

DRAFT: The Reiki Association

Minutes of meeting of Council held on Saturday 21 March 2009

Kings Heath, Birmingham

Present: Paul Dennis, Julia Hathaway, Kate Jones, Jan Robinson

Apologies: Kristin Bonney (though present on the telephone); Harry Thompson

- 1. Reiki Circle**
- 2. Sending of Reiki to the whole of TRA**
- 3. How we work as a Team**

We began this part of our meeting by hearing Kate's 'piece of wisdom':

"The past is the past; now is now; the future is to be created"; and Kate asked for this to be minuted.

Kate and Julia explained that they had met the previous day (with the support and agreement of the rest of Council) to do some preparatory work ahead of this meeting, but no decisions had been taken.

We then began by discussing the whole issue of communicating as a team, and we **agreed** to deal with people's problems (everyone's) with sensitivity.

Next we contacted Kristin in Spain by telephone, and all drew an Angel Card; Kristin drew 'openness'; Jan drew 'courage'; Paul drew 'flexibility'; Julia drew 'synthesis', and Kate drew 'healing'.

Kristin had a strong feeling that the old 'TRAC' should not be used, and so for the time being we agreed to call ourselves 'Council', and to think about a suitable alternative name in future.

We agreed that how we work is about our manner of communication. Kate explained the Reiki energy behind the formation of this team, and 'it is exactly right'.

We **agreed** the following principles:

- ❖ We need to be clear about what we intend to do, and about what we cannot do, both individually and collectively.
- ❖ If we have an issue, we acknowledge and deal with it as lovingly as possible
- ❖ We deal with personal issues outside of meetings
- ❖ We look for support outside our group with people who can respect confidentiality.
- ❖ We trust and respect each other.

- ❖ We try to work as openly and involving others as much as possible.
- ❖ Emails should be copied to all of Council unless the receiver chooses otherwise.
- ❖ We maintain good communication
- ❖ We keep each other informed
- ❖ We are aware of and sensitive to each other's vulnerabilities.
- ❖ We hold our responsibility for TRA lightly
- ❖ We are mindful of good communication with future councils.
- ❖ We willingly own our mistakes and try and learn from them.
- ❖ We are open and honest with each other.

4. Vision: Kate's Synthesis

Kate explained that the energy is the most important thing. Reiki has held TRA together; we are a Limited Company and this is the glue that holds us together and helps us to support each other

When TRA was founded in 1991, it was the only organisation people could join, so one of the driving forces was trying to be something for everyone - and TRA was organised by Usui Shiki Ryoho people. There was a feeling that TRA should be held in Usui Shiki Ryoho, and also remain an open organisation. This is the history - and now the paradox has created some problems. Now we can proudly say we are rooted in USR - which gives us guidance as to how to hold the entity of TRA. So we hold the form of USSR as our root, but we are open to anyone.

Kate referred to Jan's image of the tree: its root is underground, and we must prune its branches so that it may grow up again in a lighter and clearer way. Kate sees the role of the Council as holding the vision and energy, and we are involved in the practice so that the Council is rooted in this.

Paul says that TRA has been full of defensiveness in the past, because of the development of Reiki. But now we can respect, as an Association, each other and hold each other's process.

Kate thinks we need to look at the Statement of Identity, Memorandum, and Articles of Association in the sense of USR being a vessel to hold anyone who chooses to come on board, and we need, as Council, to go on an away-weekend to work on this. A short discussion ensued over our name, and we **agreed** to drop the acronym 'TRAC', and to use 'Council', and it was further **agreed** to have an away-weekend to discuss the TRA official documents.

ACTION: (a) All (b) Kate

5. What we have achieved so far

We began by discussing structure: we agreed for the revision of the structure of TRA to be a long-term process:

- ❖ We welcomed Jan and Kristin to our Council.

