

MINUTES OF THE GEOMANCY GROUP AGM, 4.11.06

Present: Ros Briagha, Jon Appleton, Maryrose Price, Sara Greenwood, Richard Creightmore as full members. Julie Rocka as a proposed new member.

Agenda:

1. Discussion of minutes from the meeting at the BSD congress.
2. Election of Officers.
3. Treasurers report and new Subscription rates.
4. BSD affiliation.
5. AOB.

1. The meeting that took place in september at the BSD congress had been minuted by Grahame, and these had been circulated to the group. There were a number of suggestions and ideas in these that we felt needed to be discussed. These will be annotated to reflect their position in those minutes.

1a. We looked at the vesica piscis idea, which seemed to have been used in 2 ways; one is Grahames' suggestion of practitioners and non practitioners, and the others is Marias' one of healers and designers. It was felt that though some members may want a more formal set up, we are **all** practitioners - some earn money from it, some don't! We are happy to have some days set apart to talk about professional practise case study issues, such as fee structures, ethics, website enquiries and client relationships, BUT we feel that there is much more to the group than just this. {please see also BSD affiliation}.

We did not feel a two tier system was what any of us wanted, as we felt this could result in a rather divisive, and possibly elitest energy. We were in favour of an all inclusive set up, where information and work are freely circulated to all of us. It seemed that the officers are an essential part of the group, keeping a focus and making sure that the group is kept informed and tasks done. The AGM at Samhain, [scorpio time] is more wisdom/heart based, whereas the BSD event [in virgo time] was more technical/head based.

2a Several of us were unable to commit to weekday meetings, and all felt weekends were OK, provided we have advance warning. Even those who do teach etc at weekends felt this, and that it is possible to do valuable group work in the rather more relaxed energy of weekends. We did agree that the timing of these weekends near the Cross- quarter days is difficult. We also agreed with 3 meetings a year, and a professional practise day, open to all. The best solution seems to be a flexible mix of weekdays and weekends, with content put on the web site so those who cannot attend can see what is going on.

Dates for 2007

February 21-22, professional practise and Imbolc at Sig and Karins' place in

Glastonbury. Waxing moon in aries -taurus.

May 25-28, {bank holiday} Beltane at Beechhill. Camping weekend. Waxing moon in Virgo - libra.

September 14-16,{TBC} meet at BSD. Waxing moon in libra -scorpio

November 9-11, AGM and Samhain celebration, probably at Trecastell again. New moon on 9th, 23.04pm.

Maintaining a separate AGM holds our energy separate and clear from the BSD. We thought that a meeting could be held at BSD for discussing topics and issues to bring to the AGM, and as our 4th meeting in the year, without its own schedule. This also means we are not dependent on Congress continuing in its present form, which could well change over the next year or two.

The location for the AGM could be connected with somewhere that needs some work done by us, whether healing or designing. Trecastell fits this, and on Sunday we visited two stone circles, adjacent to each other, where Jon and Ros have already done some restorative work, pulling stones buried in the peat up to their proper height again. They are small stones, and this work could be done quite easily. Cadw, Welsh Heritage, have no jurisdiction over this place, and no money to restore it, and it is on common land, owned by all, so it fits our criteria as "fairgame".

A new tradition for Samhain was also started, as we filled the Quaich with the sloe gin made from the sloes Ros and Maryrose picked beneath Thors Cave on our walk out last Samhain. It was agreed that this was so good we should have more, and on Sunday morning Sara picked enough for next year's offering.

3a. Ethical code. As none of us had seen the revised code, or known that it was to be revised, we were unable to vote on this in any way. We recommended that in future, if folk have an issue like this, it should be circulated to the whole group before any action is taken.

If we affiliate to the BSD, we take on their code, which is very similar to ours, and this also implies that all new members take it on too. We need clarification on what the differences are, and would like it noted that communication is vital, and the current process on this has not worked well. This also applies to Oli, whose resignation has been "refused". We have not yet had any feedback on this, and would like it noted that we feel that, magically speaking, it was wrong to refuse his resignation, and not honouring his decision.

4a. As regards new members, we do not support distinguishing between "practitioners" and "non-practitioners". We agreed with Sig's suggestions, with slight amendments:

A. They should provide evidence of competence, or be endorsed by TWO group members.

B. They must adhere to the ethical code.

C. There must be a majority agreement that they are energetically appropriate to the group - it may not be possible for each and everyone of us to really like them!

We agreed with keeping the invite system, and that we could absorb 3 or 4 new

members a year. We agreed that they would go through an Induction year, NOT probation, and that this should stay at a year and a day, AND two meetings during that time.

At this point we had a vote on whether or not to invite Julie Rocka to join the group. Ros had proposed this some time ago, and circulated it by email. All the responses to this had been positive, and all those present were in favour, so she was duly invited to join and begin her Induction year, to end at next Samhain.

