

SHIATSU SOCIETY (UK)

MEETING OF FRIENDS NOTES

Saturday 31st May 2008

Rokpa House, 7 Ashley Street, Glasgow G3 6DR, 11.10 am

Chair: David Home

Directors: Cliff Jenkinson, Tamsin Grainger, Elizabeth Davies, Catherine Scanlon

Present: 33 members

Notes: Samantha Haywood

(1) Introductions

David Home asked if anyone wished to be Chair for the meeting but no one came forward.

(2) Questions / Discussion topics

5-year plan

Laura Davison asked for clarification on the 5-year plan report from David Home as she felt some areas were unclear in their meaning.

DH replied that the first aim was to raise the profile of Shiatsu. A stronger relationship is needed between the schools and the Society. Some schools have asked for support as their student numbers are dropping. Elaine Liechti asked if the Society would be happy to arrange a meeting with all the schools? Elizabeth Davies replied that this was already happening through the SRG with a Schools forum being set up. All schools are regularly invited to be involved with this.

Elaine replied that this was the SRG not the Society. David Home replied that the Society would be happy to set up a meeting if we have the funding and we could co-ordinate one day and one location where everyone would be prepared to meet. It would be financially and geographically challenging. It was suggested that the meeting have a topic(s) to focalise. David felt that the schools in London may not wish to meet as they seemed more in competition whereas in Scotland the schools all appeared to support each other as they were more spread out. Elaine suggested that the schools themselves could arrange the meeting as it is in their interests. Catherine Scanlon reported that the autumn assessor training day would not be happening so there was money in that budget that could be used towards room hire and a facilitator.

Elizabeth Davies would like to see High Street student clinics so Shiatsu has a High Street presence and this would be a place for students to come and gain practice and support. Use the centre as a training resource for all schools. The SRG will be requiring 10 supervised clinical practices.

Laura Davison asked if the results from the ESF research project would be launched to the press. David Home replied that the ESF are currently designing leaflets and have done a press launch in Sweden. There is a high cost involved as the press want nice locations, goody bags etc. The ESF would contribute towards this and we could ask Seamus Connolly later when he does his presentation. Tamsin Grainger stated that the office have the press contacts and are just awaiting the final draft of a press release from the ESF. David will discuss this further with the ESF.

Laura Davison suggested that the 5-year plan was a live document in each newsletter so that members could give their views and suggestions. David Home confirmed it was on the website and is discussed at regional forums.

Laura Davison felt that having Shiatsu in the NHS would take longer than 5 years. Tamsin Grainger replied it would not with the introduction of the regulator register this year.

Jean Robertson-Molloy suggested that the Society move back to London so everyone knows about Shiatsu.

Cliff Jenkinson asked where the members saw the Society in 5 years time? With the introduction of regulation was the Society needed? We would no longer handle ethics, standards, hold the main register etc. Should the Society be run less as a business and return to a like-minded small friendly Society cutting staff and services? The regulators standards will be less than ours and as many graduates don't bother with MRSS or standards why bother with a Society? Elizabeth Davies explained the differences between the Society and the Regulator. David Home said the Society was at a big crossroads and a crucial place. Members need to tell the Board what they want.

Rosamunde Parke Jordan was surprised to discover that members will not need to be a member of a professional body in order to be in the regulators register. Why are we involved with them if they are lowering the standards so much? David Home confirmed that the regulator's only concern is safety of the therapy and the public. They will not undertake concern for the practitioners, marketing, research, workshops etc.

CPD (Continuing Professional Development)

Tamsin Grainger reported that the Board was mandated by the members at a previous AGM to make CPD compulsory and explained that we wanted to adopt the SRG process so members would not have to complete two different schemes should they decide to join the regulators register. Tamsin gave an overview of what would be required. It would be a points scheme with members having to obtain a minimum of 45 points over 3 years if they wished to appear on the public registers. Spot checks will be carried out. David Home confirmed that this scheme had been drafted by the SRG Schools Forum and not the Society.

A member suggested that the Society held a course around the UK throughout the year for members to fulfil the CPD requirement. Tamsin replied that we will not be specific on what members need to do for CPD, and there is a very wide range of choice of activities, as members generally know what their own CPD needs are. This will prepare us all well for when the new regulator is set up and the resulting new CPD requirements.

Catherine Scanlon asked Tamsin if the proposal was to make CPD compulsory and verified or just compulsory but not verified. Tamsin replied that spot checks would be carried out on the CPD folders.

2-Tier Membership System

David Home has brought this to the EGM as it has been discussed a lot over the recent years and seems to crop up more and more. Some schools are already offering short courses and the SRG are lowering standards so does the Society need to make changes to accommodate this? Many changes to the Rules & Regulations would be required. Do the members want to mandate the Board to look into this?

Elaine Liechti felt that the Society has excellent standards and these should be maintained. Feedback from school principals she had contacted suggested that a lot felt the same as Elaine. Let the SRG and the schools sort it out.

Cliff Jenkinson felt that only the Teachers believe in the MRSS status and a handful of other members. The 4-year rule was implemented to give graduates a gentle push towards MRSS but many are not interested. Samantha Haywood confirmed that from the recent graduate questionnaire half were for the rule and half were against it. We think that approximately 40 members have left the Society as a result of this rule.

Ruth Anderson asked if there was a higher intake for the PGY than the MRSS? Samantha Haywood replied it was about the same but the amount applying for the MRSS had considerably reduced.

Ruth Anderson had spoken to a couple of graduates who didn't realise how simple the PGY is so maybe schools should be promoting this more to their students and the Society to the members. Tamsin Grainger asked for ideas on what else the Society could do to get the information circulated as we have written to all graduates individually, it is on the website, enews and has been in the newsletter.

Ann Palmer felt that the introduction of the graduate register was a mistake and this may suggest why so many graduates are not applying for MRSS.

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm.