



## AHPb Chair's Page

### Lucy Scurfield

Dear Friends,

We are at a critical point in the history of the Association for Humanistic Psychology in Britain. At the Extraordinary General Meeting held in the afternoon of the Gathering on Saturday 3 December 2022 the majority of those present voted for the AHPb to deregister from both Companies House and the Charities Commission. Once again, the AHPb will become an unincorporated association initially using the old AHPb constitution adopted in July 1997 being the organisation's governing document. More details of the meeting are outlined below.

Since the EGM Richard House has given notice that he is stepping down as Editor of *Self & Society*, from late Spring 2023. Thank you so very much, Richard, for your enormous contribution. Your commitment and dedication during your time in this role are hugely appreciated. It has been a considerable undertaking which you have maintained consistently over the years. Readers have appreciated the different perspectives the journal has engaged with in these troubled turbulent times. Your role will be hard to fill, and your departure will prompt further exploration concerning the future of AHPb and the form it will take. Richard wanted me to apologise on his behalf for the delay in getting out the latest issues of the magazine; it has been a difficult year, but he assures me that both outstanding issues will be appearing soon – and will have been worth waiting for!

The future and form of AHPb was the focus of the 3 December Gathering, which started with people introducing themselves and saying something about their interest in Humanistic Psychology. This was followed by a kundalini meditation led by Jill Hall, who invited those who wished to, to say something about their experience.

After a shared lunch the afternoon started with an Open Forum in which there was an in-depth exploration of the relevance of Humanistic Psychology at this time. This was valuable as different perspectives were brought which helped inform the consideration of the four resolutions presented for voting on at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

### Extraordinary General Meeting

The meeting commenced with messages read out from members who had emailed their apologies for not being able to attend.

Those present included eleven members and three other individuals who expressed interest in joining the meeting but, as non-members, could not vote. The latter were a valuable presence in contributing to a full exploration of the issues.

There was an understanding about the constrained financial situation. A copy of **accounts for the year ending 2021** had been sent prior to the meeting to everyone who said they were attending.

A **Summary of Achievements in 2022** was read out:

- Work was undertaken by Tim Broughton with Adrian Barker, to explore ways to bring our impossibly antiquated and fragmented administration into the 21st century. We aim to introduce automation and integration processes relating to membership, database, financial processes, banking, book-keeping, accounts, website and communication with members. This is waiting to be acted on.
- A proposed advert was drafted for a part-time paid self-employed Support Person to help with membership management, social media and other basic administration. This is waiting to be acted on.
- A successful Summer Gathering Camp was organised by Tim Broughton.
- Richard House and Adrian Barker produced a bumper 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of *Self & Society*.
- Tim Broughton has introduced a regular newsletter for communicating with members.
- Major research was conducted into the institutional alternatives to AHPb operating as a registered charity and limited company

## Resolutions

The way forward was discussed in depth. Concerns raised by Adrian Barker, Dina Glouberman and others about deregistering from Companies House and the Charities Commission were carefully considered. The four resolutions, circulated to the membership prior to the meeting, were voted on. In accordance with the constitution voting was by a show of hands. The result is shown below.

(1) For the Association to continue in its existing form, i.e. a Private Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, at Companies House and registered as a Charity with the Charities Commission known as The Association For Humanistic Psychology in Britain.

No members came forward to take up the role of Director.

There were no votes cast for this resolution for the Association to continue in its present form.

(2) For the Association (Companies Registration Number 04263707) to convert to another form of charity (Registered Charity Number 109479) – i.e. a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and adopting a new constitution [see below], continuing to be known as The Association for Humanistic Psychology in Britain. The Association would no longer be a private company.

No new members came forward to be voted on to the Board of Trustees to carry this forward.

Two members voted for this resolution and therefore it was not carried.

(3) For the Association to dissolve itself as a charity and immediately reform again as we understand it was originally – i.e. a wholly independent ‘not for profit’ Association for Humanistic Psychology in Britain.

A minimum of three members are required to come forward and be voted on **to** the Executive Committee. Lucy, Richard and Tim are ready to put themselves forward to be voted on to the proposed Executive Committee.

We would also like additional members to join this committee and **to** share in the running of the Association.

The Association will not be registered with the Charity Commission or any other regulator. It will be solely governed by the wider membership with a Constitution. We understand this was the original form of The Association For Humanistic Psychology in Britain. (See the [old AHPb Constitution](#) dated July 1997.)

Seven voted for this Resolution. The resolution was carried.

(4) For the Association to dissolve itself altogether, thereby bringing the Association to an end completely.

There were no votes for this Resolution. The resolution was not carried.

## Trustees

Some people had to leave prior to the vote.

(5) Tim Broughton [7 votes], Richard House [9 votes] and Lucy Scurfield [8 votes] stood and were voted to continue as members on the Board of Trustees until the next Annual General Meeting.

George Cumming Bruce and Jim Robinson expressed interest in joining the Board. Their offer will be explored with due diligence given to considering their engagement.

## Summary

The meeting voted for the Association for Humanistic Psychology in Britain to deregister from Companies House and the Charities Commission and, once again, become an unincorporated association governed by a constitution, and we will initially use the old AHPb constitution dated July 1997.

The meeting voted Tim Broughton, Richard House and Lucy Scurfield on to the Board of Trustees for a term until the next Annual General Meeting.

George Cumming Bruce and Jim Robinson expressed interest in joining the Board.

## Further important developments

Anne Goodhew, who stepped down as Administrator in March this year, has very kindly offered to do what administrative work she can manage. We are extremely grateful for her help without which basic admin tasks are hard to undertake. However, we cannot continue with precarious support, and are looking to engage a Support Person who can help with automating the membership database. Tim Broughton has offered to find someone and to liaise with interested individuals. Thanks very much, Tim. Any offers of help are very welcome. Please do come forward if you think you may have something to offer and are interested in the future of the Association for Humanistic Psychology in Britain. Without such commitment, the future of AHPb is very uncertain.

Interesting times ahead!

**Lucy Scurfield**  
Chair, AHPb