

MINUTES OF THE AGM

Sunday 8th March 2020 / 11:00am

Helen Bamber Foundation, Bruges Place, 15-20 Baynes Street (entrance via Randolph Street),
London NW1 0TF

Attendees: 9 members of the Executive Committee and 8 members of the Society

Apologies: Ben Spray, Miles Groff, Simon Du Plock, Ernesto Spinelli, Karen Weixel-Dixon, Jane Nairne, Rosemary Lodge

1. Opening remarks / Welcome

Paola Pomponi as Chair of the Society welcomed everyone, especially Damien who joined remotely from Australia. Key points noted:

- Paola Pomponi has taken over from Natasha Synesiou, following a wonderful conference. A Youtube channel has been created, including various interviews, with thanks to Adam Knowles for his valuable contribution.
- The SEA website is up and running, with thanks to Rob Thomson who has helped enormously. Therapists directory still outstanding (see below for further discussion).
- Events organising needs work, and we are still looking for, and perhaps found, a new events organizer. Our aim is to bring new voices to these events, including reaching out to students, to make space for new ideas.
- Seeking to address our publicity stance, to invite new individuals, groups, and schools to join us, to expand our ideas and thoughts.
- The SEA has passed the OMR (quinquennial review), with good ideas of what to do in the future. This includes accrediting other courses, if we have the appropriate resource.

2. Minutes of 2019 AGM Approval / Amendments

No errors noted. Minutes approved

3. Proposal of motion from Damien Stewart (seconded by Ernesto Spinelli)

Motion to approve:

“Thank you for the opportunity to submit this motion. It is something I have brought up before, however I understand the difficulties with it due to logistics. I would like

to suggest SEA meetings and training be video recorded in the form of a webinar so that those of us who unfortunately cannot attend can gain access to the material. I am heartened by this year's AGM allowing for dialling in - Thank you."

It was clarified with Damien Stewart that CPD resource in Australia is small due to the small existential community. Having access to recorded sessions would be hugely beneficial. The ensuing discussion covered the following points with respect to recording sessions:

- Professionalism, and how to ensure recordings are made and presented with appropriate quality;
- Cost, particularly of bringing in a professional to make the recording if that is deemed necessary;
- Logistics of carrying out the recording;
- Managing trainer and participant consent;
- Managing access to the recording;

Despite the challenges, it was agreed that a need exists and this represents an opportunity for the SEA if done in the right way, as there is very little content currently available.

It was agreed that this matter would be taken forward by the Executive Committee.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

The matter discussed was that of the SEA Therapist Directory, particularly with respect to no/low cost therapy providers, arising from the motion proposed by Anthony Venditti and voted in by majority. The discussion covered the following key points:

- Paola Pomponi set out that there has been a lot of hard work put into making this work, but the challenges have been significant. They include: how to automate the directory, for instance by linking up to the membership renewal system, which has proven to be unworkable; how to define "existential practitioners" for inclusion; whether or how the SEA would opine on individuals being included from a competency perspective, for instance via accreditation through SEA-accredited courses only, the UKCP more widely, the BACP, and so on.

- Paola further explained that the Executive Committee has discussed this in depth, and for an extended period of time, and has opined that the SEA cannot decide upon who is “existential”, nor on the ability of the practitioners being listed. However, the UKCP does have a directory that can be searched. The SEA therefore could put a link to this on its website.
- Anthony Venditti acknowledged that significant challenges existed, and that although a significant amount of work had been put in to try to overcome these, the idea could not be implemented as originally intended. He stated that he keeps two low-cost slots available, and encourages others to do the same.
- It was noted that members could be surveyed in the next mailing, as to whether they offer low-cost therapy.
- It was agreed that members registered with the UKCP through the SEA would be contacted to gain their consent that basic information about them, including whether they offer low-cost slots, could be published on the SEA’s website. This would be a simple list, rather than a more dynamic directory.

