

United Kingdom Association of Gestalt Practitioners 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2019 UKAGP Annual General Meeting took place at UKAGP National Conference 2019, Lane End, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 3HH, Saturday 27th July, 2019, 1630-1715.

Present: Alman de la Osa, Ayhan; Bailey, James; Beauchamp, Liz; Blend, Jon; Chapman-Clarke, Margaret; Diaz, Pedro; Dowsett, Lynn; Duff, Vienna; Eugenio, Vicky; Fellows; Ed; Graham, Judy; Greenway, Ian; Hamerska, Lenka; Harris, Belinda; Holford, Hilary; Jaynes, Eddie; John, Sonia; Kellett, Rachael; Houston, Gaie; Kishi, Sachiko; Lacey, Rebecca; Lee, Billy; Lee, Danielle; Logan; Ailsa; London, Rod; Mahmood, Faisal; McAdam, Heather; McCarthy, Leonie; Metin, Layla; Mierkowski, Piotr; Nightingale, Ruth; O'Malley, Chris; Orzech, Anna; Osborne, Lynda; Parsons-Smith, Alec; Pidgeon, Hugh; Porter, Danny; Randle, Val; Riordan, Jane; Smears, Liz; Spence, Richard; Stevens, Christine; Stevens, Mark; Taylor, Tanis; Thomas, Helen; Upshall, Kate; Williams, Marc; Windsor, Terri.

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1	Welcome: Belinda Harris (BH), Chair welcomed the members to the AGM and laid out the agenda and nominations process.
2	Apologies: Jen Clayton and Jason Woolfe
3	Minutes of 2018 AGM: The Minutes of the 2018 UKAGP AGM were agreed and signed by the UKAGP Chair, BH: Proposer Alec Parsons-Smith (APS); seconded by Mark Stevens. Matters Arising: BH stated that all matters arising from the 2018 AGM minutes were addressed on the agenda.
4	Report from the Chair BH presented her report to the meeting, stating her intention to stand for election for a further term. Key points are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 2018 conference created a lot of energy around research, social media and trainee engagement. Further membership engagement is required to sustain this e.g. with posting on Twitter. ● Initial delays and teething problems with Joint Membership UKAGP-EAGT occurred owing to changes in EAGT's administration. These have now been resolved and we will relaunch this offer to members.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultative Group only met once this year and this needs additional support. BH asked for a volunteer from within the membership to act as facilitator.
5	<p>2018 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. The key points presented are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2018 UKAGP conference in Birmingham generated a lot of energy and interest but this was a one day event and returned less profit than the biennial residential conference. LB thanked Christine Stevens for support with the 2017 conference and outlined the profit-share with BGJ. Following the dwindling of membership numbers in 2017, significant work has been undertaken by APS throughout 2018. As at 25/07/19 we have 70 full members and 207 trainee members. LB thanked APS for his work on administration and highlighted the work relating to GDPR regulations, including communication with the membership and changes to data processes. She also thanked APS for filling the gaps when OC members were unavailable. We continue to invest in G-suite and website. Getting the balance between spending on developing the website and maintaining reasonable cash reserves is a constant challenge. Cash flow figures were presented to the membership with approximately £13,500 in the bank as at 31st December 2018.
5.1	<p>Approval of UKAGP accounts:</p> <p>The UKAGP accounts were approved by the AGM: proposed by Lynda Osborne; seconded by Vicky Eugenio.</p>
5.2	<p><u>For discussion:</u></p> <p><i>The sustainability of the organisation is currently dependent on income generated from conferences – Is this the most effective strategy?</i></p>
6	<p>Bursary Update</p> <p>LB presented the background to the UKAGP bursary fund and suggested possible uses for the fund, including: supporting research, low income and/or trainee conference attendance and investment in other projects.</p>
6.1	<p><u>For discussion:</u></p> <p><i>How should UKAGP use the Bursary fund?</i></p>
7	<p>Update from Research Officer</p> <p>FM considered where we are now, referencing the 2018 conference, creation of the Research Group and Research Officer position in the OC. A new vision for research was presented: <i>Broadening and Supporting Gestalt Therapy Theory Related Research</i>.</p> <p>FM outlined possible directions for a future research strategy and stated the following key objectives for 2019/20:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the commencement of work on two published research projects. • To set up one research focused network.
7.1	<p><u>For discussion:</u></p> <p><i>How important is the research agenda to our community? Where should it sit in our list of priorities? Would members be willing to pay a slightly higher membership fee to enable us to do this work?</i></p>
8	<p>Update on Strategy</p> <p>LB reminded the AGM of the aims and objectives contained in the Constitution and the activities engaged in by UKAGP.</p> <p>She outlined the inputs of the paid administrator, volunteers and member engagement, and the source of funding from membership fees and conference profits. LB thanked the members at the AGM for being here and engaging.</p> <p>LB presented the possible focus areas for 2019/20, including: Supporting Connections (reaching out and engaging with more trainees; EAGT), Interests/Voice (research; conference outputs) and professional development (conference participation). The tension between growing the activity and keeping the status quo was highlighted.</p>
8.1	<p><u>For discussion:</u></p> <p><i>Where should the organisation focus its efforts? Is this a turning point?</i></p>
9	<p>Matters arising from Updates and Reports - Discussion Space</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leonie McCarthy raised the wider visibility of Gestalt. The threat to Gestalt and the status of Gestalt therapy in German speaking countries was discussed. • Christine Stevens highlighted the importance of research to the future of Gestalt therapy practice. The use of more rigorous case studies, in both training and practice, was recommended to build a research evidence base. Significant progress made by other modalities was discussed. • Lynda Osborne mentioned the effectiveness of Marie-Anne Chidiac's research in organisations. • A focus on ecological issues was a priority. Following an emergent workshop, Danny Porter planned to form an email group to take this forward. • Gaie Houston asked for the membership to be reminded about the bursary fund. BH confirmed that this will be included in future newsletters. • Jon Blend asked if the membership could be reminded of the availability of Zoom for video meetings. BH agreed. • Leonie McCarthy mentioned the use of Gestalt in voluntary organisations, with the potential for attracting Lottery funding. She will form a group of interested members from the Gestalt community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vienna Duff was surprised by the small number of full members. LB highlighted the additional challenge of GDPR regulations for reaching out to former members. • Liz Smears and Ayhan de la Osa discussed the lack of diversity and support for minority groups in the UK Gestalt community. They volunteered to work with the OC to address this. • Piotr Mierkowski stated his interest in an alternative to a research focus. He will form an email group of interested individuals to define this further.
9.1	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To form a Research Focus Group to lead on research initiatives. Ruth Nightingale and Margaret Chapman-Clarke expressed interest in participating in this.
10	<p>Amendments to the UKAGP Constitution:</p> <p>LB stated that the proposed changes to the UKAGP Constitution were required for Joint Membership UKAGP-EAGT and in order to enable a more flexible approach to the roles undertaken by members of the OC. These changes were circulated to members with AGM documentation prior to the meeting, and are available on the UKAGP website.</p> <p>LB asked the AGM to consider and vote on the following proposals, requesting vote counters from the floor to assist with the process.</p> <p>NB. Changed/additional text is highlighted below</p>
10.1	<p><u>Current Text:</u></p> <p>There shall be four classes of membership:</p> <p>i) Full Membership Gestalt Practitioner who is accredited with a professional organisation. (Details of organisations included as in Appendix)</p> <p>ii) Associate Membership – open to any Gestalt practitioner who is not accredited with a professional organisation (See Appendix).</p> <p>iii) Trainee Membership – open to those pursuing a nationally accredited gestalt training that is recognised by one of the organisations listed in the Appendix.</p> <p>iv) Friends of UKAGP – open to anyone who wishes to support the association and who is not a Gestalt practitioner.”</p> <p><u>Proposed Text:</u></p> <p>There shall be seven classes of membership:</p> <p>i) Joint Membership - UKCP Registered Psychotherapists who have successfully completed a core Gestalt Training that meets the current EAGT criteria.</p> <p>ii) Membership - Individuals who have completed a core Gestalt Training that is recognised in the UK and accredited by an organisation. (see Appendix)</p> <p>iii) Joint Associate Membership - Individuals who have started a Gestalt training and is meant for individuals who do not (yet) meet the EAGT criteria</p>

