

**CoDA UK – National Service Committee (NSC) & London and South Region  
Combined Meeting - Minutes  
June 2rd 2018  
1.00pm to 4.00pm  
Waterloo Action Centre**

**Present:**

Tony	- NSC Chair & Inter Group Service Rep CoDA North
Ray	- GSR Guildford Men's Meeting, Secretary LSER and NSC Communications
Don	- NSC member and Minute Taker
Bruno	- GSR Chiswick
Matt	- GSR Watford & Treasurer LSER
Alison	- GSR Poole

**Apologies:**

Joel	- NSC Member – News and Events
Ian	- NSC Treasure and Literature

**Welcome & Opening:**

Tony opened the meeting and attending members checked in. After reading the traditions, Tony reviewed the suggested agenda items put forward by Ray and allocated timings. These were:

- the viability of the LSER and NSC meetings,
- whether we should combine them into a single meeting for now
- what the priority list is of what we'd like to achieve,
- service roles
- meeting frequency

He then asked if anyone had any A.o.B topics and incorporated them into the agenda.

**Approval of minutes and actions arising:**

Tony thanked Don for the minutes of February's NSC and these were approved and to be uploaded on the website.

**ACTION: Minutes of February's NSC to be uploaded to website**

**A.o.B Items:**

The following were requested to be added/allocated time in the agenda for discussion:

- GDPR
- Update on guidance regarding reporting of sexual abuse and guidance on the handling of racial/sexist abusive comments in meetings.

Tony allocated time at the end of the agenda.

## **Proposal to combine LSER and NSC meetings:**

Ray described the role of the LSER as an intermediary between meetings across London & the South East and the NSC, and organising retreats and workshops. He mentioned that the Sponsorship workshops were now organised by members not regularly attending the LSER meetings. The attendance at LSER had fallen away to 2-3 members and Ray suggested that we consider combining with the NSC.

Bruno asked Tony about the structure and role of the North Region and Tony informed the meeting that there were 13 groups represented 5 in Manchester and new representation from Edinburgh, Newcastle and Bradford.

Alison asked how the North Region met and Tony replied that the meeting location moved around the Region. The next meeting is scheduled for Liverpool and then Edinburgh. Attendance and travel to the meetings is being covered by the attending members themselves.

Matt feedback on the benefits of the North Region due to the geography, but felt that in the South the two meetings led to complexity and confusion as encountered in trying to organise the Ken and Mary visit. He felt that one committee would make it easier.

Ray reported that LSER now had only two serving committee members – himself and Matt, and suggested that for the time being the LSER is suspended and incorporated with the NSC, due to the lack of resources.

Alison asked about the service roles at Region and NSC and Ray replied that these are on the CoDA UK Website

Bruno reported that interest in the Traditions at meetings was at a low level and asked what could be done to encourage

Alison suggested that the NSC could provide a “Message of the Month” and distribute it to meetings and publish on the website.

Don asked if we are doing enough to try to encourage more members to engage in service as he saw a fall away following the AGM held prior to the first Ken and Mary workshop.

Ray felt we were in a “do or die” situation and we need to be focused and Don agreed that we should look at agreeing to do a few things well.

Tony then summarised the proposal for the meeting that for a period of months we merge LSER and the NSC including amalgamating the funds.

Bruno asked for more detail on the LSER and NSC funds and Ray reported that there two separate accounts:

- Matt is the treasurer for the LSER and Ian currently for the NSC

Alison wondered if there should be one national account and that this could include the North region. Matt felt they should remain separate.

Matt reported that the LSER account had circa £6,800 and Ray that the NSC had circa £4,000 and an additional prudent reserve of circa £4,000 – this would provide a national fund of circa £15,000.

**Tony again proposed that the LSER and NSC merge and after being seconded, it was voted in unanimously.**

Don asked what the combined entity was to be called, and it was agreed that it would keep the name of National Service Committee – NSC.

