

Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting
of
The Reiki Association
at The Lord Leycester Hotel, Warwick
on Saturday 7 march 2009 at 11am

Present:

Liz Allmark, Kristin Bonney, Louisa Booth, Annette Bunning, Candice Caddick, Vivien Candlish, John Cass, Narinder Chagger, Ines Coughlan, Paul Dennis, Maggi Dilworth, George Dooley, Lucinda Dunn, Steve Eddins, Kit Ford-Young, Sue Glazebrook, Susan Harris, Julia Hathaway, Ken Honey, Ian Jarvis, Alec Jones, Kate Jones, Sheila Keeling, Amy Lee, Liz Lyden, Jill Mason, Gordon Melvin, Brian Nolan, John Nye, Gill Pamaby, Margaret Pauffley, Sally Pickard, Mary Pipkin, Jan Robinson, Rosemary Ryder-Richardson, Colin Ryder-Richardson, Ann Scullard, Justine Sharifan, Ian Spiers, Gillian St. John Griffiths, Harry Thompson, Sonia Thornton, Christine Zacks, David Zacks.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Reiki Circle

Rosemary Ryder-Richardson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing herself and the role she has previously played as Chairman at past AGMs. Rosemary expressed a wish that those present acknowledge and thank various members of the Reiki Association who have taken office and/or action in recent months. This was done as each person stood to be identified.

First were Council members Margaret Pauffley, Jill Mason, Ann Scullard and Harry Thompson, followed by members of the 'Way Forward Working Group' Kristin Bonney, John Cass, Sally Pickard, Gordon Melvin, Gilly St John Griffiths, Lucinda Dunn, and Liz Lyden.

2. Apologies

These were received from Julia Beatty, Sharon Bott, Michael le Clair, Millie Cain, Olwyn Cottle, Barrie Hird, Thea Johnson, Dennis Jones, Jean Jones, Chips Morton.

3. Opening Statement by Council

The Chairman invited Margaret Pauffley to provide a statement from Council. Margaret said that Council did not have a statement as such as they did not wish to be formal. She explained how difficult it can be for all stepping forward into the place of Council and how hard it had been to 'hold the energy' over the last few months, and that during this last year they had been looking at how much was not working. However, the experience she had during the 'Spiral Circle' created by Marta Getty at the close of the Gathering in October had been a very powerful one. It had enabled them to 'hold the energy' for others to 'do the doing' and for the Way Forward Group to work for the membership, and she hoped that everyone present would put their ideas forward.

4. A few words from founding member Kristin Bonney

Kristin thanked Margaret Pauffley and filled in a bit of Reiki Association history in order to clear matters up and hopefully 'let go and move forward'. Two specifics were mentioned; firstly the dysfunctional aspect of the organisation – it has not been working in the form developed years ago as it does not 'fit' anymore, and the people in the centre have become stressed struggling to hold the course. Secondly, Kristin asked people to be open and honest, to express gratitude to those who have held office and to let go of a lot of 'stuff', suggesting at this point that everyone self-treat. While this was being done Kristin led everyone through a 'mental clearing out' process. In closing, thanks were expressed to current members of TRAC, all past members, Kate Jones for her years as Administrator, all the people such as treasurers, those who have held paid posts, the DPN group, all past Touch editors, the WFWG, all elders and departed friends, and anybody else 'forgotten'.

5. Introduction to the Resolution by Way Forward Working Group

John Cass spoke for the group and started by reminding members why the working group had been formed in the first place following the AGM meeting in October. (See minutes 11th October 2008.) That the Resolution before members today was not one which had been taken lightly as there had been many different options on a 'way forward', such as retaining existing membership, doing away with Company

status, moving into having a simple core network with a fresh start and new vision. John expressed concern at the very limited feedback from the membership to the working group, (about 10) with 2 members attending the meetings for a direct input. Before giving the feedback to the meeting John reminded members that the key issue was the resolution as it stands and some explanation was given as to the number of votes necessary to have it accepted or rejected. i.e. 4% of the membership or 75% present and the proxy votes, for it to be passed.

Key points of the feedback received:-

- don't throw the baby out with the bath water
- a company which has limited liability is safe
- need to retain public face
- need for a committee not just scrutineers
- need for paid positions
- use of technology to relieve 'overwhelm'
- support for WFWG and its proposals
- resources required

While this was the background to the key issues raised, it had been recognised that whatever direction was taken - pricing, reshaping, information, network etc - people are still a necessity.

There were alternatives regarding the future which would be made clear after members had made a response but for the moment John suggested everyone keep their focus around the resolution whilst making their comments.