	<p>for Joint Member, the UKAGP criteria for ‘Member’ and/or retired Gestalt practitioners.</p> <p>iv) Associate Membership - Individuals who have started a Gestalt training and is meant for individuals who do not (yet) meet the UKAGP criteria for ‘Member’ and/or retired Gestalt practitioners (see Appendix).</p> <p>v) Joint Trainee Membership - Any person in training at a nationally accredited gestalt training institute for a maximum of 4 years, after which their membership will be converted into Joint Associate Membership</p> <p>vi) Trainee Membership - Any person in training at a nationally accredited gestalt training institute for a maximum of 4 years, after which their membership will be converted into Associate Membership.</p> <p>vii) Friends of UKAGP – open to anyone who wishes to support the association and who is not a Gestalt practitioner.</p> <p>(Voting record: For 48, Against 0, Abstain 0)</p>
<p>10.2</p>	<p><u>Current Text:</u></p> <p>“6. The Organising Committee ... The Organising Committee shall comprise: Chair Secretary Finance Officer Membership Officer Full/Trainee/Associate Members UKAGP Representative to the EAGT (normally the Chair) Other Roles as Required”</p> <p><u>Proposed Text:</u></p> <p>“6. The Organising Committee ... The Organising Committee shall comprise: Chair Secretary Finance Officer Other Roles as Required”</p> <p>(Voting record: For 48, Against 0, Abstain 0)</p>
<p>10.3</p>	<p>ACTION: APS to update the UKAGP Constitution with the approved changes.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>UKAGP Committee and Honorary Treasurer Nominations & Elections</p> <p>Three Committee positions are available given two OC members have come to the end of their current tenures, and Faisal Mahmood stood down. James Bailey and Helen Thomas are leaving the committee and one member is standing for</p>

	<p>re-election: Belinda Harris. Margaret Chapman-Clarke, Piotr Mierkowski, Liz Smears and Christine Stevens were nominated as new committee members.</p> <p>Re-election of Belinda Harris: for 47, against 0, abstentions 0</p> <p>Election of Liz Smears: for 47, against 0, abstentions 0</p> <p>Election of Piotr Mierkowski: for 47, against 0, abstentions 0</p> <p>All were voted in and welcomed / thanked by the membership.</p> <p>[The election of Margaret Chapman-Clarke and Christine Stevens was postponed.]</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>AOB.</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Date and details of the next AGM.</p> <p>The next AGM date will be announced following the first meeting of the new Organising Committee via the website and Newsletter.</p>