

August 26, 2007 Board Meeting

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Ann Bowman, Peter Philippon, Dan Bloom, Brian O'Neill, Robert DeVos, Silvie Falschlunger, Sarah Fallon, Bud Feder.

Absent: Jack Aylward, Marilyn Myles, Peter Cole, Ansel Woldt, Morgan Goodlander, Marcy Stern, Tine van Wijk, and Phil Brownell.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Manchester Conference (Sarah)

B. RCP (PeterP)

C. Treasurer's Report (Peter C)

D. Committee on our Process – Task Force on Decision Making (Dan)

E. Annual Meeting October 2007

F. New membership applications forms

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME – September 23, 2007 at the same time as this one. Please note Europe, USA, Canada and Bermuda are now in Daylight Saving Time, while Australia is not.

Welcome

Manchester Conference

In an email sent prior to the conference call, Sarah Fallon wrote:

CPC report for August 2007:

August has been a quiet month on all of the committees due to so many people being away on their Summer holidays.

PPC summary:

- *The PPC have now have permissions from all the invited presenters to record their presentations.*
- *Bios and descriptions of these presentations are now up at the conference web site (click on "program" in the menu). Phil will be adding pictures of them all, and also of Peter Philippon.*
- *The PPC is continuing to receive pre-conference workshop proposals, and there have been several submissions made in both categories (workshop and marathon). There are also some hybrid marathon/workshops in that they are topical marathons. Two of the Invited Presenters will be doing pre-conference workshops (Margherita and Lynne). After Sept 15th (the deadline for receiving these pre-conference workshop proposals), the PPC will decide how to handle them all (when to schedule them and where to put them).*

Publicity Summary:

- *Ronnie has almost finished creating a central database that will serve as an address list. This has been an arduous task and we are all very grateful! (Tali: "She deserves a medal")*
- *A reminder was sent out regarding the call for pre conference workshops, using the old method of mailing all our separate lists (as the one-button list isn't quite finished yet).*
- *Tali now has a list of people that have agreed to forward our material to their private lists.*
- *The Publicity committee wish to raise their concern that the registration facility being up and running soon.*
- *Tali has been pooling information re other conferences at which we can publicise.*
- *Tali has had some responses from people on the board and the PPC who have agreed to forward our publicity.*
- *Peter P has agreed to publicise the conference at EAGT- thanks for doing this, Peter. Dan has contacted Margherita about the possibility of us sharing her table – thanks, Dan.*
- *Ansel publicised the conference at Cleveland Institute's recent Creativity Celebration. He reports that there were positive responses to the colourful large poster that he had blown up and that people received copies of the General Publicity Flyer. Several delegates picked up copies of the Call for Conference Proposals and Call for Pre-Conference Workshops & Marathons. There were about 100 attendees and quite a few talked about the possibility of coming to Manchester. Two couples decided to submit proposals while they were there. He also made an announcement in the largest morning meeting which was well-received. Ansel has sent his expenses for the poster to Peter C – the poster and left over publicity will be taken to the SW-AAGT Regional Conference in North Carolina in October.*
- *Ansel regretted the absence of an AAGT membership application form on the back of the publicity flyers and is currently rectifying this by working on a membership flyer. Thanks, Ansel.*
- *Phil has continued to update the website – note the new easy to read font! Thanks, Phil – it looks great!*

Peer Review:

- *Susan has received no proposals to date. If I've understood correctly, she would value a conversation with Phil just to clarify procedures.*

CPC summary;

- *Reconfiguration: Last month we were re-looking at roles and responsibilities due to Janice's sudden bereavement. We have reconfigured slightly in that Sharon has left the PPC and, aside from concentrating on her UK treasury duties, will now be in a position to support Janice in activities connected to Logistics. This feels better.*
- *We have still had no contact from Jenny Edwards although she is still included in all the CPC mails. As I said last month, I have made attempts to get in touch. We will continue to try and find out what's going on re this. One problem we have is that Jenny still holds the password to the aagt08 email account and we are concerned that emails may be sitting there unattended to. So far, Peter P has asked her to forward us the password, Bud has emailed her to ask her for it on our behalf and I have left a message via her mobile/cell phone. Yesterday I telephoned her house twice – the first time leaving a message with her husband who asked me to ring back later. When I rang back, Jenny refused to speak with me. I really don't know what else we can do about this and we remain concerned.*
- *AV recording: Peter C requested that we discuss audio visual recording on this month's call. The quote from the company the Thistle use formed part of last month's report. There was initially a suggestion that we try to find 3 different people (that we know personally) to see if they could separately record the invited presenters. I have made contact with one such person. My own view is that, in view of the fact that we would want to pay any such people a fair fee anyway, it makes more sense to go through one (professional) company. Doing this also makes it possible to have the DVDs available to purchase AT the conference (where energy for them may be higher) and we would recuperate costs immediately. Should we agree to this, then I would be willing to get two more quotes from Manchester companies so that we can make a comparison with the one The Thistle recommend.*

