

**UKAGP AGM 2015 - Minutes of Meeting held on Saturday 4th July 2015, at
the National College for Teaching and Leadership, University of
Nottingham**

Present

James Bailey, Anna Beckman, Melinda Best, Sue Boyer, Lynne Brighouse, Jane Flint, Valentya Goodrich, Judy Graham, Philippa Grindal, Di Hodgson, John Gillespie, Adam Kincel, Piotr Mierkowski, Faye Page, Adam Smith, Julianne Appel-Opper, Liz Beauchamp, Jon Blend, Martin Capps, Jenny Colls, Toni Gilligan, Dawn Gwilt, Joan Hampton, Hilary Holford, Rachael Kellett, Sachiko Kishi, Billy Lee, Bethan Lester, Jacqui Lichtenstern, Ailsa Logan, Roderic London, Alessandra Merizzi, Ruth Nightingale, Chris O'Malley, Hugh Pidgeon, Val Randle, Lynne Rigaud, Jane Riordan, Jim Robinson, Bob Smith, Christine Stevens, Miriam Taylor, Helen Thomas, Julia Wright.

Apologies

Lynda Osborne, Mike Turton

Minutes of 2014 AGM

These had been circulated on the 4th June 2014 to UKAGP members, and published on the UKAGP website.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the UKAGP AGM 2014.

Proposed by James Bailey

Seconded by Jane Flint

Matters arising from the 2014 AGM minutes

No matters arising were raised from the 2014 minutes that were not covered by the existing agenda.

Parked issues from 2014 AGM

The following issues were raised as being parked issues from the 2014 AGM:

1. High interest account for reserves
 - a. It was noted that there is currently not enough money in reserve to warrant opening a high-interest bank account, but this should be revisited as an issue when reserves are higher and more consistent.
2. Bursary Fund
 - a. dealt with in more detail in the reports from committee members during the course of the AGM
3. Funding of Administrator Role
 - a. dealt with in more detail in the reports from committee members during the course of the AGM
4. Review UKAGP process to engage members leaving institutes

- a. dealt with in more detail in the reports from committee members during the course of the AGM
- 5. Institute payment schedules
 - a. dealt with in more detail in the reports from committee members during the course of the AGM
- 6. Committee Members decision making outside of AGM
 - a. dealt with in more detail in the reports from committee members during the course of the AGM

Financial report

As Finance Officer of UKAGP, Ruth Nightingale gave the Financial report summarising the key issues:

Bursary Fund - UKAGP doesn't currently have the funds to offer a bursary fund without additional support from members, therefore in order to raise these funds going forward there will be an opportunity for new and renewing members to include a voluntary additional donation (e.g. £10) when paying their annual fee which will be held in a bursary fund.

In the last year there has been a healthy increase in membership, though the system of people signing up at different points during the year (via a range of methods) means we can only take a snapshot of the membership at any one time. The new website will include functionality designed to make it much easier to see an overview of membership numbers.

This year has been a year of investment for UKAGP, with expenditure on a new website, Google apps and the appointment of an administrator. As a result we are moving towards sustainability, with stronger systems and infrastructure. There is a way still to go, but moving forward the hope is that these investments will pay off, boosting the long term financial health of the organisation and helping UKAGP become fully sustainable. This will enable opportunities to make membership of the organisation more beneficial.

It was confirmed that the membership rates would be increased from January 2016. Full membership will be £30 p.a., Associate/Friend membership will be £20 and Trainee Membership will remain the same.

The accounts as of 31st Dec 2014 were approved
Proposed Toni Gilligan
Seconded Di Hodgson

Chairs Report

There were no questions or issues arising from the chairs report.

Constitutional Amendments

There were two suggested amendments to the text of the constitution, centred around the clarification of roles within the committee.

Amendment of text:

6. The Organising Committee

- a) Addition of the following terms:
“EAGT Representative (normally the Chair)”
“Other Roles as Required”
- b) Replacement of “Membership Committee Chair” with “Membership Officer”

This amendment to the constitution led to a discussion of the relationship between EAGT and UKAGP, as well as the ongoing role of the EAGT representative.

- The following concerns / questions were raised:
 - What is the exact nature of the role?
 - What power does the UKAGP representative have within EAGT?
 - How can the role be better used to negotiate benefits for UK members?
 - The relationship with EAGT works both ways - what benefits are we getting from the ongoing relationship with them?
- The Chair (Jacqui Lichtenstern) noted that in her experience the EAGT offered the chance for ‘rich engagement’ with European colleagues, and felt it offered the chance for collaboration and improved communication. She also clarified that UKAGP is a member of EAGT as an organisation, as opposed to members of UKAGP each being individual members of EAGT, and as such must appoint a representative.
- The Chair further clarified that in terms of decision making the EAGT Representative votes on behalf of UKAGP and it’s membership in EAGT meetings, rather than each UKAGP member getting an individual vote, and this the same for all other membership organisations with EAGT.
- Christine Stevens highlighted the important role that EAGT had playing in creating a baseline set of standards and competencies across Europe, but that there were still issues, especially the anomaly around the professional recognition of UK practitioners, in that people with a huge amount of experience were not fully recognised because UKCP accreditation does not automatically meet EAGT standards.
- Adam Kincel pointed out that in his experience the standards of accreditation are not actually higher, but much gets lost in translation. For example, although at first glance it seems that the number of required training hours seems much higher than is required by UKCP, in actual fact this can include wider CPD and not only institute led training. Personal therapy hours also has a broader definition than that defined by UKCP.
- Toni Gilligan suggested that going forward, the EAGT Rep needs to actively work with ironing out and clarifying these concerns so that UK therapists have better professional recognition / freedom of movement within the European community. She

raised the issue of training reciprocity between UKAGP and EAGT where UK Gestalt is not going to only do what EAGT dictates.

- The Chair clarified that her role (as the current EAGT representative) is to bring up these sort of issues within EAGT and she was happy to actively work with the issues that had been raised during the AGM as ongoing concerns and report back to the UKAGP membership.
- Danny Boyle suggested an amendment to the exact wording of the proposed amendment. In order to better clarify the nature of the role and the representative's relationship to EAGT/UKAGP, he felt that the "UKAGP Representative to EAGT" would be a clearer description.

The alternative wording to the original amendment was proposed by Jacqui Lichtenstern; Seconded by Ruth Nightingale and unanimously accepted.

"Other roles as required" was clarified e.g. Publicity Officer

Amendment to 6a was then proposed by Jacqui Lichtenstern and seconded by Rod London:

Votes for: 42

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The amendment was accepted.

Amendment to 6b

It was explained that the reason for this amendment was because 'Membership Committee Chair' is a vague and uncommonly used term, so 'membership officer' has been proposed as a clearer, more accessible alternative.

Amendment to 6b was proposed by Jacqui Lichtenstern and seconded by Liz Beauchamp:

Votes for: Unanimous

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The amendment was accepted.

Addition of a Policy folder to the UKAGP Constitution Appendix

It was clarified that this was important in order that the work of the committee can be flexible and responsive to situations as they unfold, and that the policy folder would be available on the website to ensure the work of the committee is kept transparent and enable contribution by the Membership..

This was supported by the meeting.

Review of Plan

UKAGP's Strategic Plan was reviewed, in terms of what has been achieved over the past year, and the key objectives going forward. It was presented that many of the objectives had either been achieved or were well in progress since the launch of this Plan in Sept 2014.

Highlighted as being of particular significance were:

Engaging with Trainees:

UKAGP Committee Trainee reps Helen Thomas and Dawn Gwilt gave a summary of work that has been done to date, in terms of raising awareness of UKAGP within the training institutes through improved marketing strategies and their personal contact with trainee members. They noted the positive increase in trainee members that were present at this years conference (11 delegates, compared to an average of 1 or 2 in previous years).

Objectives for the coming year are to strengthen links between training organisations, to explore the ways that people who are post training but pre accreditation can be better supported, as well as actively reaching out to trainees within smaller training organisations to become more involved in the work of UKAGP. The Chair said that there was no longer the need for all institutes and organisations to be represented on the Committee but there was a need for an Organisational Representative Sub-Committee. She organised an initial representational Focus Group Meeting to follow the AGM. This group would provide a space for dialogue and collaboration to explore how the community can support trainees through their studies and their transition to full members. It was proposed would meet 6 monthly. The progress of this group would then reported back to the membership at future conferences.

Danny Boyle suggested that organising a dedicated conference day for students would be an excellent way of creating a space to explore issues that specifically impact on trainees, in a forum that doesn't have the same financial pressures and boundary issues of a larger conference. This brought agreement from the floor and it was noted as something worth considering for the future. The vision for this to become a reduced rate or 'free day' was noted.

The UKAGP Website

Ruth Nightingale introduced visuals for the new website, which is currently in development and due for a launch in September. She shared screenshots of the new site, which featured the new brand identity of the organisation, and explained the benefits of the new website:

- Improved communication and interactivity
- The backend functionality will refine the internal processes and administration within UKAGP, supporting the organisation to become more sustainable through lowering costs

- Works across mobile devices
- Better outreach potential through improved integration with social media
- Improved features such as a more sophisticated practitioner directory, and a blog with latest news and events
- An internal payment system will reduce costs for UKAGP membership when hosting events and offers the potential for future expansion.

Adam Kincel was thanked for his continuing work on the existing website, and the vital role he's played within the website sub-committee in terms of taking the website forward. Jen Clayton's skills in web development were acknowledged along with her role in supporting the new website. The membership were informed that the company appointed had produced the new GPTI website.

National Gestalt Conference 2016

Building on the work of previous conferences, the gathering in 2016 is on the theme of 'celebrating our community' and is a combined conference being organised by UKAGP, GPTI and the British Gestalt Journal.

Christine Stevens gave an overview of the plans for the conference, which is being held in Nottingham from the 30th of June to the 3rd July, and highlighted the significance for the BGJ, to be 'held in the community' as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Lynne Jacobs, Joe Melnick, Peter Philippon and Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb, are all writing new papers on current aspects of their work, to be published in the Spring issue of The BGJ's 25th Volume. This material will be explored at the conference in workshops and seminars using the methodology of Malcolm Parlett's 'Five Explorations' and will be followed up by further related papers in the BGJ's Autumn issue.

Concerns were raised about the timing of the event in terms of its close proximity to the EAGT/AAGT joint conference, being held the same year, and the importance of an effective marketing / outreach campaign was noted in order to help the conference be well attended and to meet the costs involved. There was also some concern regarding the dates and the clash for trainees coming to the end of their academic year. The membership were informed that GPTI had given their booking for their two day conference to this event.

Resigning Committee Members

Rod London and Jane Flint have both resigned from the Organising Committee and thanks was giving for all their hard work and commitment over the past three years.

Elections for Committee Membership

Vicky Eugenio was nominated to join the committee proposed by Toni Gilligan, seconded by Judy Graham

Unanimously voted in

Adam Smith was nominated as UKAGP Secretary proposed by Liz Beauchamp, seconded by Jacqui Lichtenstern

Unanimously voted in

Any Other Business

- Lynne Rigaud announced an EAGT & AAGT Research conference being held in Paris in May/June 2017 and encouraged members to 'save the date' and watch out for future updates. Information will be passed to the membership via the UKAGP newsletter.
- Jon Blend raised the idea of an 'Oral History of Gestalt' as being a project for future consideration. Judy Graham reminded everyone of the 'History of Association' timeline and questionnaire (on the UKAGP website) and encouraged members to take part.
- Jacqui Lichtenstern put out for a request for feedback of everyone's experiences via the online survey that will be sent to all and also for the special conference newsletter.
- A vote of thanks was given to the Conference Organising Group

Date and details of the next AGM

The next AGM will be held at the 2016 'Celebrating Our Community' conference (30th June - 3rd July 2016).

The AGM date/time is to be confirmed, but it was noted that it will be scheduled so as not to clash with the GPTI AGM which will be happening the same weekend.