5. Reports from:

i. Chair – presented by Paola Pomponi

Given within the opening remarks (see above).

ii. Treasurer (see Appendix 1) - presented by Sally O’Sullivan

In addition, it was noted that the accounting reporting date has been changed. The Society is financially healthy following the work by Teresa Cannon after looking at the pricing for the conference. There were no questions.

iii. Membership Secretary (see Appendix 2) - presented by Serena Fianco

Serena noted that for the first time in a while we have lost members. Part of the reason might be how reminders go out (e.g. going into spam). There is also a need to investigate why students are not renewing.

A discussion followed on the point of falling numbers, noting:

- Perhaps there is confusion over how to renew, or that alternative reminders such as via text message could be used.

- Beyond logistics, if the membership is falling, perhaps this is linked to the absence of a Publicity Officer, and the need to promote the Society more widely.
- It was suggested that we survey people who have left if we are still in contact with them.

iv. UKCP Registration Officer (see Appendix 3) - from Jane Nairne, read in her absence by Alex Morriss

In addition, the following points were mentioned in the subsequent discussion:

- The distinction between the SEA and the UKCP, and the SEA's role, can be confusing. Perhaps more needs to be done to clarify with members what the structure looks like.
- Adam Knowles noted that the structure of Regent's University London's ADEP is changing, and as such whether this is something that the SEA should address. Paola Pomponi responded that the quality of the training has not changed, and that the SEA only accredits the last two years. However, it remains important that we promote the existential pathway strongly, to encourage students to pursue this.
- It was further noted that it would be good to accredit other courses.

v. SEA Hans W. Cohn Scholarship (see Appendix 4) – from Karen Weixel-Dixon, read in her absence by Alex Morriss

It was noted that this is a good publicity point for the SEA, which we should promote more widely.

vi. SEA Journal editors (see Appendix 5) – from Simon Du Plock and Martin Adams, read in their absence by Alex Morriss

The ensuing discussion covered the following points, focussed on broadening the Journal's appeal and standing:

- Mark White wondered whether we might interview the authors of reports, and link these to their articles. Paul McGinley wondered whether we might publish books, for instance a book of case studies. Both of these ideas were well received, and it was noted that the Dialogues book has been a success.
- It was noted that the ADEP potentially provided a rich resource of case studies, with a host of new authors.

- It was further suggested that we contact other publications, such as philosophy magazines, psychoanalytic publications, etc. in order to widen our reach.
- The clear point arising from this discussion was the need for a dedicated Publicity Officer to consider how we can promote the SEA's activities in the best possible way.

6. Elections and re-elections for committee roles:

PP – actively try to get people involved, bring in new blood. Committee members also have an expiry date of 3 years.

a. Elections

- Serena Fianco** (Membership Secretary) - APPROVED
Nominated by Paola Pomponi / Seconded by Teresa Cannon
- Derek Bean** (Committee Vice Chair) - APPROVED
Nominated by Natasha Synesiou / Seconded by Andrew Miller
- Rob Thomson** (Technical Support) - APPROVED
Nominated by Paola Pomponi / Seconded by Ben Spray
- Alexander Morriss** (Committee Secretary) - APPROVED
Nominated by Paola Pomponi / Seconded by Natasha Synesiou

b. Re-elections

- Sally O'Sullivan** (Treasurer) - APPROVED
Nominated by Paola Pomponi / Seconded by Natasha Synesiou
- Andrew Miller** (Hermeneutic Circular Editor) - APPROVED
Nominated by Paola Pomponi / Seconded by Ben Spray
- Teresa Cannon** (Conference Organiser) - APPROVED
Nominated by Paola Pomponi / Seconded by Andrew Miller

7. AOB

None.

8. Closing Remarks

9. Date of next AGM (to be announced)

AGM closed at 12:56pm.

Appendix 1 - Treasurer's Report



The Society for Existential Analysis

Treasurer's Report for the financial accounts ending 31st December 2018.

In fulfillment of my duties as Honorary Treasurer of the Society for Existential Analysis, I have kept proper accounts and recorded all the financial transactions of the Society for Existential Analysis during the 14-month period 1st November 2017 to 31st December 2018. Having received approval to extend the accounts to match the calendar year and move to an accrual basis of reporting at the last AGM, I have recorded all payments, receipts and bank transactions in the financial accounts, which have been checked by the Society's accountants.

I found no outstanding debts or liabilities nor future commitments at the end of the financial year.

Revenue came from Membership fees, Conference tickets, UKCP registration fees, CPD events and sales and adverts of our publications.

Expenditure of funds went towards awarding scholarships, editing and printing of publications, CPD events and the Conference, administration and the remuneration of the UKCP Registration Secretary.

Due to the extended period covered by these accounts' figures include both the 2017 and 2018 conferences, the latter celebrating our 50th Anniversary over 2 days. We also raised the cost of ticket prices. The 2018 UKCP registration income starts to reflect the 5-year accreditation cycle. We have invested in a revamp of the website which was recently launched and there has also been increased CPD activity with the film club and supervision series. Our membership income remains healthy and we have reduced advertising costs by opting to promote through social media and directly with the membership.

The SEA remains committed to financing and sponsoring academic endeavours for students of Existential Psychotherapy, through scholarships, research projects and events promoting Existential thought.

Sally O'Sullivan

Honorary Treasurer, Society for Existential Analysis

16th August 2019

Society for Existential Analysis (Charity No. 1039274)

Receipts and payments for the 14 month period to 31st December 2018

	14 months	12 months
<u>Receipts</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Membership fees	25,056	21,735
Journal sales	1,030	1,215
Conference fees	19,404	8,636
UKCP registration	12,128	9,584
Miscellaneous income & Donations	0	100
Forum, CPD, fund raising & misc	2,220	252
Advertising	2,582	565
Total receipts	62,420	42,087
<u>Payments</u>		
Journal production	7,392	9,480
Hermeneutic Circular production	3,495	5,035
Conference expenses	12,443	8,687
AGM, events, membership costs etc	1,525	1,591
Forum, CPD, fund raising & misc	1,834	1,725
UKCP registration	4,136	3,542
Grants & bursaries	12,819	8,520
Admin stationery, postage & phone	680	494
Advertising	0	135
Website & promotion	3,026	815
Independent examiner	200	200
Bank & PayPal charges	1,233	641
Total payments	48,783	40,865
<u>Net income for year</u>	13,637	1,222
Cash funds brought forward	57,674	56,452
<u>Cash funds carried forward</u>	71,311	57,674

	14 months	12 months
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Current accounts	69,883	63,818
Balance at Paypal	1,428	3,432
Accruals	0	(9,576)
Total cash funds at 31st December 2018	71,311	57,674

Signed  (Treasurer)

Date 24/7/19

The Society for Existential Analysis
Accounts for the 14th Month Period to 31st December 2018

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31st December 2018 which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- a) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- b) To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- c) To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report


My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations for you as trustees concerning any such matter. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act;
To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Simon FCA FCCA
8 Durweston Street
London W1H 1EW


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24 July 2019

Appendix 2 - Membership Secretary's Report

SEA 2020 Membership Summary

The Society for Existential Analysis counts 390 members which is significantly less than 428 at the beginning of last year.

Between January 2019 and January 2020, we gained 56 new members (down from 66 new members in 2018) and more crucially we lost 94 members.

The vast majority - 62% of SEA members are based in the UK, 22% are students and 14% are international members. The number of international members grew last year despite the overall drop in memberships. We now have 7 life members.

Students continue to be the largest growth area for the SEA but unfortunately this year over 30% of students failed to renew or upgrade their membership.



