

Notes from the Mid-Surrey Intergroup 152nd Assembly

Tuesday 6th June 2017

Web Site address – www.aamidsurrey.org.uk

MSIG ASSEMBLIES Tuesday 5th September - AGM & Conscience / Tuesday 5th December

MSIG COMMITTEE Wednesday 2nd August 2017. Venue - Guildford United Reformed Church
Portsmouth Road, Guildford, 7.30pm

WORKSHOPS CONFERENCE FEEDBACK & DISCUSSION – Wed, 25 July 7.30pm QH
“THE ROLE OF THE GSR” – Sat 4th November, St John’s, Merrow, 10.30am

REGION DATES 11th June – Post Conference / 24th Sept - Workshops
19th Nov - AGM & Conscience

Southern National Convention is 1st-3rd of September 2017 at Hayling Island
The Theme - ‘Anonymity is the Spiritual Foundation’

Thank you to Susan, Gareth and Jo of Woking Tuesday Step for the refreshments.

Present: GSR’s Hannah P - Aldershot Wed; Jeff M - Aldershot & Farn Step Fri;
Viv – Aldershot ESH Sat; Sue C - Aldershot Living Sober Sun;
Deborah M - Betchworth Friday; Stef S - Byfleet Sunday; Susie B - Camberley Mon;
Paul W - Compton Men Breakfast Fri; Alan E - Cove/Farn Disc Sun;
John H (Alt) – Cove/Farn BB Thurs; Marie – Dorking Wed;
Michael B - Dorking Beginners Sat; Sophie ZC - Dorking Ladies Thurs;
David W - Dorking/NHolmwood BB Study Sat; Steve L - Egham Step Wed;
Annette - Farnham Fri; Catherine - Fleet Big Book Mon; Pippa – Godalming Tues;
Bob S - G’fd Big Book Mon; Brittany S - G’fd YP Mon; Ken S - G’fd Monday Meditation;
Dave - G’fd Step Wed; Tim D (Alt) - G’fd Newcomers Fri; Rose H - G’fd D Sat pm;
Jane R - G’fd Merrow Step Sun; Ed W - G’fd Sunday Night; Jill D – Hersham Tues;
Robert - Ockham Wed; Susan - Ockham Big Book Fri; Edwin - Ockley Sun;
Barry N - Staines BB Wed; Natalie - Staines BB Step Thurs;
Peter - Walton-on-Thames BB Wed; Rachael - Walton Step Monday; Danny - Walton
Friday; Terry - West Byfleet Thurs; Michael - Weybridge Discussion Sat am;
Elizabeth M – Woking Monday Newcomers; Matt - Woking Priory Mon;
Susan (Alt) - Woking Step & Trad Tue; Sarah - Woking Discussion Fri;
Trish B - Womersley Thurs; Gail - Worplesdon Sober Sun (42 groups)

Officers: (contact details at end of report)

Rob – Chair; **Alice N** - Vice Chair; **Tony H** – Treasurer; **Mark J** - Health Liaison;
Andrew D, Kevin & Marie – Region Reps; **Jonny HB** – PI Liaison;
Peter G – Telephone LO & Convention Co-convenor, **Lindsay M** – Share Rep;
Lesley G – Probation LO; **Sue D** – Employment LO; **Andy H** – School talks;
Tim D – Convention Convenor 2017; **Barbara** - MSIG Archivist

Visitors: Catherine (Fleet Big Book); Helen C & Linda (Hersham Tuesday);
Anne W (Conference Delegate);

GSR’s or nominated Alternates were not present for:

Aldershot ESH Sat; Brookwood St Johns Wed; Chertsey Tues; Cobham Monday; Compton
Step into the Day Wed; Cove As Bill Sees It Tues; Cranleigh Living Sober; Dorking As Bill
Sees It Mon; Farn & Cove Wed; Farnham Tues am;
Farnham Big Book Thurs; G’fd Lunchtime Discussion Tues; G’fd Recovery Hr Tues;
G’fd Just for Today Thurs; G’fd As Bill Sees It Thurs; G’fd Ladies BB Fri; G’fd After 8 Fri;
G’fd Into Action Sat am; Hawley Lunchtime Thurs; L’head Tues; Lightwater Wednesday;

Sheerwater Monday; Weybridge Mon; Weybridge Sat pm; Woking Living Sober Thurs;
Virginia W/Egham Fri (26 groups)

1. Opening: Rob opened the meeting and we had a moments silence for the still suffering alcoholic. Sue read the 12 Traditions.

Apologies: Alison B – Secretary; Ellie – ECLO; Zara – YPLO; Kar – G'Fd Friday Newcomers; Caroline – Cobham Monday; Christina – Cove; Jon E – Woking Tuesday Step

Attendance Sheet passed around the meeting.

2. Alice highlighted the attendance sheet being circulated. In Alison's absence – please email her your details as a new GSR. Please register new groups or changes (such as new GSR, treasurer or contact names and numbers for your group) via the national website, as we don't have the pink forms here today.

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/AA-Meetings/Submit-Your-Meeting-Information-%28Pink-Form%29>

Alison's email is secretary@aamidsurrey.org.uk

Please bear with us if there is any delay as our Secretary is facing a personal loss.

“MID SURREY MEMORIES” BOOK ORDER ESTIMATES

Barbara drew our attention to an additional sheet being passed round with the attendance sheet. She asks that groups offer a ROUGH estimate of copies their group might buy of this local AA history book.

NEW GSR's were welcomed:

Gail - **Worplesdon Sober Sun**; Natalie - **Staines BB Step Thurs**;
Elizabeth M – **Woking Monday Newcomers**; Michael B - **Dorking Beginners Sat**;
Viv – **Aldershot ESH Sat**; Michael - **Weybridge Discussion Sat am**;
Catherine - **Fleet Big Book Mon**; Brittany S - **G'fd YP Mon**; Stef S - **Byfleet Sunday**;
Sophie ZC - **Dorking Ladies Thurs**;

Quorum – We counted 39 GSR's, so had the required quorum for voting.

3. Revised Minutes from 151st Assembly in March were presented & approved and seconded by Sue D and Barbara. There were no matters arising. Rob explained that revised minutes were issued to correct the issue re GSR's charging group printing costs to MSIG. Printing costs are met by the groups own collections.

4. Vacancies/Nominations/Elections

Vacancies available for: **Armed Forces Liaison, Prison Liaison and Deputy/Assistant Telephone Liaison.**

NB: The recent vacancy for Public Information Liaison Officer (PILO) is no longer available as Jonny would like to continue and complete his 3-year commitment with Kar (2016 Convention Convenor and current GSR of Guildford Friday Newcomers), as his informal deputy.

Election – John H as School Talks Liaison officer.

Andy H has served for over 3 years as our School talks officer, and nominated John H for election as the new School Talks Officer. John H is the current GSR for Cove Thursday. He has 9 years' sobriety and has been a teacher himself. John was unanimously elected by the voting GSR's and Officers. We all joined Rob to thank Andy H for his service to AA – both organising school talks and on the MSIG Officers' Committee.

5-6. Officers' Reports (numbered 6 in agenda – apologies!).

TREASURER – TONY M

Tony said his report was available by request now and would also be emailed out.

1. The accounts balance to a penny.
2. Contributions are up £3,500 since last year (+ 31%) , and costs are up £1,500. This is due to more activity in MSIG. More Liaison Officers spending on their Service Commitment, including one travelling around all the groups.
3. Groups are now very good at labelling their contributions so Tony can identify them and credit them.
4. The MSIG convention in June usually produces a surplus of income.
5. Our usual annual contribution to South east region is £14-15,000. Tony suggested we pay £6,000 now. This was unanimously agreed. This brings the contribution for the year so far to £11,000.
6. Gratitude Week is the week of 10th June which is the date that Dr Bob had his last drink. It is a UK tradition and is completely voluntary. Contributions can be sent either direct to York, or to Tony, labelled with your group number and Gratitude week.
7. AA (UK) funds are stable. We hold £2.355 million. We are supposed to hold prudent reserves and Conference agreed on 1 year and 3 months running costs as a reserve and we currently hold slightly more than this.
8. The last AA (UK) Accounts show 93% of income spent on Free Literature, subsidised Literature, the telephone service, national Liaison Services and World services.
9. Trish B asked if the accounts will be available online.
10. Accounts to 31st May 2107, and Group Contributions will be sent out with the Minutes and will be posted on the website.

NB Please email Tony if anyone can identify mistakes, or confirm payments where he is not sure of the Group, then that would be good.

Dave reminded us to label Gratitude Week collections separately.

CONVENTION – TIM D

The Convention Committee is all prepared for the day – a week next Saturday the 17 June. Flyers are available. All meetings are Open.

SHARE - LINDSAY M

Lindsay asks that we please let her know if our group gets Share so she does not visit unnecessarily. Records at York do not always show the Group buying Share. Sometimes its just a members' name.

TELEPHONES – PETER

Peter is updating the 12 Step List. He may need to send out blanket anonymous text to check numbers.

The shared service with NE Surrey is proving difficult at times and he is looking for clarity on this.

REGION – ANDREW D

Hayling Island National Convention is on 1st, 2nd and 3rd of September 2017

The Theme - 'Anonymity is the Spiritual Foundation'. The Flyer is on our website.

Alan our Regional Chair would like to visit – Rob says he has been invited for September but was unable to attend. When he attends he will need a slot on the Agenda.

The Next meeting is 11 June, Post Conference. Next Workshops Sunday 24th September.

PROBATION – LESLEY

Lesley is meeting the head of probation to discuss the AA meeting held at the Probation offices in Guildford. No probationers are attending yet, but based on prison experience this can take about a year.

HEALTH - MARK J

Report is available online

7. Conference Update

Anne W and Bob S are South East Regional Conference Delegates based in Mid Surrey.

They took us through some of the highlights from Conference. Further Discussion, particularly discussion of new Questions to submit to the 2018 Conference, will take place on **Wednesday 25th July 7.30pm** in the Quaker Hall, Guildford. Flyers are available for this event. Please make your groups aware.

Committee 1 – Anne W –

Meeting Attendance Chits – already discussed in our handbook under probation, but not for other services such as Social Services. This will be addressed
Working in the Alcoholism Field – none of our business re length of sobriety. Chapter 4 will be removed from the handbook and reviewed

Committee 2 Bob S

Autonomy – the autonomy of the Group is paramount. This is covered in AA's Traditions (especially no.4) and in our literature
Conference map – This was put together by Continental Europe and Bob felt that Conference Delegates are not shown correctly throughout the whole Structure. Bob designed a clearer more accurate map, but this was rejected by Conference. Andrew D commented that Conference has accepted a map that is wrong and that doesn't respect the Conference charter in our AA Structure Handbook. Bob's objections to the map are recorded in the Final Conference Report as a minority view

Committee 3 – Anne W

Liaisons and Boundaries – conclusion is – talk to each other across Regions and Intergroups.
Money – Prudent reserve- Conference endorsed current practice to keep 'more than' one and a quarter years running costs as a prudent reserve. This will be changed in the handbook. There were concerns raised (notably from SER) about the phrase 'more than' as it doesn't define an upper limit

Committee 4 – Bob S

Positive Posters – The idea of producing these was rejected as perceptions and experiences of the benefits of sobriety vary. We must not over-promise. Some posters have positive aspects. The suffering alcoholic needs to be able to identify with the drinking problem.
Problems other than alcohol being discussed at meetings – this is not believed to be widespread and can be managed at group level. Covered in AA literature already and the group autonomy is respected.

Committee 5 – Anne W

Magazines – Share and Roundabout there should be a review giving only recommendations.
2015 membership Survey results are on the AA GB website. Its recommended that the Survey Subcommittee review the purpose of the Survey.
<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/2015-Membership-Survey>

It was mentioned that it takes 2.5years to get new or amended AA literature to print.

