

DHN NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7th, 2008

The Bell Room, University of London, Tavistock Square

The meeting opened at 11am

Members Present

Chair: Angie Buxton King
Vice Chair: Dr Jean Galbraith
Treasurer: John Phelps
Membership Secretary: Graham King
Minute Secretary: Katrina Brook
Member: Michelle Langdon

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Tim Ridge

Minutes of the last meeting

These were approved.

Matters Arising

Cheque signatories were confirmed as John Phelps, Dr Jean Galbraith and Dr Tim Ridge.

It was confirmed that making contact with the regions continued to be problematical due to the non-functioning of the DHN.net site.

It was also confirmed that a Quantum Touch practitioner had joined the DHN and had asked for confirmation that fellow group members would be welcome. It was agreed that the networking nature of the DHN would be emphasised to new members and that it would not be helpful if members were left with the impression that the DHN, with its modest membership fee of £20, currently had the resources to facilitate additional services.

ABK reported that there had been no response to date in relation to an e mail request that the DHN wished to apply for corporate membership of the Parliamentary Group for Integrated Healthcare. Michelle Langdon agreed to further pursue this.

The DHN Website

It was reported that members had commented more favourably on the .org site.

It was agreed that the .net site would cease to function as a website but would ultimately be useful in providing a fully functioning database. The DHN would pay for the necessary professional input to bring this about. It was confirmed that the Access system which currently supports the site did not meet the needs of the organisation.

It was agreed that JP would act as Database Manager and would pursue means of achieving this end and make a report at the next meeting.

Committee Roles

It was agreed that simplicity was vital and that, as a purely administrative function, it would be preferable if the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary were combined. John Phelps agreed to act in this capacity.

It was also agreed that other possible functions could be considered and that there might be a place within the organisation for a proactive role such as Liaison Officer.

The Welcome Pack

Further comparison was made of the options offered by different printers in relation to the gatefold leaflet. It was confirmed that the preference expressed at the last meeting would offer the best solution, in terms of quality relative to value for money.

It was agreed that the current booklist required reformatting and that any books recommended in future should be accompanied by a disclaimer. JG reminded the committee that books rapidly become out of date and that she was currently writing a forward for a new book on the relationship between meridians and healing, but which included up to date thinking, alongside more traditional concepts.

It was felt that a Book Review page might be included on the website, where members could submit their observations and comments and perhaps information about their own publications.

It was felt that the DHN should continue to be mindful of the importance of hard copy information, as a number of members would continue to work without computers. Hard copies would also always need to be available at events where the DHN was represented.

KB agreed to rewrite the introductory information given to new members, at the earliest opportunity.

It was agreed that work would be done on collating material which would assist presentations to doctors and medical professionals. ABK would follow up Power Point possibilities. KB would investigate some of the material currently used by healing groups; assess its relevance and the ways in which organisations might work together on developing suitable material.

Thanks were given to JP for his work on formatting the DHN Constitution for inclusion in membership packs and with renewal notices. It was also agreed that this would be posted on the website.

It was further agreed that, should members be late in renewing their membership, they would receive one reminder.

It was reported that e mails continue to confirm that members are interested in receiving a list of fellow members. The reformatting of this information would be further considered, and, in the interim, a membership list would continue to be sent to new members in its current A5 booklet form. Equally, there would be further discussion concerning whether DHN should consider inviting doctors in particular to make their status known to other members.

Membership updates would be sent out to new members as flyers every 6 months.

AOB

Dates of future meetings would be November 30th and January 31st 2009. The AGM would be on April 4th 2009, subject to room availability.

Currently spouses and partners were awarded joint membership of £30. This membership category would be reviewed and members may be invited to contribute £40 on a discretionary basis.

Members would be invited at renewal time to consider a donation towards Research.

GK reported e mail support from members for the new developments within the DHN, particularly in relation to the establishment of a Constitution and the more formal framework this provides.

A report was read from Louise Wilde (IT Consultant) in which she confirmed that e mail contact with members had been transferred successfully from Del Ralph and that members could continue to opt into this group e mail system. Information on forthcoming events was being submitted by members for the website. The publication of unedited Minutes was being welcomed and the website Home Page was proving popular. The Welcome Page was attracting a high level of interest i.e. 50% of the total. The most underused page was that aimed at doctors.

JG agreed to investigate research information which could be posted on the website.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1.30pm