

United Kingdom Association of Gestalt Practitioners 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2018 UKAGP Annual General Meeting took place at UKAGP National Conference 2018, The Studio, 7 Cannon Street, Birmingham, B2 5EP, Saturday 30th June 2018, 1230-1330.

Present: Beauchamp Liz; Boden Sandra; Brighthouse Lynne; Bullock Patricia; Bullen-Spicer Robert; Burda Karolina; Capps Martin; Carrette Tim; Chamberlin Lucy; Clayton Jen; Crowe Jen; Darvasi David; Downie Gillian; Duff Vienna; Edassery Joseph; Eugenio Vicky; Flax Emma; Fogarty Madeleine; Forrest David; Glenholmes Kate; Gordon Debra; Gwilt Dawn; Harris Belinda; Holford Hilary; John Sonia; Lichtenstern Jacqui; Kellett Rachael; Kincel Adam; London Rod; Mahmood Faisal; Martin Julia; McKenna Jen; Mellor Liz; Merizzi Alessandra; Miller Ana; Nightingale Ruth; O'Malley Chris; Parry Sylvia; Parsons-Smith Alec; Patel Cornish Aruna; Pettit Anne; Pidgeon Hugh; Porter Danny; Randle Val; Riordan Jane; Short Deborah; Smith Adam; Smith Bob; Sweeney Catherine; Taylor Rona; Thomas Helen; Turton Mike; Upshall Davis Kate; Wheatley Paul; Williams Marc; Wilson Heather; Windsor Terri; Woolfe Jason

Ref.: AGM17	
1	Welcome: Belinda Harris (BH) (chair) welcomed the members to the AGM and laid out the agenda and nominations process.
2	Apologies: Colls Jenny; Houston Gaie; Osborne Lynda; Page Faye
3	Minutes of 2017 AGM: The Minutes of the 2017 UKAGP AGM were agreed and signed by the UKAGP Chair, BH: Proposer Liz Beauchamp; seconded by Adam Kincel. Matters Arising: Adam Smith (AS) (Secretary) stated that all matters arising from the 2017 AGM minutes were addressed on the agenda with the exception of the following:
3.1	Data Protection: AS gave an update on the continued development of UKAGP data protection policies in light of the recent GDPR legislation.
3.2	Membership Procedures: AS provided an update on the work undertaken to simplify membership procedures in order to make joining and renewal of UKAGP membership more efficient.
3.3	EAGT Membership:

	Included on the agenda. See below.
4	<p>UKAGP & EAGT Membership:</p> <p>The Organising Committee have continued to explore ways to collaborate with the EAGT in response to membership enquiries at the 2015/2016/2017 AGMs around ease of access to EAGT/EAP.</p> <p>BH announced that an agreement for joint UKAGP/EAGT membership has now been reached. It is anticipated that this will be signed in September and from 1st January, 2019 individuals will be able to apply through UKAGP for combined UKAGP/EAGT membership.</p> <p>The agreement followed an extensive mapping project in relation to training requirements and detailed work to communicate this to EAGT.</p> <p>Unlike other NOGTs, UKAGP is very inclusive and is non-standard in its representation of the UK within EAGT. Uniquely, the agreement with EAGT retains an opt-in clause for UKAGP members.</p> <p>Under the new agreement, a new “Full Member” category will provide access to joint UKAGP/EAGT Membership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ruth Nightingale asked if the agreement with EAGT is reciprocal, enabling EAGT members to access joint membership with UKAGP. BH confirmed that it is. ● Rachael Kellett enquired about trainees. BH confirmed that for an additional payment of €10, UKAGP trainee members will be entitled to joint membership with EAGT, entitling them to reduced price conference tickets and the EAGT Newsletter. This is very good value and the trainees present were encouraged to communicate this to their institutes and colleagues. ● David Darvasi asked if BACP accreditation would entitle an individual to UKAGP/EAGT joint membership. BH stated that this was not possible, subject to prior learning. ● Jane Riordan expressed her gratitude to BH and the OC, and thanked them for their hard work in reaching this agreement. ● Adam Kincel asked if there were plans for joint membership to extend to a Supervisor category. Liz Beauchamp (LB) suggested that he join the OC to make this happen. ● Ana Miller asked for clarification on joint trainee membership. BH confirmed that this was limited to 4 years’ duration. ● Ruth Nightingale asked if would be possible for information relating to joint trainee membership to be made available on the website. BH confirmed that her letter to the Institutes would be made available. ● Jason Woolfe thanked BH.
4.2	Action. BH to sign the agreement with EAGT.

