

Debtors Anonymous UK Intergroup Minutes 25th March 2017

Attending 13 people / 8 GSRs

KL Chair
JH Treasurer
SC Secretary
SL Intergroup Service Representative
LD Literature Admin, GSR BDA Soho Wednesday 6:15 pm
RN Events Co-ordinator acting GSR Bayswater Saturday 11:00
DD GSR Hinde St Saturday 11:30
GS GSR BDA Islington Tuesday 9:15
NM GSR 'Promises' BDA Notting Hill Tuesday 7pm
J GSR Bristol
TG GSR Bayswater
CJ Acting GSR Hinde St Monday 1pm
FK GSR BDA Swiss Cottage Thursday 6:45 pm
DD GSR BDA Notting Hill Monday 9:45
IP
S

Apologies for Absence

CT Literature Shipping
EP Helpline

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January approved, after amendments to Action Points

Open Service Positions: Please consider stepping into these roles

Secretary

The secretary's term officially expired last May. This is a crucial role, which mainly involves taking minutes at Intergroup meetings, holding DA records and procedures, including the ByLaws, in a format and location accessible to current and future service committees, liaising closely with the service committee, and just about anything else we can think of that would be helpful. It would be very possible to job-share this role. A full job description with estimates of time involved is appended to these minutes. 1 year of solvency with 2 PRGs

Loner Support:

This position is being revived to support our aim of growing DA outside London and supporting those unable to reach meetings. An initial job description is appended to these minutes. 1 year of solvency with 2 PRGs

GSR Reports

LD	BDA Soho Wednesday night. Thriving and prosperous group. Donation to come
GS	BDA Islington. 18-20 attending. Donations from next meeting
DD	Hinde St Sat 11am. 30-40. £30 donation.
NM	Promises, Notting Hill 7pm Tuesday. Fifth meeting. No donations yet
SC (non-	Salisbury. Meeting has attracted 2 newcomers. Feels re-vitalised. Placing

voting)	literature order. No donation.
J B	Acting GSR Bristol. Recently refreshed format. Growing group – now 12.
TG	GSR Bayswater Steps and Tools. Averaging 21. Literature sales - £100 in February. Well stocked. PI – working on One Member One Action Day. Considering running Group Inventory. £30 donation.
TG	Wednesday online Skype meeting 8:30 pm. Average 15 people.
CJ	Hinde St Monday 1pm. Acting GSR. Average 15 people
SL	Phone meeting Tuesday 8pm. 10 people average from all over the country with 4 newcomers a week. Could use support from members with experience – to offer service either in a service position or just by sharing.
DD	Monday 9:15 BDA Westbourne Grove/Notting Hill. Full and prosperous group. (formerly Sophie M) Donation coming.

Reminder to GSRs: All meetings need to re-register with the American website (<http://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/register-a-meeting/>). And do the same in this country by emailing Webmaster@DebtorsAnonymous.org.uk.

All GSRs please encourage your group members to get involved with intergroup and ask an alternate to attend if you cannot.

Service Reports

Treasurer – JH

Spending Plan – brought forward from January £4068 . Paid to date £2558 leaving a balance £1510. (including contingency of £325).

Income since January £652.03 towards 2018 spending plan (with £ brought forward)

Expenditure since January £2558

Balance available to spend in 2017 £1510

Webmaster's report – NS

No change in usage. See Any Other Business for discussion about the website.

Literature Report - LD

December – February, Literature shipped 233 items in 10 orders for £700 plus shipping. A £100 donation from Westbourne Grove also came through Literature and will be transferred to the Intergroup account. An order for £1100 of stock was placed in January, and another, similar order is being prepared. Stocks are fairly low and *Currency of Hope* is out of stock.

Public Information – SL

The committee has been working on preparation for *One Member, One Action* in April. A one page guide will be sent to all groups, and will be posted on the Carrying the Message tab of the website (www.DebtorsAnonymous.org.uk). Tear-off flyers are also available on the website. The committee suggests each group read out the A5 poster in a meeting, and then pass copies around the group for each member to post somewhere. See the one page guide for suggestions and the Carrying the Message tab on the website for more information and to see how others have worked around their worries about doing this.

Because April is World Service month, Intergroup suggests reading out the 12 Concepts at business meetings in April and also at regular Intergroup meetings. SC to send out to all

groups

A UK PI Manual is being circulated by a former member of the PI committee. This document is NOT conference approved and is NOT waiting for approval. For all PI guidance and many useful suggestions and resource, please use the conference-approved manual available on the website.

