



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

*Date:* Saturday 12 May 2018

*Venue:* Woodland Grange, Leamington Spa

*Present:* Declan Lyons (chairing), Julie Lawrence (Secretary), Judith Desbonne, Jane Tyrrell

*In attendance:* Sue Saunders (Registration and Professional Standards Committee)

*Apologies:* Jackie Chidwick, Julian Penton, Ivan Tyrrell

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Declan Lyons welcomed the audience to the annual general meeting.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies from Jackie Chidwick, Julian Penton and Ivan Tyrrell.

#### **3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 23 January 2017**

[The minutes](#) were agreed.

#### **4. Accounts for year ending December 2016**

Julie Lawrence presented the accounts which showed net income of £9,200 for 2016 and balance sheet £29,000 net assets.

Julie highlighted an important decision of the Board, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, that HGI should regularise its relationship with the Human Givens College, which is presently subsidising its activities. In future years, therefore, it is unlikely that the Institute will have significant surpluses from activities.

## **5. Report of the HGI Board 2016-2017**

Julie Lawrence summarised the work of the Board, confirming membership and changes in year. ([View Board Report](#))

She reported on the role and work of the subcommittees, and thanked the Board members for their contribution to this important work, noting in particular the contribution of Ian Thomson for many years as he stands down from the RPSC.

PSA reaccreditation requirements were highlighted and the critical role of the Registration and Professional Standards Committee in handling professional standards was noted. Thanks to Sue Saunders and others involved were recorded.

The Board has looked into how to protect the brand and intellectual property of the Human Givens and has begun a branding and trademarking process. It was noted that some are using the Human Givens brand without permission and that the HGI needs to develop a licensing regime, with attendant regulation of content and quality.

The Board Away Day held in January has set a new strategy for HGI – [minutes are available](#).

Finally, Judith Desbonne reported that peer supervision groups have been developing independently and there is a need to look into whether they are meeting the original intent to provide case discussion, peer support and development of Human Givens concepts. Judith will be visiting peer groups to understand more about how each one operates.

## **6. Report of the HGI Registration and Professional Standards Committee 2016-2017**

Sue Saunders reported on the work of the Registration and Professional Standards Committee, including new additional members. ([View meeting minutes](#))

The cases outlined in the report had been satisfactorily resolved, or are still under investigation. One serious complaint has been concluded and has resulted in the therapist's removal from the register.

Several policies have been updated, including an update for the rewind protocol and the risk management guidelines. Member queries to the RPSC included advice on when to use rewind and dealing with allegations of historical abuse.

The RPSC has completed a sampling audit of members Fitness to Practice declarations.

The RPSC held its annual review in January 2018, ([view minutes](#)).

Finally, from a recent complaint it has become clear that HGI need to further develop the policy on supervision of trainees and guidelines for what it is appropriate for them to treat. It was also noted that there were a large number of Part II graduates who have not completed Part III of the diploma, and this may be a cause for concern. Sue Saunders, Declan Lyons and Julie Lawrence will be forming a working group alongside member volunteers (to include a supervisor and a trainee) to consider improving practice in this area.

## **7. Questions from HGI members**

**Q:** Many practitioners do not complete Part 3 because they have alternative registration – how can we make it more straightforward for them to achieve Part 3?

**A:** Even those with other qualifications should complete Part 3 as this is presently the only test that the practical skills, rather than just the theory, have been mastered. Therapists cannot assume they can safely practise Human Givens therapy without this. In recognition of the point the question makes, the College is going to include practical skills tests in Part II, and improve the testing process for Part 3.

**Q:** What is the Institute expecting of peer groups? Can we help by sharing good practice? How do we form new peer groups?

**A:** Guidelines on the purpose and operation of peer supervision groups can be found at <https://www.hgi.org.uk/hg-peer-groups/peer-group-guidelines>. All therapists are expected to attend a peer group – Skype can be used where there are geographical difficulties. Groups should offer therapists the opportunity to discuss their cases with colleagues and get input to add to their practise.

Judith will pick up good practice as she visits peer groups.

Any qualified therapist is free to establish a new peer group providing there are 4-5 therapists who wish to participate. New peer groups should be open to other members and registered with the Institute.

**Q:** How can the Netherlands be better represented?

**A:** We suggest that one of the Dutch therapists applies to join the main HGI Board. A Dutch therapist is already part of the RPSC.

**Q:** What can be done about non-accredited training which uses the HG brand?

**A:** In the cases we have discovered, we have written to the people involved and they have agreed not to use the HG brand. It is important to set up a licensing regime to allow spread of HG ideas without diluting their quality.

**Q:** How will we keep the knowledge base up-to-date?

**A:** This needs some consideration. The Board will discuss and probably establish a group to address this. [Several HGI members present then volunteered to set up a group to explore a central way to do this.]

**Q:** How can we raise issues with the College?

**A:** Contact Mark Thomas, Registrar.

**Q:** Can you be more specific about how I have to publicise that I am a trainee?

**A:** Beyond the existing guidelines, the RPSC would need to see the proposed wording to confirm that the status of the therapist was sufficiently prominent. The principle is that it should be clear to a client that the therapist is not yet fully qualified and therefore not regulated by the Institute.

## **8. Any other business**

None.

Julie Lawrence  
21 May 2018