

with AHPP, June attending board meetings and Eric Whitton our own. Appreciation of the standards our practitioners have held in accreditation and in setting out 'core values' was expressed. Our journal, *Self & Society*, goes from strength to strength in an impressive range of topics and articles with a valuable section of book reviews. Our thanks to John Button, Fran Mosley and David Jones. There is a regular AHP Committee link providing feedback on each issue.

Our treasurer has ventured where few would willingly follow — into the world of accountant and accounting procedures — and found them wanting. Hence draft accounts were presented; full accounts will be presented at a special meeting at the November Conference.

Additional costs have risen from running the events, administration and *Self & Society*. After holding membership subscriptions stable for five years, it was decided to raise subscriptions by £5 pa.

Dylanie reported on her first year as administrator. She has made an efficient start, is reviewing procedures, and works to a high standard of presentation. June expressed appreciation for her work under difficult personal times.

The following were elected for 1998 —

Chair: June Green; Treasurer: James Mackenzie; Vice-Chair: John Buckle; Committee: Adela Austin and Marilyn Burgess.

In the January issue of the magazine Earwig wished us all the best for 1998 but wondered where all the fun had gone. Well, some of it returned in the evening, not exactly a knees-up nor adults being children, but a whirl of movement, balls flying through the air, bopping and zapping each other with invisible frisbees, seeking identities, telling stories, all conducted and greatly encouraged by Tone Horwood.

This has a year of contrasts: lively with ideas and activity, *Self & Society* a continuing success, stimulating work on 'core values' and accreditation from AHPP, and an outstanding programme for the November Conference, yet membership and finances have taken a down-turn after several years of increase. At AHP meetings we have considered ways to extend our activities and influence, but we keep returning to the need for more members to help on the committee or locally. Ruth Finer's survey revealed many expressions of interest, so let's hear from you. For details see the AHP Page — 'Lonely hearts' — in the March issue of *Self & Society*.

AHPP Page

Christopher Coulson

It's been a busy couple of months for the AHPP. Our regular board meetings have been interspersed with two major events, both of which went off very successfully.

The first of these was the 'To Be or Not to

Be (Humanistic)' weekend conference in Oxford, attended by sixteen people. This was our first attempt at providing smaller, more frequent, events designed to bring our membership together and we scruti-

nised it in detail after it was over. It was generally declared to have been a great success and to have proceeded in a manner fully reflective of its humanistic roots. Its Open Space approach to the agenda — whereby participants can initiate topics without having to lead them — brought both a welcome humanistic fluidity to the proceedings and some anxieties around being treated as a self-responsible individual in a dynamic 'world'. Nobody was there to tell you where to go or when: you decided for yourself.

The energy created was clearly substantial because a great many thoughts and recommendations were generated from a variety of sub-groups and exercises. One of the most exciting among these was that we should focus on emphasising the positive aspects and rigour of humanistic approaches so as to differentiate ourselves from earlier theories and practice. Our thanks go to Board Member Judy Graham and to Philip Rogers for focusing their energies and making this happen in addition to the other assistants and supporters.

The seriousness and rigour which were highlighted in Oxford were very much on show at the second event of this past period — the Associates' Day Accreditation Workshop. This was ably led by Clare Brunt, until recently the Chair of the Membership Committee, with help from Associates' Representative Tony Morris and Jessica Wooliscroft, a recently accredited member. Some fifteen associates attended and declared the day to be very

valuable. Together with a lot of guidance and clarification on producing case studies, the workshop explored issues such as how to get help in completing the forms. The range of other concerns discussed included the perennial question of what to do if your training organisation collapses while you're in mid-course.

The recently-introduced peer-pairing and buddy systems were declared to be popular, but we need more buddies from among newly-accredited members to work with associates. Please contact Tony Morris if you would like to do this.

The most recent Board Meeting covered matters such as the routine reassessment by the UKCP; our forthcoming representation at the European Association for Psychotherapy; our role in a pilot study with the UKRC; and ethics, membership, administrative and financial matters. Tone Horwood was appointed UKCP representative to replace Whiz Collis when she stands down at the next AGM.

For a small group, the AHPP generates and focuses a lot of energy in worthwhile ways. There is much more we could do if we just had the people power, so if you have any ideas and you're ready to put some effort into making them happen give one of the Board Members a call. All contributions will be humanistically considered.

Eric Whitton is teaching in Italy but will be back in time to write the AHPP page for the next issue.