6. Members' Response

Twenty-three members stood to express their thoughts and views, some more than once. During the course of the responses concern was expressed over the Resolution being voted on before it was clear what 'the way forward' was to be and clarification was sought on such issues as, what were the benefits of being a limited company, company status generally, as well as company rules and the Associations Articles. It was pointed out that under recent legislation a limited company with limited liability was a safe option and that, as such, only needed one director to operate. If appropriate a company could be put into a state of dormancy and the work of the Association could be carried on with the name being protected.

There was much emphasis placed on the need for 'community' - for trust in ourselves and the simplicity of Reiki. The positive aspects of what goes on were stressed such as 'sharing', the care line, Touch magazine and the Gathering and, more than anything, recognition of the wealth of experience which has grown up within the current organisation. But it was also recognised that there was a greater need for people to just talk to each other more and to take responsibility for how they felt.

It was generally acknowledged that Council had sadly become bogged down and stressed in attempting to meet the demands from outside and within the Association, and the previous Council agreed that the workload could not be maintained within the current structure. It was suggested that a fresh start and a change around the current structure should be considered with a need to focus on community, a strong network being a possibility around a data base, operated by a core group with satellite groups meeting other needs. It was also clearly stated that Touch could be autonomous, the Gathering and that the work of the DPN group could all be financed and managed as separate entities, though recognition was given to the need to manage the public face of the Association.

The Chairman acknowledged that the members present were divided as to whether or not the Resolution on the Agenda should be taken before or after the way forward was determined. But it was also pointed out that there were sufficient members on the day to vote and that it could be assumed that the membership as a whole trusted those present to vote on the Resolution, it being the outcome from the AGM, minutes of the latter having been available to the whole membership for some time.

It was then suggested it might be advisable to establish before the vote whether there were members who might be willing to form a 'core group' if it were necessary. Two members did indicate their willingness to do so provided that the limited liability of the company status of the association was retained, and one of them presented a 10 point plan previously prepared; She said that many of these points had already been made, but the need for consultation with the whole membership was emphasised as well as the need to operate with the Principles and treatment to support any work.

It was also suggested that the work the WFWG had done was perhaps not being fully honoured and they should be asked to continue to firm up ideas should a core group be formed.

7. Vote on Resolution

In order to make progress the Chairman moved that the Resolution before the meeting, namely **“that the Limited Company known as The Reiki Association be dissolved in accordance with the Companies Act 2006”** be voted on. There had been some discussion following one member’s reading of the Companies Act when it became clear that there needed to be a change to the voting. Members were thus reminded that to carry the motion, 75% of the members votes including those by proxy would be needed.

A show of hands was agreed as an appropriate means of voting, and two independent scrutineers Brian Nolan and Gill Pamapy were approved. The result was as shown below:

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Present	17	17
Proxy	9	5
Postal	<u>75</u>	<u>19</u>
	101	41

As this was only 71% of the membership the Resolution was not carried and the Reiki Association remains as a limited company.

8. Resignation of Directors

Of the existing Council of four, Margaret Pauffley, Jill Mason and Ann Scullard confirmed they were standing down, leaving Harry Thompson remaining.

9. Nomination for and election of Directors, if applicable

Kate Jones stood forward and confirmed she was willing to stand, as she had been for the core group, and agreed there was a clear vote for change within the organisation. Julia Hathaway also confirmed she wished to stand and after some time lag Paul Dennis also stood forward.

All three candidates were then voted in by a majority as new Council members. It was suggested there might be a need to co-opt a member to ensure there was a quorum.

10. Dissolution process including financial implications, if applicable

This item was not taken due to the outcome of the resolution, though there had been some input for clarity earlier on in the proceedings.

11. Touch Magazine

Editor Lucinda Dunn spoke of the difficulties in producing a magazine due to restrictions placed upon her which were impeding her ability to function freely. Also she was disappointed in the lack of feedback, which made it hard to know what members actually expected the magazine to offer readers. A wish was expressed for more autonomy and feedback.

Lucinda was thanked for the work she did in editing Touch.

12. AOB

- 1) John Nye handed out an updated financial statement and was thanked for his work.
- 2) Gillian St John Griffiths reported on a gathering which will be held at Buckland Hall, Brecon. The group working on this were pleased with the response and bookings to date. The seed money lent as a deposit to set it in motion had been returned to TRA funds and the group would be continuing to run the gathering independent of TRA. The theme will be ‘Community’, and anyone who has Reiki will be welcome. Gillian hoped it would be well supported.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 4.20pm. She was thanked and presented with a bouquet by past Council member Jill Mason, as was Minute Secretary for the day, Sonia Thornton.