

The Bowen Forum Annual General Meeting

Saturday 26 November 2005, 3.30pm

Hatton Village Hall, Warwickshire

1. Welcome to 1st AGM

2. Attendees:

Angela Power (BPA), Peter Briant (BAUK), Jenny Gordon (Lay Chair), Gillian La Haye (BTER), Jean Nestor (POWFIH), Pauline Baxter, Tess Boardman, Christine Bowler, Sheila Bryant, Tony Chimes, John Clarke, Ellen Cobb, Mike Collins, Beth Darrall, David Driver, Carol Eden, Paula Esson, Jo Fernandes, Fiona Forster, John Francis, Rosemary Gordon, Martin Grasby, Carole Hough, David Howells, Debbie Kinley, Caroline Lison, Kate Mason, Fiona Meeks, Patrick Mohan, Angela Morris, Janet Newman, Jill Norfolk, Barbara O'Connor, Claire Pickin, Ian Robins, Michael Rouse, Catherine Skelton, Cathy Vivian, Tim Willcocks, Fiona Williams, Margaret Williams.

Apologies:

Karanne Rance, Richard Baverstock, Joss Tennent, John Wilks, Alastair Rattray, Julian Baker, Kathy Greaney

3. Structure of Forum

We have a Constitution (which will be on the website), which provides for three categories of membership:

- a) Full Members comprise the three professional associations, who are each entitled to have two representatives on the Committee, who vote on behalf of the associations.
- b) Affiliate Members (e.g. schools) may appoint one representative, but the representative is not on the Committee, and does not have a vote.
- c) Lay Members are on the Committee, but have no votes.

Current votes are based on number of therapists: BTER 50 votes, BAUK 40 votes, BPA 4 votes. A 2/3 majority is required, so requires cooperation between the Associations.

No printed reports, but will be on website.

4. Report from Chair

The difference between VSR (voluntary self regulation) and Statutory (legal) regulation needs clarifying. The Forum is here to serve the establishment of regulation for Bowen and once this is established, the Forum will cease to exist.

There is not membership of the Forum by individual practitioners. Only membership by Professional Associations.

5. Report from Vice-chair, Gillie La Haye

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT TO 2005 AGM

Some people here today will attest to the fact that the Bowen Forum has been in existence and working for many years.

A lot of work was done to draft a Constitution, and to begin the NOS process as long ago as 2000 and 2001.

Although it has always been very clear that the Forum is an important vehicle in maintaining unity in the Bowen world in the UK, when I joined the Forum in 2001 there was confusion as to how any of the massive amount of work being done would ever come to any kind of fruition. But today we are beginning to see the light at the end of that tunnel.

We are very fortunate that in the past half year only, we seem to have put on seven-league boots, and several huge steps have been taken:

1. SKILLS FOR HEALTH earmarked funding for Bowen National Occupational Standards to be established.

All Bowen therapists in the country were invited to take part and an excellent volunteer team from across the Associations is now working on this, as most of you already know; A series of eight workshops is being held over five months where representatives from Skills for Health (part of the Department of Health) and a Technical Advisor recruited by Skills for Health for this purpose alone, debate with our volunteer therapists just what is the essence of Bowen, to produce draft standards.

This draft will be published to all Bowen therapists and teachers, and will be open for discussion for a given period of time. All our opinions and input will be considered, and then a final draft will be produced.

2. The Forum was invited to put in an application for a place on the programme of the next set of therapies to go forward for VOLUNTARY SELF-REGULATION IN 2007. To our great delight (after some nail-biting months) we were selected, and granted £4,500 to help in the funding for the first year.

3. Finally, POWFIH did us the greatest favour of all in introducing to us Jenny Gordon, who I am proud to say is now, as you know, our Independent Chair. We are enormously fortunate to have Jenny to help us walk the various tight-ropes ahead, and we are already enjoying working with her. I would like to reinforce today how much we appreciate Jenny's integrity, her clear-thinking and her warm sense of humour, to say nothing of the enormous knowledge of the therapy world and interest in Bowen's future which she brings to this task.

