We are investing in a new system, Zoho to synchronise banking.</li> <li>● Membership fees will rise this year to £50, with Trainee membership remaining at £10.</li> <li>● A further loss is forecast, partly owing to the delayed conference due to COVID.</li> <li>● Cash flow figures were presented to the membership with approximately £13,000 in the bank as at 31st December 2019.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.1</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of UKAGP accounts:</b></p> <p>The UKAGP accounts were <b>approved</b> by the AGM: proposed by VE; seconded by APS.</p>

<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Strategy</b></p> <p>BH presented an update on key initiatives, including:</p> <p><u>Research</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Capacity-building the qualitative evidence base for Gestalt in line with current EAGT strategy</li> <li>● Hoping to build an alliance with Training Institutes to support the development of pragmatic case study research (PCSR), which has been used as part of the Person Centred Community’s successful submission to NICE for recognition</li> <li>● Trying to enhance the visibility of Gestalt in the mainstream literatures</li> <li>● Developing co-publishing and case study writing and we intend to launch an annual case study prize funded by the bursary fund.</li> </ul> <p><u>Consultative Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Focusing our energy on the Training Institutes and the needs of Trainees</li> <li>● BH asked Hugh Pidgeon to lead the Consultative Group in the wider community</li> </ul> <p><u>Membership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Considering what Members get for their membership, including: Web profile, Free advertising, Email discussion group etc..</li> <li>● We have further ideas and for membership value and need your help</li> <li>● The OC hopes to move ideas forward with 3x online Community Meetings annually. We need your help in order to make sure that our decisions are grounded in your needs</li> <li>● Also working to get more thriving sub-groups to support our work</li> </ul>
<p><b>6.1</b></p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue to promote the use of PCSR</li> <li>● Launch an annual case study prize</li> <li>● Arrange online Community Meetings</li> </ul>

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## **Matters arising from Updates and Reports - Discussion Space**

The following is a summary of the key discussion points. The discussion was an important part of the process for clarifying and supporting the decisions made by the AGM of UKAGP members.

- Claire Asherson Bartram and Faye Page asked how practitioners who are not connected to a Training Institute can get involved and be supported to participate in research. They will meet to discuss this further.
- BH highlighted the work already done to create a more robust database so that we stay in contact with individuals post-training and called on Members for ideas to reach more qualified practitioners.
- LB shared that she views UKAGP as her home and hopes everyone may feel welcome. The community meetings are missed as a place where more people can join, meet and discuss these things together.
- Toni Gilligan wished to explain her abstention from the earlier vote, which related to UKAGP's use of Google technology. She considers Google to be unethical and other Members voiced their support via the live Zoom chat.
- Gaie Houston voiced her support for PCSR, reinforcing the need to have our research recognised to support the careers of future Gestaltists.
- Christine Stevens said that the exciting thing about PCSR is that we can do this as practitioners and it lets people know what we do as gestalt therapists. She supported the value of writing support workshops as part of CPD.
- BH recognises that the Training Institutes are stretched and programme leaders have minimal support. She asked how we as a National body can offer more support.
- Christine Stevens acknowledged that it can be lonely and exposing when case study writing and publishing. Meta-analysis can provide very convincing research evidence.

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7.1	<b>Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building support for BAME trainees</li></ul>
8	<b>UKAGP Committee Nominations &amp; Elections</b> <p>Four Committee positions are available after Julia Martin and Chris O'Malley stood down. Ruth Nightingale was nominated as a new committee member.</p> <p>Election of Ruth Nightingale: for 56, against 0, abstentions 1</p> <p>Ruth Nightingale was voted in, welcomed and thanked by the membership.</p>
9	<b>AOB.</b> <p>None.</p>
10	<b>Date and details of the next AGM.</b> <p>The next AGM date will be announced following the first meeting of the new Organising Committee via the website and Newsletter.</p>