	<p>Action. The OC to adopt new Membership policies for an annual renewal date and for processing the Full Member category.</p> <p>Action. BH to write to the Institutes introducing the joint UKAGP/EAGT membership for trainees.</p>
5	<p>Amendments to the UKAGP Constitution:</p> <p>AS stated that the proposed minor change to the UKAGP Constitution was suggested by the work of the UKAGP Organising Committee in the year 2017/18 to enable changes to online membership joining procedures. This change was circulated to members with AGM documentation prior to the meeting, and is available on the UKAGP website.</p> <p>AS asked the AGM to consider and vote on the following proposal, requesting vote counters from the floor to assist with the process: Helen Thomas and Julia Martin volunteered to be vote counters.</p> <p>NB. Changed/additional text is highlighted below</p>
5.1	<p><u>Current Text:</u></p> <p>9. Ethics</p> <p>a) UKAGP does not process any complaints and will defer such issues to the relevant accrediting and training organisations.</p> <p>b) UKAGP will defer all issues regarding professional and ethical practice to the relevant accrediting organisation.</p> <p>c) The above conditions apply to full members and trainees. Associate members organisation may not use this organisation as a substitute for an accrediting body.</p> <p><u>Proposed Text:</u></p> <p>c) Members may not use their membership of the UKAGP as a substitute for an accrediting body.</p> <p>(voting record: For 50, Against 0, Abstain 0)</p>
5.2	<p>ACTION: AS to update the UKAGP Constitution with approved changes.</p>
6	<p>2017 UKAGP Financial Report</p> <p>Liz Beauchamp (LB)(Finance Officer) 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, and are available on the UKAGP website. The key points presented are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hugely experimental National Gestalt Conference was delivered successfully Summer 2017. The contribution made by AAGT to the administration costs and the workshops enabled us to make a small profit which was shared with the BGJ. • Membership numbers dwindled in 2017 but issues with renewals have been addressed and numbers are looking much healthier for 2018.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An area of concern was the income from the training institutes. The OC will be reviewing the method of acquiring the trainee data and invoicing in 2018 for the period 2018-2019. ● We continue to invest in the website and getting the balance between spending on developing the website and maintaining reasonable cash reserves is a constant challenge. ● The UKAGP's dependence on the conference to ensure financial viability is a risky strategy. Higher membership numbers and/or increased membership fees would be lower risk and is something that needs to be considered in the future strategy for the Organisation. ● Cash flow figures were presented to the membership with approximately £14000 in the bank as at 31st December 2017.
7	<p>Approval of UKAGP accounts:</p> <p>The UKAGP accounts were approved by the AGM: proposed by Vicky Eugenio; and seconded by Faisal Mahmood.</p>
8	<p>Report from the Chair</p> <p>BH presented her report to the meeting, reflecting that it was a year since she took over as Chair from Jacqui Lichtenstern.</p> <p>The main areas of focus for the OC during this time have been consolidating the work with EAGT on joint membership and engaging the UKAGP membership. The theme of the 2018 conference is of particular importance for our community and the future of Gestalt in the UK.</p> <p>Some key points noted by AGM note takers are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The committee has undertaken significant work to increase membership numbers over the past year and BH thanked AS and APS for their input. ● Work is continuing to be done to develop the UKAGP website so that it meets the needs of our community. The committee is currently engaged in a project to capture user stories, which will inform requirements and Helen Thomas was thanked for her work on this. ● A bursary fund has now been established and it is hoped that assisted places will be made available at next year's residential conference. Jane Riordan asked if this was supported by membership donations, like the AAGT Scholarship Fund. BH confirmed that it was. ● The committee offered substantially reduced places for 2 trainees from each institute to attend this year's conference and were pleased that these had been enthusiastically taken up. ● New Gestalt Voices - a journal for new gestalt writers was launched following the idea being raised at a UKAGP trainee community day. BH invited Dawn Gwilt, Editor-in-Chief to provide an update, including the launch of off-shoot publications in Europe. ● Consultative Group: Established by Jacqui Lichtenstern, the Group met once this year. In particular, BH mentioned that, with a number of senior trainers scaling back their work, there is now a scarcity of Gestalt trainers.

	<p>'Training the Trainers' workshops are planned to support those who are interested in training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EAGT meetings - BH provided an update on her attendance and the attitudes to Gestalt practice across Europe, including in German speaking countries where Gestalt has State-supported recognition. The EAGT conferences in Berlin (2018) and Budapest (2019) were also advertised. ● AAGT have approached Liz Beauchamp to discuss a proposal for the 2020 conference in the UK. BH stated that this was very positive but still early days in the planning.
9	<p>Matters arising from Updates and Reports - Discussion Space</p> <p>The following is a summary of the key discussion points taken by our note takers. The discussion was an important part of the process for clarifying and supporting the decisions made by the AGM of UKAGP members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The status of Gestalt therapy in German speaking countries was discussed and clarified by the membership, with members also mentioning the requirement for medical training in some countries, including Italy, Greece and Malta. ● Julia Martin stated that there is no mention of Gestalt in communications published by UKCP and called for more UKAGP/UKCP dialogue. ● Madeleine Fogarty agreed and said that there was a need for increased Gestalt presence at UKCP's research conference. ● Sonia John asked if information on 'Training the Trainers' workshops could be made available on the UKAGP website. BH stated that this will happen as soon as the dates are confirmed. ● Alessandra Merizzi mentioned the IV International Conference on Gestalt Psychotherapy Research in Chile in May/June 2019 and Madeleine Fogarty announced that fliers were available.
10	<p>UKAGP Committee and Honorary Treasurer Nominations & Elections</p> <p>Three Committee positions are available given four OC members have come to the end of their current tenures. Rachael Kellett and Adam Smith are leaving the committee and one member is standing for re-election: Vicky Eugenio. Sonia John, Chris O'Malley, Faisal Mahmood and Terri Windsor had been nominated as new committee members.</p> <p>Re-election of Vicky Eugenio: for 50 against 0 abstentions 0</p> <p>Election of Sonia John: for 50 against 0 abstentions 0</p> <p>Election of Chris O'Malley: for 50 against 0 abstentions 0</p> <p>Election of Faisal Mahmood: for 50 against 0 abstentions 0</p> <p>Election of Terri Windsor: for 50 against 0 abstentions 0</p> <p>All were voted in and welcomed / thanked by the membership.</p>
11	<p>AOB.</p> <p>BH thanked Rachael Kellett and Adam Smith for their hard work for UKAGP.</p>
12	<p>Date and details of the next AGM.</p>

	The next AGM date will be announced following the first meeting of the new Organising Committee via the website and Newsletter.
--	---