

SHIATSU SOCIETY (UK)

Notes from Meeting of Friends

DRAFT

4th April 2009, 11.10am to 12.30pm
Bristol Buddhist Centre, 162 Gloucester Road, Bishopston, Bristol

Chair: Tamsin Grainger
Directors: Catherine Scanlon, Elizabeth Davies, David Home, Mick Duncan
Minutes: Samantha Haywood
Present: 45 members

(1) WELCOME

Tamsin Grainger welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

(2) EGM TIMING

Jo Durden asked why the EGM is held the same day as the AGM?

Tamsin Grainger replied that this was because items that arise at the AGM can be passed to the EGM. One day is more convenient for most people so it is more likely that the meetings will be quorate. Any member can call an EGM if they have a specific item they would like to discuss.

(3) WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Everyone had a copy of the written questions put to the Directors. The following queries were answered:-

Shiatsu Society Website: Tim Mason had asked:

This structure for the discussion board is not very flexible if a member wants to start up a new issue for discussion. If you do put something under one of the existing main heads then it doesn't provide a clear sub-sub heading that would let others know that there is a new subject being broached. For example I had a specific query and when I couldn't find an obvious place to put it I used the 'Chewing the Fat' sub-section (this was 9th Feb 2009). As expected I have got no replies. A similar point was made by Andrew Scott who posted the only other previous comment under this section of the discussion board. Can something be done to enable new topics initiated by 'ordinary members' to be more clearly highlighted to other members who are browsing the discussion board?

Tamsin Grainger said that the comments would be noted and this is something that needs to be looked at. The half yearly budget review meeting is in May and funds for the website will be looked at then.

Jo Durden and Suzanne Yates asked whether the enews could have links to the website so more people look at it?

Tamsin Grainger replied that this has been done recently and will continue to be done. There can be a topic of the week or month that links to our site. Cliff Jenkinson said there has been concerns about the public being able to access the discussion boards but there is no reason why they shouldn't have access so it was agreed to remove the security so anyone can access the whole site for a trial period of a month.

Anne Palmer asked who managed the site?

Tamsin Grainger replied that Samantha Haywood managed the day-to-day updates, Cliff Jenkinson hosted it and no-one is designing it at present.

Nic Florey stated that not many members use the discussion boards and he has no email notification when someone does.

Cliff Jenkinson replied that there is an option on the top right of the screen, 'profile', and in here you can tick to receive email notifications.

Cliff Jenkinson had put the following written question:

How many Graduates have left the Society as a direct consequence of the 4-year rule? Please specify the number, the total number of Graduates and the % loss that has occurred.

Barbara Know said she had left the Society because of this rule and only rejoined to come to the AGM to vote against the rule. She had felt she had been given an ultimatum and was suddenly not deemed part of the Society even though she has been working as a professional practitioner for many years.

Nic Florey asked what was the point of the MRSS?

Thea Bailey replied that this is terribly important to our standing and history, where we come from and that we wish to be part of a professional organisation. It adds depth to our profession and shows we have worked hard in research, credibility and professionalism. Graduates think they get their diploma and they are done but all older graduates know that this is only the beginning. The MRSS is a commitment to move forward.

Nic liked being given the 4-year rule as it made him become MRSS instead of keep putting it off. Nic enjoyed the PGY and found it had boosted his practice.

Bill Commerford said he has come across a lot of irate people over the 4-year rule and long standing practitioners count for a lot. Thea Bailey replied that it was good that people took their time to being MRSS from graduating. Cath Gardener said she had needed 2 years to develop before taking the MRSS. Suzanne Yates said that all training takes time and is a lifetime process, we are all individual and people should not be penalised for needing longer.

Cliff Jenkinson stated that we are a professional association and the graduate category is a relatively new category. Cliff reminded people that the MRSS is an assessment, not an exam. Do half the members not want a professional organisation anymore?

Dinah John felt that since the graduate category had been created, graduates feel there is no point in becoming MRSS as they are on the public registers and see the MRSS as a second exam.

David Home reminded the meeting that MRSS stands for a Member of the 'Professional' Register of the Shiatsu Society.

Anne Palmer said that students training is a lot better now than it used to be and there was a need for the MRSS in the past but feels that graduates are now eligible once they graduate.

Keith Phillips has received feedback that the PGY is good value and anyone not MRSS is not stopped from practising so the MRSS is not prohibitive.

Anne Palmer said that membership numbers were static and not growing, the same for schools intakes. Something is not right, what is it? Teachers need to look at why students are not confident after 3 years of training. Jo Durden feels that students need more self employment and business training. A business mind is needed. Jean Robertson-Molloy feels that Shiatsu has been around for a long time and we may have encouraged other therapies to evolve here in the UK and more people train in CAM. The reason they have not chosen Shiatsu could be that it is expensive and 3-year training whereas many CAM therapies are a couple of weekends only and a lot cheaper to train in.

Debbie Collins feels that members think there is more involved with the PGY than there actually is. This gives members a cut off point and encouragement is needed.

Nic Florey asked if the MRSS is a useful title in regards to regulation?

Elizabeth Davies replied that there will still be a place for the MRSS when regulation comes into fruition as it is a sign of excellence in the world of Shiatsu. The regulator will say that their practitioners are 'safe' but that is all.

Tamsin Grainger suggested that the debate 'why is Shiatsu not as popular as other CAM therapies?' could be taken to the EGM for discussion. All agreed.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm.