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British Complementary Medicine Association

The International Network of Practitioners
Promoting Professionalism, Protecting the Public

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Minutes
BCMA Annual General Meeting
17th June 2020
Via Zoom
AGM (11:00am – 12:30pm)

Attendees:

Colleen Tucker – BCMA Chair
Brittany Spence – BCMA Officer
Natalia Succar – SCIAN/BCMA Officer
Amarjeet Bhamra – BCMA Officer
Alison Young – BCMA Officer
Ron Mercer – BCMA Finance
Debbi Walker – SSA/ Acting BCMA Officer
Tracy Smith – (Admin/Minute taker)

Andrea Klein – FIEH
Sean Grey – THF
Paul Masureik – BSRA
Lynwood Newman AET
Glen Tucker – ARA
Jane Stokes – APNT
Diane Tyrrell – ARA

Apologies from:

Fabio Ambrosi – IAPDB
Heather Glansford Rowson – FIEH
Carrie Jost – CKA

Anne Grey – THF
Barbara Davis – ASCT

11.00 – 11.30

Log into Zoom for a hello to everyone joining us today

WELCOME TO ATTENDEES

11.30 AGM COMENCES

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

As above

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST AGM AND MATTERS ARISING

AGM Minutes Alison Proposed they be accepted as a true record, Diane seconded they were agreed and signed off by Chair

GCM Minutes Proposed they be accepted as a true record by Alison seconded by Debbi all agreed and they were signed off by Chair

There were no matters arising from either minutes

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair – Colleen Tucker to continue as Chair

Officers – Natalia, Amarjeet, Alison and Brittany to continue as officers.

Debbi Walker Nominated as a full Officer from Acting Officer

proposed by Colleen and unanimously supported

Ron to continue as Hon Treasurer

No other Nominations were received

4. CHAIR ADDRESS

Colleen's full Report attached, below are the main points

- Until mid March this year, the BCMA was progressing very well after our financial trials and tribulation of 2018 and early 2019. As you will hear from Ron, our treasurer, we were in a good situation financially and slowly adding to our reserves. The lockdown has meant that many are financially unable to make their membership contributions, and once again, we have had to be extremely careful with our resources.
- Two longstanding BCMA members who have retired indicated earlier this year that they would like to continue to support the BCMA even though they are no longer practising. We have created a new membership category – “Supporters of the BCMA” to accommodate them. Thanks to Christine Star and Lisehanne Webster for their continued support.
- In February we actioned our check of Continuing Professional Development for members. I am pleased to report that all associations received favourable reports based on our random samples with members either meeting the required CPD standards or exceeding them.
- The APPG Integrated Healthcare has been superseded by the Integrated Healthcare Collaborative (IHC). The IHC held their first meeting online on 24 March this year. The IHC is a collection of leading professional associations and stakeholders within complementary, traditional and natural healthcare, working together on common areas of interest, to increase access to these therapies and promote greater integration with conventional Western medicine.
- Colleen went on to give details of the meetings so far and their activities, including letters that have sent on behalf of Complementary Therapists to Chancellor, Rishi Sunak regarding Self Employed Therapists that don't meet the criteria for Grants and Secretary of Health, Matt Hancock, about PPE for therapists. no response has been received from the government.
A Parliamentary Petition has been lodged with the Parliamentary Petitions Committee for approval. The petition requests that the government allow complementary therapists back to work sooner rather than later as our therapies do take some of the burden from the NHS. We are still waiting to hear whether this petition has been accepted by the Petitions Committee. If it is not accepted, then the IHC will look at Change.org. The best case scenario would be for the petition to be accepted by the Parliamentary Committee. We (all associations and therapists) would be asked to sign. Achieving 10 000 signatures in two or three weeks would make the government take notice of the IHC and we would be recognised as having influence by parliament. **The BCMA have followed up with this asking one of our members who is in the constituency of the Chair of the Petitions Committee to write to their MP directly to ask them to look at this.**
Meetings of the IHC are expected to take place online for the foreseeable future and are likely to be at six weekly intervals. The proposed membership fee is £300 per year. Depending on circumstances, **we may ask for donations for this as we did for the parliamentary group last year.**
- As far as the return to work for therapists is concerned, the 4 July date is a provisional date for phase 3 to commence in England and we are not sure whether therapists will fall into

this category. We'll hear more about this from government on 25 June, **so please don't make plans until we hear that we can safely return to work.**

- We have changed our postal address from the old PO Box supplied by Royal Mail to a new address in London through [British Monomarks Ltd](#) This has resulted in a considerable saving over the Royal Mail fee for the Post box rental.

BRITISH COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE ASSOCIATION, 27 OLD GLOUCESTER STREET LONDON WC1N 3AX

Colleen then asked for a Vote of thanks for Tracy Ron and the Team of Officers - Council Thanked them for their work and support over the last year.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

2019 Signed Accounts attached along with the Year to date figures

Ron went on to share last year's position – we turned a £4000 loss to £4000 profit after increasing fees and cutting expenditure so were in a good place by the start of this year.