- *Ceilidh Band: Danny has continued negotiations with The Maerlock band and we will pay their deposit from the UK account, as agreed at the last board meeting. However, before we do that, Danny is just wanting to double-check we are getting the best deal from what's available. In view of this, he is going to another gig by The Maerlock and also a gig by a cheaper Ceilidh band before we confirm the final booking. Thanks, Danny.*
- *2nd Thistle Visit: Peter P and Danny made the second visit to The Thistle. Peter also made a visit to Central Hall to check out their rooms should we need an overspill facility. Details of this are included in Peter's report below:*
- *"Danny and me went to the Thistle and Central Hall today.
My sense after meeting them is one of relief.
We could not see the small rooms on the First Floor as they were in use, but see below:*

The main room in the basement can be turned into 3 rooms which will hold about 50 people each (Thistle 5 and 6). Of the two larger rooms on the First Floor (2nd for Americans), one will take 25 the other 30 in a circle of chairs (Thistle 9 and 10). The Manchester Boardroom on the Ground Floor will take 30 (Thistle 11), the Portland Boardroom on the 7th Floor will take 25.

In the photos, the rooms look foreshortened because of taking the photo from within the room, and because there are chairs in the middle rather than round the sides.

They have also offered us space in the lobby (Thistle 2) and the restaurant (Thistle 3). We will have sole use of the hotel, so no-one else would be using this. They have also offered to put chairs in the bar area outside the basement room(s) (Thistle 7), which can be divided in two for Process groups. And they have shown us the suites which can take about 8 - 10 people (Thistle 12 and 13). They would charge £150 each for these per day.

*That makes 7 rooms large enough for workshops with at least 25 people. Plus 6 areas for smaller numbers which could be used for Process groups plus the suites (4 of them).
We asked about the dinnertime, where they had said they would use the main meeting room. They agreed that this would be impractical for us, and will do all meals in the restaurant.*

I also attach two photos of the extra rooms at Central Hall. They are not great rooms, but can be there as overflow on the Thursday - Saturday at a total cost of £250 if we want. One will take 60, the other 25. The Hall is about 5 minutes walk away from the Thistle.

Thistle 1 is of Piccadilly Gardens just outside the hotel. Thistle 8 is of the leisure centre, pool and gym."
- *For reference, I have sent Peter's photos as attachments in separate mail to you all.*
- *Conference Fees: As Tali wrote on the leaders' list, the publicity committee are currently concerned about this – particularly in relation to the forthcoming EAGT conference (6th – 9th September). Obviously we can't really do anything until we know the outcome of the negotiations around the venue (see below) after which we will be in a position to set the various fees. How does this normally happen? Is this something that you will be doing, Peter C?*

- *Online Registration Facility: I have asked Sharon, UK treasurer to initiate an email dialogue regarding this between herself, Peter C and Silvie. However, please do not be afraid, either of you (Silvie or Peter C) to initiate it yourselves.*
- *Thistle negotiations: Thanks again to Linda for looking into this for us. I understand that Linda will be forwarding some information to board members in time for the call. Linda has been doing some great work in talking with The Thistle. Additionally, she has offered to explore some other Manchester hotels alongside her current negotiations. We are very grateful to her for putting so much energy into the conference this way. Please, again, pass on our appreciation, Phil.*

Scholarship Fund:

- *Peter P is just awaiting bank details from Peter C so that we can forward the £1500/\$3000 from Bud's workshop.*
- *At the time of writing Bud is still waiting to hear from Jenny Edwards about proceeds from the workshop she organised in the South. Any updates on that, Bud?*

UK Treasury Report:

- *If I haven't received at the time of sending the report, I will forward as soon as I receive it. (Sharon is possibly on holiday.)*

Appreciations were expressed to Sarah for the report above.

Peter P – Linda has been negotiating with the Thistle Hotel and is not completely satisfied with what they have been willing to do financially for the organization. Phil has been encouraging her to move quickly with this as time is of the essence now.

Brian – would another venue hold more people?

Peter P – the Thistle holds 290 or more with people sharing rooms.

Brian – asking about this as our membership has now grown to 180 some folks which is quite high for an off-conference year.

Silvie – as of today, 198 are now members.

Brian – Haven't seen this many members since 1990's.

Silvie - Phone calls have been very successful in inviting folks to renew their membership.

Brian – if we can continue this over the next year, the Thistle may not be big enough.

Sarah – probably not all members will come.

