

AHP Co-chair's Page

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All Change – Three Pieces of Interesting News

Dear friends, the last time I wrote this column, I announced that we were on the brink of joining up with the UKAHPP. However, this will not be happening immediately, with internal UKAHPP issues precluding this step at the moment. In the future, though, some kind of joining together of the two organizations is certainly possible.

However UKAHPP really did help to save our bacon. In November of last year the AHP was rapidly heading for insolvency. In December, we held an EGM, and Derek Lawton, now Chair of the UKAHPP, generously offered a loan to help AHP through the crisis. The very existence of that promise stopped us from being technically insolvent. The fact that we could take it up, if we needed, to meant that we could continue trading. That offer gave us the breathing space needed to renegotiate with our creditors, who were kindly able to cut us some slack; and in the event, we never took Derek up on the loan offer. But it was far more than a gesture: Derek went out on a limb for us (and he took no little 'stick' for so doing), and I would like to thank him publicly in this column, and also to thank Simon Lewis, the UKAHPP's Treasurer, who is kindly helping us with our own book-keeping.

I am very pleased to say that today, we are in much better health. This turn-around is because – (a) We have cut expenditure drastically over the last six months; and (b) you have loyally maintained your subscriptions – for which the board are truly thankful; so thank you all very much for sticking with this process.

Secondly, at the instigation of editorial board member Professor Andrew Samuels, we approached the publisher Taylor and Francis to see if they would take on *Self and Society*. We are delighted to announce here that they have agreed to publish S&S both on-line and in print, and so our journal will become an international one, and also one that has credence in the academic world. David and Richard will continue as the editors. Over 40 years of back issues of *Self and Society* are to be digitized and made available on-line.

In my garage, there are three boxes containing every past edition of *Self and Society*. Put them in a library and they gradually go missing; but put that resource on-line and it becomes a beacon for anyone interested in the ongoing

humanistic movement, and a permanent record of what you have created over the past four decades. Our charitable aim is 'to promote Humanistic Psychology', and I cannot think of a better way to do that – so thank you, Richard House, David Kalisch, Tracy Jarvis, Catherine Llewellyn, Andrew Samuels and all those on our team who were involved in the negotiations. We have agreed a contract, and once it is signed, there is a lump-sum payment involved which will also help keep us financially stable for at least the medium term.

Lastly, there will be a new AHP board. At the December EGM there was a demand that the old board stand down. Now personally I could not do that: as a director, even if you did not create 'the mess', you can not just walk away and leave it. Richard House, Catherine Lewellyn, Tracy Jarvis and myself agreed to stay on and form a caretaker board. We also recruited people who agreed to form the next board once we had sorted out the situation. I can't give you their names right now because this was six months ago – then they were fully onside, but we are now asking them again. However, by the time the next issue comes out, Catherine, Tracy and myself will have resigned, and the basis of a new board will have been created. And so I would like to thank Catherine and Tracy for their unwavering strength in sticking with this, despite the challenges. Richard House, our current co-editor, will remain on as a board member.

So to sum up: AHP is no longer insolvent – in fact, we are in comparatively good financial health. S&S is about to have a new publisher, one with the reach to turn it into a journal of international repute. The editorial team is consistently producing editions of outstanding quality, and they deserve this wider audience; and finally, the old caretaker board is soon to be replaced by a fresh and enthusiastic team.

I would like to thank you all for your support, including those of you who were against or sceptical about what your board was doing. To see Humanistic Psychology in Britain showcased by an international publisher for the foreseeable future will hopefully make any suffering we've experienced in this process more than worthwhile. 🍀

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