Ron then shared the figures from January to June 2020 noting that up to 2 weeks ago things were looking much worse but we received payments from 2 associations with memberships which has helped, a donation of £20 from a website visitor and the auditor giving us a discount of £50 on their fees, but during this time we have had to make some cuts to ensure we can continue in the hope that membership fees will continue to come in and practitioners continue with their membership.

Colleen made the point that although we are allowing people to defer their membership fee payment, if they contact us, we have very few who have actually done this but Associations are finding that requests for renewals are going unanswered and just being ignored at this time. **We would like to say that while we appreciate many have financial difficulties and we are trying to help by deferring payments on request, if you are not going to renew please do let us know.**

Proposed that we accept these statements as a true and fair representation of the BCMA Finance at the 31st December 2019 Colleen and Andrea Seconded and Council agreed. Proposed that we retain Sarah Tunny as our auditor Colleen and Andrea Seconded and Council agreed

6. PAST YEAR ACTIVITIES

Brittany – proposal of the petition from IHC is only if the practitioner is part of a professional body again meaning that professional membership is very important for all professional therapists.

APNT have guidance on their website for going back to work for their bodywork members – this guidance is based on current government advice and although BCMA covers a large range of therapies practitioners are encouraged to check out the full guidance and Brittany gave permission for a link to be placed on the BCMA Website crediting the APNT to this full guidance – please note all aspects should be read and not small parts taken out of context. Brittany also highlighted a body for 'mobile therapists' (going into people's homes) should be included but after looking further into the guidance by the Government they are also not included in the current group allowed to go back to practice.

There were some associations who chose to put out guidance far too soon looking incorrectly at the level of PPE that would be required by therapists as though they were

frontline workers in regulated healthcare which they are not – this caused so much emotional distress for some therapists that they decided to leave the industry. It is our sincere hope that irreplaceable damage has been done by this. The guidance on the APNT Website will be updated on 25th June following any changes to the government guidance at that time.

Amarjeet – APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for Indian Traditional Sciences is missing the support that Brittany brought while she was the BCMA rep. Alison after this topic offered to step up to this post understanding that BCMA is not able to pay expenses at this time.

ACTION AY

Amarjeet also requested BCMA reconsider his request for financial help in the form of a membership fee to the group, however as decided at the last GCM Council Meeting payments to any membership group is on hold for the foreseeable future and only with donations for specific groups could we contribute. At this time we are concentrating on keeping the BCMA going through this difficult period.

Natalia pointed out that we need to keep a tight rein on the money.

Ron agreed adding that we can't see where we are going to be on finance until we see how many practitioners go back to practice after the return to work and remain members of our Associations. Currently finances are very tight and we are having to make cuts to basic running costs in the hope that fees will come in later in the year.

International UN Yoga day this weekend usually have 3 programmes one in the House of Commons and one outside in the park with group yoga, the other is a conference style meeting for integrating Yoga and Ayurveda, the International Yoga day will take part on Zoom on Sunday at 12.00 – 5.00 pm, BCMA to advertise this Zoom meeting and Live stream on Facebook to Members and Amarjeet invited Council Members to join the meeting.

ACTION AB/TS

There are three trials going on for Yoga and Ayurveda within the NHS and also trying to start a trial respect of Ayurveda and COVID 19

Debbi gave the good news that she is setting up an association who will be part of the BCMA in the next couple of months. 'British Sound & Energy Medicine Association' She is also happy to now start with the task she is passionate about by promoting the BCMA on Facebook.

Alison – NICE – (National Institute of Health and Care Excellence) Alison has been monitoring and responding to NICE where relevant. **Report attached.**

There followed a discussion about NICE Guidelines we have been part of in the past like lower back pain, Palliative Care and more recently Chronic Pain.

Unfortunately, most of the guidelines are very tightly tied up but at any point if we see a way in then we will be able to actively contribute and report on them to members.

There are 5 people looking at the NICE guidelines as we all have different areas of interest. But very few are relevant to the BCMA, when something does come up then we continue to be registered stakeholders and share our input.

7. MOVING FORWARD (Goals for the next 12 Months)

Goal to be financially viable again in the next 12 months

Ideas put forward by council included

- Possible Facebook articles including guidelines although the APNT through their published guidelines are increasing interest and indeed membership which in turn will give BCMA more registered practitioners in the future. Because of the BCMAs broad spectrum of therapies it would be very difficult to produce guidelines for all modalities and that should be done on an association level.
- Hosting an online event however it was felt it would not be viable as we have tried many times in the past and not received take up

There then followed a discussion on Insurance and cover for online courses etc. Balens and Holistic Insurance will both be contacted regarding this to clarify the situation and possible host a webinar not only on that but for future work online.

ACTION CT

Debbi pointed out that teaching must be one on one can be via Zoom and you can include more case studies to make up for some of the normal classroom assessment.

8. DATES/DAYS OF THE AGM AND COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2020/21

9th September 2020 GCM 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm via Zoom

3rd February 2021 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm via Zoom

16th June 2021 AGM/GCM 11.30 am – 1.00 pm via Zoom

9. AOB

No other business was submitted

Council gave a Vote of thanks to Colleen for her work as Chair over the last year and going forward.

The meeting was then closed