ACTION POINTS: GSRs or PI reps, read A5 poster in meeting and pass around copies for each member to post as part of One Member, One Action in April.

Read Twelve Concepts in an April meeting as part of World Service Month.

SC to send 12 Concepts out to all groups

GSR's need to register or re-register groups on US website. The GSB has posted reminders, but they may have gone to a previous GSR and newer groups may not be on the list. Previous GSR's please pass these notices to next GSR when roles change.

All GSRs register or re-register your groups at <http://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/register-a-meeting/>. Please also keep the UK Intergroup Secretary (secretary@debtorsanonymous.org.uk) updated with any changes: new GSRs (with email, phone, meeting details), new meetings, new venues, and meetings that have closed. .

ISR Report SL

The World Service Conference PI committee is signing the contract for a whiteboard video!

Outreach letters have been approved.

The proposed Conference Charter Amendment to enable remote attendance at the World Service Conference has been circulated. It will be voted on at the WSC in August.

Fellowship calls: Information about WSC and GSB-sponsored calls is now being posted to the UK DA website. These calls are also available as recordings.

ACTION POINTS:

SL: Make sure the PI Manual is available by a link from the UK website.

All groups: The *DA Manual for Service* is now available on the main DA website to download for free. <http://debtorsanonymous.org/download/d-a-manual-of-service/?wpdmdl=1501>.

All members: There will be a Diversity edition of the *Ways and Means* – please contribute stories via SL susananonymous@yahoo.com

Events Co-ordinator Report RN

Convention: DD will co-ordinate PRGs and LD will manage Literature.

ACTION POINTS: R requests ideas for workshops: spreadsheets, record keeping, visions again, spending plans, etc. Please send ideas and offers to run workshops to reinerrecovery@gmail.com

GSRs for BDA groups, please ask your groups for BDA workshop ideas and offers to run them.

Helpline (Newcomer/Loner/Fellowship Support) – EP

We have had 12 people make contact via emails (the same amount as the previous two months) and 12 people via the telephone service (4 more compared to two months ago).

I have encouraged those living outside London to join the Tuesday telephone meeting between 8pm-9pm.

There was discussion about our mission to support new meetings. Challenges include getting some people with real recovery involved to support new groups. If someone is thinking of starting a new meeting, we could post it to website, where we might add a noticeboard.

Newcomer Packs

There have been many requests for a newcomer's pack. There is no standard pack. At the moment, nothing is donated by Intergroup.

Suggestions for inclusion:

Notes to Newcomers – could be printed off.

12 Signs

Debtors Anonymous

Record-keeping

Monthly Record-Keeper

ACTION POINTS: Literature will develop a standard Newcomers Pack and give its price. Groups can then buy them and decide whether to give them for free of charge full or reduced price for them.

Request for a volunteer for literature PRG

SC to send LD the file for the sleeve for putting Newcomer's literature into.

Sponsorship

Group Sponsorship

The General Service Board has developed a service that connects stronger groups to support smaller groups. Each group decides whether they want to put forward a service position to offer this. If they do, they elect someone and register with the GSB, and that is put on the US website. There was discussion about the potential downsides, particularly the risk of bad advice being offered. Hinde Street has adopted this and elected a Group Sponsorship rep. Intergroup asks for feedback. It is ultimately up to groups to decide if they want to put themselves forward for this.

Sponsors for individuals

Within groups – make this more formal in meetings, as it is in phone meetings. Some meetings have a book in which those seeking sponsees can list their contact details.

This is more difficult for loners. Discussion turned again to the idea of a website facility to do the same, with the challenge of protecting anonymity.

One suggestion was to hold a sponsorship workshop to bring willing sponsors and hopeful

sponsees together.

The 12x12x12 gives a basis for sponsoring, which may make it easier.

DA How has questions for the steps that may be more widely useful. These originated in OA. Before beginning Step Four in HOW, sponsees must start taking someone else through the first three steps.

S has sponsored many since DA UK started with only 5 people in the days before the internet. All her sponsees must start looking for sponsees by step 5. Two are currently looking for sponsees, and they are having trouble finding them. Often, people say they want a sponsor, but don't ask, typical of the compulsive debtors disease. She cautioned against spoon-feeding people.

European Convention

This will be held at Worth Abbey 21st – 23rd July. Friday midday - Sunday midday, £160, including accommodation and meals. A non-residential pass may be available. The conference needs people to step into service positions. Register interest and be sent booking form by emailing DAeuro2017.booking@gmail.com The website is www.EuropeanDA.wordpress.com. The venue can host a maximum of 84 people. Workshops will be offered. Places are still available.

Any Other Business

Seventh Tradition Contributions at the Convention

There was discussion about whether these should stay in the convention account or be given to intergroup. The convention account currently has a substantial surplus, but that is ring-fenced in case we need to move to a more expensive venue.

Some expressed surprised that there was both a suggested donation at the door and a Seventh Tradition appeal. There is a need to be clear about the purposes of these funds. At the European conference last year, the payment for the conference covered conference expenses, and the Seventh Tradition contributions were given to the Italian Intergroup that hosted the event.

NM is involved with the convention from another fellowship, where the surplus from both sources is held for a year for the potential needs of the next conference's spending plan.

S pointed out that the original purpose of the conference was to support newcomers and the aim was to have at least two speakers from abroad. It was suggested we use Seventh Tradition donations to fund speakers from abroad, and to support other events throughout the year.

This will be carried forward to the May agenda.

Mailing Lists

There was discussion about the Intergroup email list and how best to reach GSRs. There have been two lists – the Webmaster's list used for emailing Intergroup, and the Secretary's list, used to keep track of GSRs who attend Intergroup. If GSRs will (Please!) send their email addresses to the webmaster, then the Secretary's list is redundant.

ACTION POINT: GSRs please send your email address to

Webmaster@DebtorsAnonymous.org.uk

Website

There have been various discussion over the past couple of years about modifying the website. The webmaster is implementing suggestions from various members of Intergroup, but there has not been a review of the overall vision and strategy. The original intention of a minimalist site with links to the US site for most content has been lost.

It was suggested that there be a website committee/PRG of three people, including the webmaster, to clarify a vision and strategy for the site. LD has volunteered. TG is considering.

Admin

How long do we want to keep items on the agenda when they've been undecided or actioned for some time? The decision was decided to drop such matters after three meetings.

ACTION POINTS

Who	What	When
Group Literature Secretaries	Use new self-calculating order form on website. Get new bank account details from Literature@DebtorsAnonymous.org.uk	From now on
GSRs	Register or re-register group on UK and US website; update contact details	ASAP
GSRs	Attend Intergroup, use form emailed with minutes to record and report on group activities, and donations	Every two months
GSRs	Take a headcount of those in your group willing to sponsor others and/or take programme calls.	ASAP
GSR	Prepare for One Member, One Action during World Service month in April. Read and hand-out A5 poster. Read Twelve Concepts in meeting.	April
GSRs	Ask group for ideas for events and send to reneinrecovery@gmail.com	ASAP
SL	Pass request for BDA-specific literature to the WSC	

Next Meeting:

Saturday 25th March 2017 2pm

Broadbent Room

Central Westminster Hall

Appendix:

Open Service Position: Secretary

Workload timings refer to each two month period between Intergroup meetings

This would be a good position to be shared between two people, so they can support each other and cover if one or the other cannot make it to the meeting. SC, the current Secretary, would be happy to work together with someone who takes on this role now, before she resigns, and then that person could request someone else to work with.

Minutes – 20 hours (but I'm a perfectionist)

Take attendance at Intergroup meeting (then chase people for contact and meeting details, etc to keep list and website up-to-date)

Take minutes during meeting

Use attendance record to update contact list

Write highlights of meeting (1 page A4) and distribute to GSRs ASAP

Summarise Service Position reports for body of minutes and append full reports as appropriate

Extract action points from minutes and create table for end of minutes

Circulate first draft of minutes to all with first names and last initials

Incorporate any comments and anonymise minutes

Send to webmaster to post to website

Circulate to GSRs prior to next Intergroup meeting to check on Action Points and expedite approval.

Liaise with webmaster to post news and any changes to meetings - minimal

Hold information about Intergroup: By-laws and contact lists, etc, co-ordinating with webmaster and other service positions. Ensure all officers have access to documents. - minimal

Take an active role in service committee ideas and decisions, This is very satisfying. Time involved varies, and again, depends on how proactive someone is.

Term of Service : 2 years

Solvency requirements: 1 year of solvency with 2 PRGs

Loner Support

(Not a great name but until we can think of a better one!) this person will start managing a list including categories such as name, area, outreach, want to start a meeting , other needs.... Then hopefully the loner support person can start linking these people up and new meetings may start.

Also this person could manage a list of members who are available for programme calls and pass this onto the members Names for these lists will come from GSRs, perhaps from noticeboard on the website, and from enquiries to the Helpline.

Term of Service : 2 years

Solvency requirements: 1 year of solvency with 2 PRGs