

AHP Co-chairs' Page

Martin Pollecoff

Dear reader,

By the time you read this, the AHP will either be merged into UKAHPP, or we will be seeking new sources of funding. Here's why.

In the 1970s the AHP had a membership of some 1,200. Today, it is less than a third of that; and some of those members are still paying the same subscription rates that they were paying decades ago. As a result, we lose money on every issue of *Self and Society* given the additional substantial costs of maintaining an Association, and we have done for some years.

Just before Christmas 2013 we reached the end of the financial line. We advertised our plight and held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). There were two paths we could have taken then: the first was to accept generous personal pledges made to the editors that would have enabled them to take on S&S as a going concern, but not the AHP. The second was to work with the UKAHPP, who generously came to our aid and have underwritten the last two issues of S&S.

The board recommended that we joined forces with the UKAHPP and at the EGM held in December we voted to work with the board of UKAHPP to see what we could create together. A month later, the board of the UKHPP unanimously voted to take over AHP, but they still have to put that vote to their members, and they will be doing that at their own AGM in a couple of weeks' time.

What does all this mean to you?

Well some 90 of our members are already UKAHPP members – obviously you will not have to pay two subscriptions any more. We have also agreed that AHP members would have their subscriptions fixed for a year so there will be no increase in cost. And if, for whatever reason, you do not want to join this new entity, then we will refund you the unused part of your annual subscription.

With a combined membership of nearly 800, *Self*

and *Society* would then become viable again. I think you will agree that it is a great journal and, under the present editorial panel, one that is beginning to be recognized internationally.

The danger that Humanistic Psychology faces is a demographic one. I was drawn to this work in the 1970s, when it was a visceral, daring, scary and sexy pursuit. It was leading edge, if not bleeding edge. Our present members mostly belong to that 1970s cohort. You are terribly loyal, but those of us who are retiring are not being replaced.

By re-joining with an organization that was up until 15 years ago part of AHP, we stand a chance of reinventing Humanistic Psychology for a new generation – or if not reinventing it, then revitalizing it. And if this merger does not happen, if the UKHPP membership vote against this takeover, then we will be coming round with a hat – but that's not what we want.

I would also like to address the notion and the rumours that money is missing or that the finances are dodgy. I am a recent board member, but having gone through the books and the bank statements myself, I cannot find any Eldorado of missing cash. Board meetings were always 'pay your own way here and bring your own hummus' – people gave their time generously and for nothing. There are no villains here – no highly paid functionaries to blame. The simple truth is that we've not yet found a way to keep Humanistic Psychology at the cultural leading-edge where most of us think it belongs – but rest assured that we haven't quite given up yet. ☺

Martin Pollecoff, Acting Chair – 15 March 2014

P.S. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, praise, brickbats or cash contributions, if you feel we have done the right thing, or you wish to take the board to task, please feel free to call me up personally on **07802 338773**