Committee 6 – Bob S

Using mobile phones and other devices for filming and photography at AA conventions: reminders to protect members' anonymity to be printed in all AA publications. Announcements at conventions not to allow films or photos of members to be published on social media. AA's Structure Handbook to include a phone and/or a camera with a line through it when referring to conventions.

Size of Intergroups – no recommendation was made. This is to be determined locally. Some guidance is offered in the AA Structure Handbook p. 87 (Intergroup)

Anne W. was elected as Chair of Committee One for Conference 2018. She sits on the Conference Steering Committee, she will attend planning meetings throughout the year and will be involved in question selection for next year. Bob S. was elected as Secretary for Committee Two.

8. Chairman's report – Rob E

Rob reminded us again about the Conference Discussion on Wednesday 25th July 7.30pm in the Quaker Hall, Guildford. We have a chance to come with our own Questions for Conference 2018 and to find out more about Conference.

At our last MSIG Conscience, we discussed the size of Intergroups and Anne volunteered to set up a working group to find out more. There was little interest or support for her so we decided to see the outcome of the discussion of this at Conference 2017.

Conference has put the ball back in our court. Anne needs support now in the "Intergroup Size" working group. We are one of the largest Intergroups, with 68 groups. Southdown has 66; Solent 29; Brighton 54 and East Kent 49. For comparison.

We have our MSIG Conscience meeting in September. We aim to allow 45 minutes for the Conscience. It will chaired by an external Chair, Carol, who was a past South East Region (SER) Conference Delegate.

9 Vice Chair – Alice N

WORKSHOPS –

a) At the **2017 CONFERENCE DISCUSSION** we will talk about what happens at Conference, what happened this year and ideas for questions to submit to the 2018 Conference. Its on **Wednesday 25th July, at 7.30pm in the Quaker Hall, Guildford.** Flyers are available for this event. Please make your groups aware. Please ask me if you need more flyers.

b) "THE ROLE OF THE GSR" – Sat 4th November, St John's, Mellow, 10.30am
Flyers are available. All welcome. Your questions answered. You don't have to be a GSR to attend. Experience speakers.

WHERE TO FINDS– Please update me in plenty of time re changes to meetings. Please ask if you need more copies of the WTF. Please feel free to use these for local group and individual PI – take to your GP and Library and local hotels etc.

10. GSRs Forum

"Meeting in Your Pocket"

Trish B asked for an update about the booklet "Meeting in Your Pocket".

She had understood there would be a reprint and that the groups could purchase copies for 57pence each.

Rob called vote and GSR's voted by 23 to 7 votes for MSIG to fund a reprint of 1500 copies. We will discuss the funding of the booklet again in September

"Cross Sharing"

Jill D asked about cross sharing and what the term means.

There are meetings in which the secretary says "no cross sharing please". She thought newcomers may feel they had better not share as they don't know what this statement means. Lindsay referred to an article in the Share magazine. Its is on our MSIG website as a resource.

Anne said that groups and individuals have to sort this out. Members could feel offended by cross sharing even if well meant.

Dave said no one is qualified to give advice. Instead we identify and share our experience.

Sue D referred us to the pamphlet on bullying, also covered in the Handbook.

Linda suggested we don't address a member of the group directly – but we speak through the chair. If we identify then we can say so and share our own experience.

11. Any Other Business

Britany from the Guildford Monday Young Persons meeting has volunteered her group to do teas in September.

12. The meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer

***** GSR ACTION POINTS *****

- ***Please remind your group Treasurer any cheques or deposits must show group number. Please check accounts and please label Gratitude Week deposits as such.***
- ***Please announce VACANCIES for MSIG Prison Liaison officer, Armed Services Liaison Officer and Deputy Telephone Liaison officer.***
- ***Please let your groups know there are also vacancies at South East Region. Please contact our Region Reps for details.***
- ***Please announce our MSIG formal Workshops at your meetings
Conference Discussion on 25th July 7.30 pm Quaker Hall Guildford and
“THE ROLE OF THE GSR” – Sat 4th November, St John’s, Merrow, 10.30am***

Please also prepare questions for the September Conscience meeting.