We are also very fortunate to have ongoing assistance from POWFIH's staff member, Jean Nestor, also here today, who guides us as we go, almost on a daily basis.

The work ahead includes establishing:

- A common code of ethics
- Criteria and procedures for a single UK Register of Bowen therapists
- Accreditation processes for courses in the various Bowen-related therapies

- A framework and policy for the investigation of complaints and other incidents in a fair and timely manner.

The Forum wishes to involve anyone who wishes to be involved; various subcommittees will be formed, indeed some are already being established, so please come forward and offer your services in whatever field you feel able to take part.

This has been an amazing year so far, things are now happening very fast, after years of feeling that the Forum was somehow getting nowhere.

Lastly, I would like us all to thank those people who worked to establish the Forum in the first place, and for all the work they put in, so that we were ready to take up the opportunities we are now being offered.

6. Report from Treasurer, Peter Briant

Until April 2005, the Bowen Forum was run on shoestring. We had a small grant for hiring rooms, but the Committee did all it could to avoid incurring expenditure. The 2004 accounts show that the only expenses in 2004 were £80 on hiring rooms. At the time, the Forum did not have a bank account, and so the grant was paid to BAUK, which also paid the expenses of the Forum. BAUK shows as a debtor on the 31 December 2004 balance sheet.

In early 2005, a bank account with HSBC was opened, and the remaining grant income was paid into this. The Forum also raised a levy of about £1,500 from the three Member Associations charging them £2 per full member therapist. Then in April 2005, Jenny Gordon was appointed to be the Independent Chair of the Bowen Forum. She is one of our biggest assets, but also currently our biggest cost. However, so far she has proved herself to be worth every penny.

In July 2005, the Bowen Forum was accepted onto POWFIH's regulation programme, and was given a £4,545 grant for 2005/6. Similar amounts should be available for the following two years, provided that we continue to make progress through our agreed milestones. The other main conditions of the grant are that we have lay involvement on the committee, that we consult with practitioners and other stakeholders, that we attend POWFIH events, that we submit an Annual Report, and that we produce audited accounts (for 2005 onwards).

Going forwards, the Forum's income will comprise this grant, a levy from the Full Member Associations, and a subscription from Affiliate Members. For 2006, the budgeted income is nearly £9,000, split almost evenly between grant and subscription. The grant is fixed, so if any additional funding is required, it will have to come from the professional associations, who will pass it on to their members.

Expenses will continue to be kept to a minimum, although it is hard to predict what these will be going forwards. Nearly £8,000 of expenses have been provided in the 2006 budget, including the honorarium for the Independent Chair, travel expenses, printing and postage, costs of the website, and a small amount of professional fees.

We budget to make a surplus each year, but at the end of the VSR process, any surplus funds can be returned to the member associations.

Ellen Cobb:

Clarity is needed with regards the POWFIH grant.

A: The grant is passed to the Forum in instalments and began last summer. Therefore the grant carries over between 2005 to 2006.

7. Approval of 2004 Accounts

There is no need for audited accounts in 2004, but the 2005 accounts will have to be audited, since it is a condition of the POWFIH grant.

Proposed: Gillie La Haye

Seconded: Angela Power

8. Agreement of annual subscriptions

These will be payable on 31 Jan 2006, based on 1 Jan 2006 membership numbers for the Full Member associations. The proposed 2006 subscriptions are £5 for each Full and Associate member of the professional associations, and £50 per Affiliate member

Proposed: Angela Power

Seconded: Gillie La Haye

9. Election of Honorary Officers

These have to be drawn from the appointed representatives, and the representatives have already appointed by the professional associations for 2005/6. The representatives standing are Angela Power as Secretary, Peter Briant as Treasurer, and Gillian La Haye as Vice-Chair. They were elected unopposed.

10. Any Other Business

- Website address is bowenforum.org.uk
- On the back of Jean's handout are the reports that POWFIH have used as a basis for a Federal Body. She recommends everyone accesses these.