



DAIG minutes 30 January 2010

At Westminster Central Hall

1. Attendance

The following were present:

Officers

- Incoming Chair
- Outgoing treasurer (acting secretary)
- Incoming treasurer
- PI officer)
- Deputy treasurer

GSRs

- Tuesday HOW meeting GSR
- Edinburgh GSR
- Tues Flood St GSR
- Cambridge GSR
- Manchester GSR
- Lyndhurst GSR
- Monday BDA GSR
- acting GSR, Sat Hyde Park Crescent

Visitors

- Two, from Edinburgh and Lyndhurst

Apologies

- Outgoing Chair
- 5 GSRs were present at the start of the meeting, with others arriving later, so the meeting was quorate; there was uncertainty as to whether this quorum stood for the AGM (when all present can vote, and this issue was added to the discussion of the Byelaws later in the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes had been circulated, and were agreed.

3. Service positions for 2010

Review

- The current situation with service positions was reviewed, and vacant posts put forward. Events person, secretary and Outreach officer

Post	Name	StartDate	Comments
Chair	filled	Jan 2010	
Deputy Chair	filled		Proposed post be abolished (see later)

Secretary	--vacant-		Requested that 'minute-taker' be added to be clear what this was (differing from most group meetings)
Treasurer	filled	Jan 2010	
Deputy Treasurer	filled	Jan 2007	Proposed post be abolished (see later)
PI Officer	filled	Nov 2009	
Literature Officer	filled	Apr 2009	
Events Officer	--vacant--		
Outreach Officer	--vacant--	Jan 2010	This was taken on at the AGM
General email contact	filled	Jan 2007	Would like to hand this over; not onerous
Loner support email contact	filled	Oct 2009	
Telephone contact	filled	Aug 2009	
Postal contact	filled	Jan 2007	Would like to hand this over; not onerous
Webmaster/meetings list coordinator	filled	Sept 2009	
Intergroup Service Representative	filled	Jan 2010	Discussed below

It was agreed that it was important to keep this list up-to-date, with start dates. This discussion linked to that on the Byelaws below.

Byelaws

The Treasurer introduced this item. The Byelaws for Intergroup define the basic way in which Intergroup operates, including the nature and roles of Officers, and the timing and conduct of meetings. Changes to these Byelaws could only be made at the AGM. The current version we have of the Byelaws are extremely old, with decisions taken at previous AGMs not incorporated. There were also issues that had been discussed but not approved at an AGM. A version of the proposed amended Byelaws had been circulated to GSRs, with changes highlighted.

This document was discussed, and a number of small changes that clarified the meaning approved. In addition the following issues were discussed:

- What should the quorum be for the AGM? It was decided that it should remain at 5 GSRs, even though all present may vote.
- Composition of Intergroup:
 - The positions of Vice Chair and Deputy Treasurer were removed
 - There was discussion about the fact that 4 positions (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Literature Officer) could not be GSRs, while others could be. Discussion generally supported the idea that the Chair and Secretary should not be GSRs because they are too involved in running the meeting, and that there should be a separation from the Treasurer who looked after the money. However it was proposed that the Literature Officer could also be a GSR. This was approved.
- Service requirements:
 - Neil S argued that the requirement for PRGs as well as abstinence to hold a service position was unusual and inappropriate, as (a) this does not happen in any other 12 step fellowship, and (b) PRGs are merely a tool of the programme, and it was not appropriate to insist that people used that particular tool.
 - The counter arguments were (a) that debting is a disease of isolation, and PRGs were an indication of non-isolation, and (b) that DA World Service used PRGs in service requirements, and we should follow their lead, and change things at World Service if we wished to act differently.
 - A proposal that PRGs be removed was put but not seconded.
- Length of service:
 - There was a discussion about the length of service with some being for 2 years, some for one, and the ISR being for 3 years

- Regarding the ISR, it was reported that this was the recommendation of WSC, and was for practical reasons.
- The main discussion centred on whether 1 year was too short a time to get into a role. An alternative view was that the brevity of the appointment allowed people to take it on and leave feeling the job was complete, and also allowed more people to have the opportunity to take on the roles. If two years, people were free to leave earlier; if one year, people were anyway allowed to serve two terms. If there were a difference in term for different posts, what was the rationale, and which should be which?
- Eventually it was proposed that all posts apart from ISR be fixed at 2 years, with a possibility of no more than 2 consecutive terms. This was passed.

The Byelaws were approved with the changes made.

Election of Intergroup Service Representative (ISR)

Intergroup had asked the groups for nominations of people interested in being ISR. Only one person at the meeting put themselves forward, who had attended WSC in 2009. She introduced herself, and a vote taken in her absence, at which her appointment was unanimously approved.

