

So where do we go from here?

This has been a recurrent question over the last few years as problems and changes have arisen at almost every meeting.

AGM

The AGM held on 29th April at The Minster Centre, Kilburn reflected the concerns. Lunch and tea were convivial occasions to enjoy food and conversations; the meeting was supportive and yet it fell one short of a quorum. June Green's report as retiring chair best sums up the situation:

Chair's Report

This is my last report as I come to the end of my three years in the chair. When I agreed to become Chair, I had no idea what difficulties lay ahead. These included changes in administration, experienced and long serving members of the Committee retiring, financial losses on events, and more recently the separating of our practitioner section. However, I have more than survived and have enjoyed the last year. We have attracted an enthusiastic administrator, who is making a difference, and a new editorial team, who look set to develop Self & Society in exciting ways. There are questions to be addressed. How will the loss of AHPP affect our identity? Is there still a role for us in promoting humanistic psychology? And how does that tie in with accreditation, state registration and so on, as far as practitioners and clients are concerned? Does the lack of active input by members mean that we should

just concentrate on running Self & Society? I take a positive view that AHP will find the right course. Our two priorities for the coming year are supporting Self & Society, and promotion in order to increase our membership.

Events

There was a similar experience of an enjoyable evening to celebrate 30 years of AHP(B) in October, dancing to our old friends Whirl-Y-Gig and space to meet and talk; yet disappointment that more members did not come.

The Departure of AHPP

The practitioners section, formalising their independence in a separate organisation, have reassured us that they wish to maintain close contact, sharing common interests. This we welcome and the transition period of AHP membership and arrangements to subscribe to Self & Society.

Positive Contributions

June thanked the committee members for the work and commitment shown, to the administration for her strong and effective input and to the new Self & Society team with good working relationships building between us. Thanks also to Judith Furner, retiring chair of S&S sub-committee, who has agreed to continue to read articles on behalf of the committee.

Election of Officers as proposed (but inquorate)

John Buckle - Chair

James Mackenzie - Treasurer

June Green - Committee member

Adela Austin - Committee member

The proposal - that 'The Executive Committee of AHP(B) commits itself to the creation and implementation of a code of ethical conduct for all members of AHP(B) and to present such a code of ethics before the membership at the AGM in 2001' was discussed but without a representative from the AHPP ethics committee to make the case there was no support for the proposal as it stands. The matter may be more appropriately considered when incorporation and changes to the constitution are made.

The festival at Hillcroft College on 6th May

The College provided a good spacious setting for the festival especially on such a warm sunny day - it is a college for women who have missed out on education and are now seeking to realise their own potential - humanistic undertones.

Those present had the opportunity for a 'pre-view' of John Rowan's outline presentation to 'Old Saybrooke' II. In

his relaxed engaging way he made the theoretical and concept terminology accessible and real. Humanistic Psychology should not become a set doctrine but of its nature an engaging in dialogue, contradiction and emerging processes.

A feedback session at the end of the day gave very positive comments on the workshops in range and involvement. Presenters from different training backgrounds expressed a commitment to a humanistic approach. Tony Morris ran an AHPP stall and a workshop in the afternoon. An excellent book display was set-up by Tony Jarrett of 'Books for Life' all the way from Devizes.

The main disappointment was that attendance was down from the 1997 festival, which was full to overflowing, to a more sedate arrival of visitors. Was it the weather or the publicity? A suitable scapegoat has yet to be found.

Thanks to June, Sally, Adela and James for their committee 'solidarity' in supporting the day and to Ann McNaughton and Vivienne Silver-Leigh who responded to the appeal for helpers.

In Progress

This looks like a busy year ahead: completing arrangements with AHPP, working with S&S, organisational membership, incorporation, developing publicity and promoting membership, bringing accounts up to date, need to recruit new committee members and the ongoing questions: what is our role? what do members want? what issues do we need to address? what events?

As June Green has said, 'The committee is never short of ideas, just short of people to run activities.

Active membership via www

If you would like to join the debate on the proposition that we should have a code of ethics, please send thoughts or comments to the administrator. You can send them either by e-mail to admin@ahpb.org.uk or by post to BM Box 3582, London WC1N 3XX and they will be published on the web page.

Is a code of ethics for AHP(B) like only allowing people into a church after they have been confirmed in the faith?

Do you think that codes of ethics encourage the infantilisation of those they are designed to protect? Are they too culturally specific to be broadly applicable? Are we negligent for not protecting the public against people who appear to claim that membership of AHP(B) is some kind of licence to practice?

Send in your views, join the debate!

Visit ahpb.org.uk
and read what other members think.

