

MINUTES

41st Meeting of Derbyshire Inter-Group
Held at the Flamsteed Centre, Ilkeston
At 3 p.m. on Saturday 4 December 2010

Present: Heather G - Chairperson
Hayley N - GSR Ripley Monday
Dean M – GSR Belper
Jez S – GSR Derby Wednesday
Geraldine S – Regional representative/PI Derby
Anita S – Visitor
Wendy G – GSR Ilkeston Monday
Nigel C – GSR Long Eaton Sunday
Nick C – Webmaster Derby IG
Roger – GSR Sawmills
Liz R – Treasurer, GSR Matlock

1. Heather G welcomed all attending in extremely adverse weather conditions and the preamble was read.
2. Apologies were received from Sue W, Sue B, Carina T, Dianne TLO, Chas G, Ingrid KK, Mandy
3. Matters arising
 - 3.1 There had been only limited responses from groups regarding this matter. No groups had suggested a possible reading, and some groups did not support reading out a statement if one should be proposed, so it was agreed that no further action would be taken at the present time.
 - 3.2 The provision of a list of volunteers willing to attend PI activities was discussed and it was agreed that Geraldine would maintain the list of any interested members. Geraldine's email address and telephone no. are as follows: geraldinesubden@rocketmail.com, and **01332 202614 or 07776 117717**. Please contact her if you would like to get involved with PI work at any level- there is a lot to be said for giving out leaflets and observing at PI events, you do not need to be skilled at anything to volunteer, nor do you have to speak to groups of people in public.
 - 3.3 The provision of a laminated information sheet will be progressed, and Jess would be asked if he could provide a draft for discussion at the next DIG, as the group recalled he had an interesting suggestion in September. In the meantime, Nigel C expressed an interest in reviving the AA structure sheet which was available at some meetings. Anita S will provide Wendy G with a copy for submission to next DIG meeting. It was suggested that groups contribute any suggestions for the pictorial sheet, and it will be laminated back to back with the structure sheet.

****ACTION FOR GSRs- check if anyone can draw up a picture version of what IG does**

4. Inter Group vacancies

Secretary, vice chair, webmaster (but see note at **8** below).

5. Treasurer's report

Full report attached herewith. Balance brought forward of £1,577.94. Group contributions up a little to £771.40. Payments out include "Where to finds" at £100, literature for Foston - £48.00. Expenses are less this quarter but insurance premium becomes payable in March 2011 so in order to keep a prudent reserve it was agreed that a contribution of £300 would be sent to Region. Noted that contributions were down generally and the £1 barrier still remains.

The Chair explained the use of a Gift Aid Form which enabled GSO to claim the tax on any contributions made to a Charity (which AA is). Any tax payer can complete this simple form and send it to GSO, thus increasing their pot money by 20% (or \$)% for those higher rate tax payers amongst us) at no extra cost to themselves. This form is available from the DIG website.

****ACTION FOR GSRs- print off explanation and form from website and take to group for discussion. If every person in the Fellowship who pays tax filled in this form, GSO would be thousands of pounds better off.**

6. PI report

Geraldine read her report out in full and this is attached to the minutes. It was interesting to see that the Derby Royal Infirmary hospital informal meetings are going well. Anyone interested in attending one of these is welcome to call Geraldine to make arrangements - they are not on the WTF because the hospital cannot accommodate many members turning up at once. The meetings are held on Monday 10-11 a.m. and Tuesday 6-7 p.m.

7. Health report/Employment

In Sue's absence, Geraldine read out the HLO report and this is attached to the minutes.

As regards both PI and Health and Employment, it is very encouraging to note the great progress which is being made by the "team" comprising Geraldine, Carina and Sue.

Nigel C asked whether it was possible for the DRI to provide an intro letter to be presented at, say, QMC Nottingham but it was felt that as the meeting at DRI is an informal arrangement and not registered at GSO and therefore not showing on the Where to Find card, we should not "rock the boat" at the present time. The relationship between the DRI and AA is very good.

Dean stated that the meetings held at Prisons need to be registered with GSO and asked whether or not the meetings being held at DRI should also be registered. Heather said that she did not know but would find out.

8. Telephone service

In Dianne's absence, Heather read the TLO report, which is attached. Any slots becoming vacant were being filled as they occur. Forms sponsoring telephone responders/12 steppers are now in circulation and need to be returned to the TLO by 31 January 2011. Note that anyone already on list needs to re-register as all current lists will be cleared and new forms will then contain current responders and 12 steppers. Note that the chair of every group needs to read out the names of anyone on their form to the group for approval before returning the form to the TLO – as per the guidelines accompanying the form, they should be regular members and need only put their name down once, even if they have more than one home group.

Discussion took place regarding the 0845 number not being used enough such that BT want to impose a penalty of some £K. The use of the 0845 number has been re-negotiated for the next 12 months further discussion is taking place at Regional level.

Both the local and 0845 numbers appear on the Where To Find card and discussion took place as to the prominence of each number with no conclusion.

The chair reported that the statistics for the telephone service ringtone no reply are really poor. This needs to be carried back to groups. 18.63% of calls to our helpline remained unanswered, that means not answered by person OR answer-phone, the call is simply not picked up at all.

Groups are asked to let TLO know of any closure of meetings over the Xmas/New Year period.

****ACTION FOR GSRs- ASAP tell helpline/TLO if your group is open/closed over Christmas/New Year.**

9. Website

Nick reported in relation to the Webmaster position, since his move to Coalville, he no longer attends any meetings within the DIG coverage but is prepared to remain in situ until the position is filled. Jess F of Yoxall had expressed an interest in September.

Nick has received no further communication following the contact he made with GSO Electronic sub committee.

Nick has also sent two emails to GSO asking if we could have our page back on the new site but has received no reply.

Update on visits to the website are as follows:

11,500 visits.

2,750 page views.

81% via search engine.

The visits to the site for Step 4 templates being used extensively, i.e. 5,492 visits.

Agreed that any direct contact to the DIG website from potential members who have a problem with alcohol should be directed to the GSO site help@alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk These calls would then be picked up by the e-responder (who have been sponsored in by their IG) on duty at that time. Other calls should continue to be directed as relevant to the enquiry.

10. Region

Deferred until next meeting of Derby Inter Group.

11. Any other business

11.1 Dean M updated the meeting on three projects by GSO. His reports on the following will appear on the Derby website.

- a) List of every meeting in local area – 75% complete.
- b) History of AA groups since they started in local area. Dean gave an update on progress.
- c) Publication of a book on the history of AA.

11.2 Dates of meetings for 2011

19 February 2011

4 June 2011

10 September 2011

3 December 2011

11.3 Flyers are now available for Mini Convention to be held first weekend in March. Dean M was congratulated on his design skills. In connection with this convention, Dean asked Groups if they could ask members to submit articles describing how their service at Inter Group had improved their sobriety. Those selected would be posted on a “stall” at the Mini Convention, and could be anonymous.

****ACTION FOR GSRs- promote mini-convention via flyers/word of mouth**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 3 pm 19 February 2011 at the same venue.