Filling other vacant positions

Outreach Officer

- The temporary Outreach Officer has been responding to phone messages, and has also recently taken on temporary responsibility as outreach officer. She was asked if she was interested in taking the post on formally. She agreed, and was voted in.

4. Treasurer's report and donations

The Treasurer presented the financial situation.

- Funds currently stand at £3722
 - Total income 2009 was £3501 (including literature sales)
 - Donations from groups were £2167
 - Total expenditure was £2462
 - Of the May09 spending plan for £1179, £557 had not been spent
- It had been previously agreed that we would adopt new procedure for organizing IG finances, with each year providing funds for a spending plan for the following year.
 - After commitments, such as the prudent reserve, £2400 income was available for the coming year by the November Intergroup meeting, excluding the unspent money from 2009
 - So far £63 had been received since November, and would go forward to the 2011 spending plan.

A working party of the Treasurer, the incoming Treasurer, and the 2009 WSC delegate had met to develop a proposed spending plan for 2010, and a detailed document circulated.

- The first proposal was about the way the spending might be structured, as opposed to the actual figures, with the intention of clarifying our procedures for future years
 - All areas that we expect to give some money to should be included
 - it should include likely WSC costs
 - It should have some basic running costs for each area (PI, outreach, events), which can be spent by a working group without asking Intergroup's permission
 - The rest of the funds should then be set aside and bid for by individual working groups
 - That these funds come in two slices, so that there is some money (maybe less) kept over until the 2nd half of the year
 - There is a mid-term spending review e.g. in June to see if things have changed (e.g. the real WSC costs will be known), and to fine tune.
 - The spending plan for the following year is again set at the January AGM, with a working group drafting a proposal in December as this year
 - This would also allow Intergroup to set a goal for donations during a year, with fundraising carried out if a shortfall is likely

This structure was approved

- The second aspect was to decide how the £2400 for 2010 should be divided. The proposal was:

World service representation	1600.00
Outreach basic	50.00
PI basic	50.00
Event Holding basic	50.00
minimum WS donation	100.00
Rent donation 2010	120.00
subtotal	1970.00
Biddable funds 1 (March 2010)	300.00
Biddable funds 2 (July 2010)	130.00
Grand total	2400.00

This proposal was accepted

The third aspect was how to allocate the £557 unspent funds from the 2009 spending plan. The working group had considered sending as a World Service donation, adding it to the 2010 plan above, using it for something specific (such as the proposed 20th anniversary party), or a mixture of these. Their proposal was:

World service donation	157.75
DA 20 th birthday party contribution	400.00
Grand total	557.75

This was briefly discussed. One comment was disquiet at group donations being used for a party (as opposed for example for a convention). There wasn't time to discuss properly, and the 20th anniversary party working group had not yet produced proposals, so **it was agreed to approve this** (a) with the world service contribution being sent, and (b) with the rest being provisionally allocated as proposed, but with proper discussion when detailed proposals were brought forward.

Also noted AA 75th anniversary celebration due in early June.

It was noted that if there were no detailed proposals for the party by the next Intergroup meeting in March, time would be getting very short to hold an event in June. Action: Party working group

Donations were received:

Tuesday DA HOW	£50
Tuesday Flood St	£33.65

5. Other reports

Chair's report. This had been circulated by the outgoing Chair, and was noted.

Outreach:

- The new Outreach Officer noted that it worked for her to receive both the contacts from the phone line and the loner support email.
- She had had success putting people in touch
- Issues that kept coming up were a need for sponsors and PRGs. She raised the possibility of building a list of people willing to be sponsors or hold PRGs long distance.
 - It was noted that PRGs took place by telephone in the US, and one attendee had found a sponsor that way
 - Loners were being informed about telephone / online meetings were held in the US
 - It was suggested that restarting PRG days might help
- A member from Edinburgh reported that they had bought a pay-as-you-go mobile and used that as a contact number. New debtors preferred a local number to a central London number.

PI:

- The new PI officer was gathering information about which groups had PI officers

- The Maidstone group had produced a poster with tear off slips, and an example was shown.

Sponsorship workshop:

- This had been held the previous week, and had been very successful. The workshop had 6 speakers with around 28 candidates and the workshop was fully self supporting. The surplus money went to the venue.

No other officers were present or had sent reports.

6. Visions for 2010

There were discussions about visions for 2010 and themes for intergroup meetings. Due to time constraints, a slightly arbitrary list of ideas mentioned is given below, with some structure, but there was not time to discuss in any detail or to see what was missing. It was suggested that this be continued in the March meeting.