Peter P – stated it is hard to know exactly how many folks will actually come to Manchester due to the uniqueness of the conference being held in Europe. Probably need to not overextend at this time but will need to have contingency plans for extra hotel rooms and also perhaps meeting rooms. We will need to keep close watch on recruitment and make adjustments if needed.

Brian – in the previous conference there was such good energy that perhaps lots of Europeans will come to the 2008 conference.

Peter P – going to Athens (EAGT conference) and will promote Manchester there.

Peter P – advised the board that there is an uncomfortable situation with email from the postcards sent out and previous publicity that has people responding to an email address which is password protected. Sarah does not have the password and Jenny Edwards (who has the password and access to the correspondence so far) has as of this time failed to pass this vital information onto Sarah.

Dan – wondering about alternatives to getting into the account.

There was a discussion among the board members to clarify what is being needed and the issues re: this.

Sarah – this issue is important because people have likely responded to our advertising (like the postcards, announcements, websites) which have this address that only Jenny is able to access. We could potentially lose these inquiries and emails if we are not able to access the email account. It would be helpful to have mail sent to Sarah and if we knew the password then the emails could be forwarded to Sarah.

Bud – has been in contact with Jenny and will ask her to assist in this very important matter.

Peter P – if Jenny will not agree to help, then Peter will send out an email to the membership to not use the email account that is controlled by Jenny at present.

Dan – may need to send out an email to the membership to do this anyway even if/when Jenny lets Bud or someone else know how to access the email account.

There was support for Peter P to post to the members list and other lists as well not to email AAGT08@googlemail.com for conference information as previously advertised. There was also a discussion for other board members to put the word out about this as well to international lists which may have received some of this publicity and would have that email listed as a contact.

Sarah – would like to hold off on notifying the members and other email lists about AAGT08 email for now and see if we can get the password from Jenny which would be very helpful at this time.

There was also a discussion regarding the possibility of issues like this occurring within other aspects of AAGT (e.g. scholarship committee) unless the chairpersons build in safe guards which would be proactive to prevent this kind of situation.

Membership Committee and Membership Forms

Peter P asked Brian and Robert for their thoughts re: Ansel's proposed forms.

Brian and Robert both stated they liked the form and saw no problem using them.

Brian – also liked the trifold form too that Silvi sent out but really fine with Ansel's forms.

Brian and Robert will work together on this committee and soon will be discussing membership drives, organization membership drives, etc.

Silvie – thinks we will be well over 200 members which is the best so far in a non-conference year. Directories should be ready beginning of October & Bud will bring them to the attendees of the annual meeting.

Peter P – stated that there will not be many people from the SW conference attending the Annual meeting. We can distribute Directories but not a lot of folks will be there.

Appreciation given for Silvi and all that she has done for the membership committee and AAGT, Brian – soon he and Robert will do membership drives, organizational drives will be discussed.

Dan – has some reservations re: the membership forms and emailed about this.

Peter P - Will hold off on doing anything for a few days with the forms and would like to take them to Athens with him for EAGT conference if possible.

Treasurer's Report

Peter C – *In an email sent prior to the board call, Peter C sent copies of the AAGT Balance sheet and the year to date Overall Financial Statement. These are available upon request.*

Committee on our Process – Task Force on Decision Making (Dan)

Dan - needs to send out a notice to the membership re: issues that will be discussed at the Annual meeting. Wondering how best to do this. Website, membership list and possibly mailings. Right now there are no regular and no By-law requirement for notice other than that it be given to the members .

Silvie – has an updated membership list which she could give to Dan. She also said the AAGT directory will be sent out and a letter could be included with that mailing.

Dan – will send the notice to Silvie and she will forward it to the membership list.

Dan is reluctant to put it on the web site since that is not for members only.

RCP (Peter P)

Peter P – The last call was the first time the RCP from the Philippines (Emanuel Hermone) was on the call. He stated that a small group of psychologists from the Philippines who have been interested in gestalt since the 1990's has grown to about 200 in all.

Bud there will also be a person from the Phillipines at the SW Conference.

Brian – there also is a group from Hong Kong who have been in contact with him.

Silvie – There should also be something on the membership form for persons who need a reduced rate. She also stated she may not have a complete RCP list. She noticed that there are people from Russia on her RCP list but they have not renewed their membership.

Peter P – Russian RCPs have not attended conferences recently. Tine and Marilyn will need to talk with them.

Brian and Peter P and Silvie had a discussion re: whether there has been a shift with the Russian's interest or focus since the Yalta Fall conference has changed.

Annual Meeting October 7, 2007

Peter P asked who of the board will be attending the Annual Meeting. Peter P, Peter C, Ansel, Dan, Bud and possibly Morgan are all planning to attend. Ann B and Robert are also hoping to go.

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