5a. We did not feel we have any need as yet for a register or modular training system. These already exist within the BSD, and also in individual members work. It seems the web site should be used to give details of members' courses with dates and locations . This could also be available to others who are compatible with us.

We would like to know how many work referrals there have been, and who controls this?

WE REALLY NEED TO GET OUR PROFILES UP! So this can be made available to potential clients, as our GG register.

It would be good to have a clear process of email connecting us all up, so everyone knows what is happening. i.e. using Cc rather than BCc for letters and replies.

At this point we agreed on a **vote of thanks to Grahame for his work on the forum**, and we were all encouraged to make more use of it.

6a. Group projects were felt to be a Good Thing! And we agreed that these should be part of the focus of each meeting. Richard and Julie said that there is something we could do while at their place for Beltane. A field trip to the Long Man of Wilmington was possible, and the chance to do some work at Beachy Head, a known suicide spot. There is also the work on the circles for Samhain.

Richard gave us a good mission statement for the group.... The role of the Geomancy Group is as inheritors of an ancient lineage, of guardianship of sacred sites and the subtle energies.

7a. Election of officers seemed to be an important process for us, and none of us felt it was sensible to drop these posts, especially as the group grows and develops a wider remit. We did agree that it could be good for folk who cannot attend to have a chance to vote, so it was decided that next year anyone who would like to take up a post let us all know in advance, and a system of postal votes could be incorporated into our setup. This would be focused by the incumbent secretary and chair. This is slightly different to the possible arrangement given in the Draft Constitution offered by the BSD to affiliated groups, where only those who are present are allowed to vote.

None of us were sure what was implied by Maria's client interface role, and when it had begun?

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We stopped at this point and reconvened in the evening to continue with the agenda.

2. Election of Officers.

Grahame was proposed as Secretary by Sara and seconded by Richard.

This was agreed with a unanimous vote, supported by the BSD group memo, where he had stated he was happy to continue in this role.

Ros was proposed as Chair by Richard, and seconded by Sara.

This was agreed with a unanimous vote.

Sara then proposed that Ros continue with her role as treasurer until a new person comes forward. Maryrose seconded this.

This was agreed with a unanimous vote.

It was suggested that the Chair talk in depth to the Secretary and clarify roles and responsibilities of the officers for the coming year. It was also clear that communication needs to be tightened up, as no info had been received before the AGM of some of the points raised at the BSD event.

It was at this point we agreed to the need for a postal vote, as mentioned above.

3. Treasurer report, and subscription rates.

Ros said we have a bank balance of £1297.54, as of November 2nd. It was agreed that as there had been a low turnout for the AGM, the Group should pay the excess rent on the Bunkhouse, of £120, over and above each of us paying £30 for the weekend.

As we seem to have a healthy bank balance, it was agreed that it would be possible to lower the sub rate, and Ros proposed a flat rate for all members of £20 a year. This was seconded by Sara, and agreed with a unanimous vote. We once again affirmed that we do not distinguish between different types of members. It was also suggested that we could offer concession rates on expensive events for those on a low income.

We had a short discussion at this point as to what do geomancers do? How do we define this? Jon said it was also relevant to say what geomancers ARE, and this seemed to be that we have a relationship with the earth, of awareness and service. It was suggested that we can act as a bridge between the earth and society. It was strongly felt that there are many ways of doing this, and that it is restricting to think of geomancers as only those who work with the negative, or healing, aspects of this.

4. BSD affiliation. Having read the notes available on this, from John Moss, we were all in favour of affiliating for a year, to see how it goes. We did not feel we need the website hosting scheme, but are happy to pay £25 for the insurance, and an extra £25 if this becomes a set fee.

We also looked at the model constitution, and felt it could be good for the group to adopt it with a few modifications, such as having a postal vote, as well as votes for those present, at the AGM. The opening part, where the objects are defined, seemed useful in that all dowsers are dowsers, whatever they dowse for, and whether or not they do it for money. This seems very relevant to us and the issue of whether one is a

practising geomancer or not. We are all geomancers, and manifest this in different ways.

The proposed quorum of 3, or 10%, for meetings, seemed very low, and could be moved up, perhaps to 5? It is suggested that all members scan through and send suggestions and proposed amendments to the Chair and Secretary.

6. AOB. We all agreed that the group is a valuable part of our lives, and look forward to its continuation and growth. We discussed some new projects that have come up and made some good decisions about their implementation. It is clear that the group is very good for getting to know other people in the field, and we look forward to more new members. Ros suggested asking Ba and Hamish Miller if they would like to join, as she had just spent a weekend with them and felt they are in harmony with us and our aims. She will post this on the forum for others feedback, before approaching them.

We finished the meeting by saying how much we enjoyed the atmosphere at Trecastell, and that we felt it would make a good venue for next years AGM. This was further endorsed the next day after our trip to the circles, called Trecastle Mountain circles in Burls book, if anyone wants to have a look at them.