- ❖ We had established a good communication with John Nye, and Kate has agreed to be the contact person for John.
- ❖ We have also established a good communication with Lucinda, and Julia has agreed to be Lucinda's contact person

It was reported that Brian Nolan has started to update the website, and has done a lot of work on it. Jan to thank him. **ACTION: Jan**

Kate raised the point that Ian Jarvis has made regarding the whole of Council having an email address, so that we can both send and receive emails in our role as a Council member without having to use our personal email addresses. This needs to be set up by each of us, and can be co-ordinated by Brian. **ACTION: Kate**

Kate has run Balen's - and our public liability insurance has lapsed (it had previously been held by the Council on behalf of TRA). It had cost £300 per annum, and covered TRA members for carrying out treatments at shows etc. We discussed the need for this, and it was **agreed** we do not need this.

Kate also raised the issue that John Nye has no public liability insurance, and it was **agreed** that in the interests of being a good employer we should supply this. **ACTION: Kate**. It was also agreed that Kate and Jan should visit John to discuss his role, and what is working and what is not working. **ACTION: Kate & Jan**

6. The Way Forward Working Group

Council discussed the idea of closure; Kate thought we should have closure, and invite the group's input into the future. Paul fundamentally disagreed, and wanted them to remain on board - he said that he felt responsible for healing the situation where members of WFWG felt disaffected. Julia agreed with Kate. Jan felt that we need to give those disaffected the space to heal themselves. There was a long and heartfelt discussion. Finally, it was **agreed** that Paul would draft a communication with WFWG. We agreed that this would concentrate on what worked, and what didn't work, from the group's point of view. **ACTION: Paul**

At 2.30 pm, we telephoned Kristin, and we asked her who remains on the WFWG? She confirmed that the following people are the WFWG at the moment: Kristin Bonney; Sally Pickard & Ian Jarvis; Gordon Melvin; John Cass & Annette Bunning; Jill Mason; Liz Lyden.

Kristin thinks that preliminary clearing with the group is necessary. She talked with Kate, who subsequently reported the conversation to Council. We agreed that we need to communicate with WFWG, and Kate offered to do this. **ACTION: Kate**

Kristin says that there are unhappy feelings about, and the WFWG feel that Kate has taken over, and that also, Brian had not said anything before the EGM about his research about companies. So the WFWG felt that there was a takeover bid. She feels that the new Council are being carried forward by WFWG and that we are new.

Paul would like to write for TOUCH about how he is on the Council again. **ACTION: Paul** He also feels strongly that he would like to communicate with WFWG on behalf of Council, and this was **agreed**. **ACTION: Paul**

Julia offered to speak to Margaret, to help her to heal her position with TRA. **ACTION: Julia**
She also offered to phone Kristin to pass on the future dates for Council meetings. **ACTION: Julia**

Kristin thinks that members should not get a discount on insurance with Balen's. We agreed to discuss this at a later date. **ACTION: All**

Kristin agrees to be liaison-person for Council with the Gathering Team, and to clarify whether or not they consider themselves to be acting as part of TRA. **ACTION: Kristin**

She is happy to support Julia as liaison-person for Lucinda.

After discussion, the Council **agreed** to support the Gathering Team and to give them inclusion. Jan offered to contact the National Council for Voluntary Organisations to look at the implications of delaying our AGM until the spring (17 months). **ACTION: Jan**

Jan also offered to contact Harry, to see how he is. **ACTION: Jan**

7. Roles: what needs doing, by whom, and when

Kate raised that we need to make some changes to the Rules of Association, and it was agreed that we will make the changes, but not put them on the website yet.

We then discussed the Roles that Council members adopt, and we used a wheel to illustrate these, all connecting to the central 'hub' which holds the wheel stable and firm.
(Attachment 1)

The discussion was smooth, and council members found it easy to slot into roles that suited them; the resulting document is attached to these minutes.
(Attachment 2)

At this point, Council had to end the meeting, having run out of time. Kate and Julia agreed to enclose with the minutes a précis of their discussion regarding proposals for the way Council work.
(Attachment 3)

We held a closing circle, and ended the meeting at 4.0 p.m.