- Taking the message outside London / support for loners
 - PAY mobiles, so people can call local person
 - Aim for DA meetings in every major city
 - IG meetings in other UK cities
 - PRG days
 - UK phone meetings
 - more events (workshops/PRG days), attracting more people
 - more sponsorship
 - conventions outside London
 - raising awareness of debtanon
- Linking with other regions / fellowships
 - DA w/e convention - UK/Europe
 - European convention along with party
 - WSC on east coast of US, NYC, easier to get to
 - 2020 host WSC
 - Other fellowship events, opportunities for integration - e.g. some fellowships have speakers from other fellowships
- PI
 - press packs
 - media training
 - PI - social workers, healthcare professionals, different media outlets
 - Open groups/convention? (Ed had open meeting)
- Intergroup
 - meeting themes
 - PI
 - business
 - visions
 - conventions, guidelines, learning from other regions/fellowships
 - more accessible useful info on website, e.g. linking from UK site to useful parts of WS site

GSRs were asked for the following:

- GSRs had been asked to email or bring thoughts on vision to this meeting, but none had been received. Asked them to try again, thinking at different levels (regional, national, group). **Action GSRs**
- Aim for 4 events in 2010 - what might they be? **Action GSRs**
- PRG days had been held 2-3 times by St John's Hyde Park Crescent, and ceased when Intergroup included PRGs in their vision 3 years ago. Yet none had been organized. Intergroup had since clarified

that their role was to ensure such events were considered if not already happening . Requested that the HPC GSR take this back to St John's and ask if they were interested in recommencing these. **Action HPC GSR**

7. Meeting reports

- Brighton HOW meeting: new, now 5-6 people
- Cambridge: 5-10 people, Convention 20th March 2010 (on website)
- Edinburgh: been going several years, very small for a long time, but grown, and now some members formed own group in Glasgow; held open meeting for journalists, article in Edinburgh Evening News; also spoke to radio journalist
- London
 - Flood St DA: 15-20 people, lots of newcomers, need sponsors
 - Mayfair BDA: growing, 12-18 people
 - Tues HOW: growing, still young meeting
 - Thursday HOW: strong, 10-16 people
 - Sat HPC: 35-40 people
- Lyndhurst: Had chair from London member, produced posters, sent GSR to intergroup
- Maidstone: 5 people
- Manchester: 7 average, people also come from Liverpool, Yorkshire; have group spending plan and bank account
- Edinburgh: been going several years, very small for a long time, but grown, and now some members formed own group in Glasgow; held open meeting for journalists, article in Edinburgh Evening News; also spoke to radio journalist

Meeting closed at 5.00 pm. Next meeting Saturday 27th March

AGM Jan 2010: Summary points for GSRs

Vacant Intergroup positions:

- Secretary (minute-taker, NOT meeting taker)
 - THIS IS URGENT! Job description:
 - Prepares and circulates the Minutes, and a bulleted summary for GSRs, in a timely manner (normally within one week of an Intergroup meeting), once they have been confirmed by the Chair.
 - Notifies members of Intergroup of the meetings.
 - Maintains an up-to-date list of GSRs for groups, and their contact details, together with the webmaster.
 - May act as one signatory of the DA UK bank account.
- Events officer
- Responding to general DA emails (not onerous! - mainly involves forwarding to the appropriate person)

Intergroup Byelaws

New up-to-date byelaws as to how Intergroup meetings run approved, and will be on website

Spending plan for 2010

£2400 available for 2010. Agreed to spend as follows:

World service representation	1600.00
Outreach basic	50.00
PI basic	50.00
Event Holding basic	50.00
minimum WS donation	100.00
Rent donation 2010	<u>120.00</u>
subtotal	1970.00
Biddable funds 1 (March 2010)	300.00
Biddable funds 2 (July 2010)	<u>130.00</u>
Grand total	2400.00

Funds unspent from 2009, agreed the following:

World service donation	157.75
DA 20 th birthday party contribution*	<u>400.00</u>
Grand total	557.75

* (provisional, subject to approval when detailed proposals received)

Events

Sponsorship workshop very successful

Feedback sought as to idea/practicalities of 20th anniversary party this year

Visions for 2010

- GSRs had been asked to email or bring thoughts on vision to this meeting, but none had been received. Asked them to try again, thinking at different levels (regional, national, group). **Action GSRs**
- Aim for 4 events in 2010 - what might they be? **Action GSRs**
- PRG days had been held 2-3 times by St John's Hyde Park Crescent, and ceased when Intergroup included PRGs in their vision 3 years ago. Yet none had been organized. Intergroup had since clarified that their role was to ensure such events were considered if not already happening . Requested that the HPC GSR take this back to St John's and ask if they were interested in recommencing these. **Action HPC GSR**

Next meeting Saturday 27th March