Report from SEA Registration Officer
Report to AGM 2020

As at May 2019 SEA was listed as having 133 registrants registered with the UKCP through the SEA. This compares to 128 members in May 2018. Five registrants are currently on sabbatical.

SEA carried out its third tranche of 5-year reaccreditation in March 2019. Of the eleven members due for reaccreditation, ten were approved and one resigned their UKCP membership. A further round of reaccreditation will take place in 2020.

Executive reviewed the forms for renewal and reaccreditation, taking on board feedback from members to make the processes clearer to members and to the requirements of the updated CPD Policy.

Jane Nairne
Registration Officer
14 January 2020

Report on the Hans W. Cohn Scholarship for 2019 :

In 2019 we had seven enquiries with respect to the fund: only one person turned out to be eligible (others were not yet enrolled in a program, or, something similar).

After some deliberation, the sub-committee decided to award Neil Todd £7520.00, payment to be arranged per term, for three terms. Neil is in his third year of a DProf. at NSPC: he was considered to be a very worthy candidate. He was reminded of his obligations to participate in events and/or publications of/for the SEA.

Happily, it has also been confirmed, in writing, that NSPC can issue invoices with reference to the award amount(s).

Much appreciation to the sub-committee members for their participation.

Existential Analysis

Journal report to SEA AGM 8 March 2020

Prof Simon du Plock and Martin Adams, Co-Editors

We are submitting a written report as we have long-standing commitments that prevent us attending the conference.

Editorial Board – we have made no new appointments to the Board this year. We currently have 20 members, 7 of whom are attached to UK-based universities or training organisations.

Journal Production is still the responsibility of Dean Andrews and Andrew Miller, and advertising, sales and distribution is still the responsibility of Sarah Ferguson.

Reader's Panel - We are always looking for experienced and reliable peer reviewers to join the reader's panel. The job of a reader is to peer review the papers that are submitted for prospective publication and submit a review for consideration by the editors. Both the submitted papers and the reviews are reviewed blind. Papers are assigned according to the readers knowledge area.

A frequent comment of peer reviewers is that a high proportion of submitted papers are found to need careful proofing. Overall, approximately half of submissions require some further work in order to be published. Depending on the speed with which authors respond, and given that we publish once every six months, this means that some papers take a year from initial submission until publication.

Anyone interested in joining the reader's panel, please contact Richard Swann, our Peer Review Coordinator.

Quality and Number of submissions – The quality of articles remains generally high, though the volume of submissions is again down on previous years. This continues a trend we have noticed in recent years. It is also a trend that affects many other smaller journals. In spite of the high standing that the journal has, it is still a relatively low circulation journal and a reason for the reduction is that academics and researchers are strongly encouraged by their employers to publish instead in higher circulation journals to enhance the standing of their institutions. There is also an increase in the number of online publications that are not peer reviewed. A positive impact of this is that we can often entertain responses to articles and we encourage this kind of dialogue, in an academic tone, in the Journal.

Over the last few years we have received a number of international submissions and here proofing is particularly important. However, the last 2 issues, 30.2 and 31.1, have had fewer non-UK papers than previously. This is a concern and we hope that it is not a trend.

The last 2 issues have a much larger proportion than usual of papers that originated as presentations at the SEA conference. While we are pleased to include such papers it disguises the overall trend that fewer papers are submitted.

We are also curious to know whether the papers would have been submitted if they had not first been presented at the conference. We hope they would.

As before, conference papers will not be subject to further review by the Editorial Board except for proof-reading purposes.

We would like to express our thanks to the contribution everyone on the Journal makes to the smooth running of things. It is not always easy to publish a Journal almost exclusively by email correspondence and we appreciate the Team's generosity of spirit working within these constraints. It is easy to forget that we are, in effect, publishing the equivalent of two edited books every twelve months.

Finally, we particularly want to express our gratitude to the Society as a whole for supporting the Journal by reading, contributing and critiquing what we do.

Prof Simon du Plock
Martin Adams

2 March 2020