### **Priority Role for the NSC:**

The following roles were proposed as being essential:

- Treasurer
- Chair
- Secretary ( Minute Taker)

Ray suggested that rather than focus on key roles we consider more the functions we feel the NSC should support and these were identified as:

- Literature
- Website (content and emails)
- Finance
- Conscience

### **The Website:**

Ray reported that a CoDA member called Neil had done a new website using WordPress but we would need to have someone to launch the new service and this requires IT know how.

Ray also mentioned that the current webhosting contract ends in September 2018 and Don asked if this was a drop-dead date and it does appear to be a burning platform.

Ray offered to ask Neil as to what was required to host the new website and to get a brief by which we could ask him or others for a price. A member at the Salisbury retreat who indicated that they might be able to help has also approached Ray.

Tony proposed that Ray ask Neil if he is happy to develop a brief and possibly quote for the work and Ray will investigate using the brief to get alternative quotes if required.

Don asked if we could buy more time from the current web-hosting provider as this could be a real risk and Ray agreed to check with Amma if it is possible to get an extension.

Tony asked if we should agree an approved budget for the work to get the website service ready so Ray and Matt can move forward before the next meeting.

Ray also suggested that we move CoDA NSC email onto g-mail for communication and announcements to the meeting contacts

Don asked if we should consider consolidating the email addresses/mail boxes with the current limited resources and Tony suggested we should get feedback on use of the email accounts with a view to consider if they are all used and viable.

Ray proposed setting up a national email address so that we can better support communication with the NSC.

#### Finance:

Tony proposed that Matt takes on the role of the new NSC treasurer.

Matt provide a brief summary of his recovery and service and outlined what he believed the role would require.

**This was seconded and voted in unanimously.**

Don was asked to communicate with Ian that Matt has agreed to take on NSC Treasurer and if he was happy to remain as literature secretary.

Tony asked if Matt could look into providing the NSC with a financial summary detailing the exact balance in both LSER and NSC accounts

Alison offered to support the conscience/policy function and her support was welcomed by the NSC

#### Proposed Dates for NSC Meetings:

Ray suggested that the new NSC meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday every second month and Tony informed the meeting that he was unlikely to make the October meeting.

Don offered to act as Chair for that meeting if required.

Matt offered to book the meeting at the Waterloo Action Centre for the following dates and cancel Hinde Street:

- 4<sup>th</sup> August
- 6<sup>th</sup> October
- 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

The room was to be booked from 10.30 – 4.00pm to allow for a possible CoDA meeting before the NSC to possibly help boost attendance.

#### Meetings Insurance Proposal:

Ray informed the NSC that several meetings in Surrey were going to collectively purchase Public Liability Insurance on the back of the proposal presented some time ago by Ian to the NSC.

**Don agreed to speak with Ian and ask if he could provide/or bring the latest proposal for consideration at the next NSC meeting.**

CoDA North Update:

Tony provided a brief update on the Region. He had been asked for an update on finances and informed the NSC that Padraig and Paul from the Edinburgh meeting, have offered to take on organising the Ken and Mary visit in 2019.

He estimated costs to be as follows:

- £1000 venue for 2 days
- £1,500 flights
- £400 Hotel costs
- £500 General costs and expenses.

They have been looking at charging £10.00 per session and having 4 sessions over the two days. This he believes will contribute about £3-4,000.

Ray asked Tony if Sue was still involved, as some volunteers from LSER had given her their names for support.

3-4 people had offered to help organising the London visit but it needs leading.

Tony reported that the North Region may not recover the full costs and so the NSC may need to make up the surplus.

The NSC felt that the Ken & Mary visit is National and they we need to work together as it will be a CoDA UK event.

Tony closed the meeting with the long serenity prayer.

**Next Meeting in the Waterloo Action Centre – 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**Additional comments and notices requested to be included for review:**

Tony asked if the following statement from CoDA North is added to these minutes as there was not time to run through it in the meeting but it was brought along to be given.

“CODA North completely understand the requirement of needing to be spiritually prudent with the resources we have to carry the message to other suffering codependants. We as a group would like very much for the whole of CODA UK to be as one in carrying this message to the still suffering codependant with a focus on tradition 1, our common welfare should come first personal recovery depends on CODA unity. We would point to the rest of the traditions as our guiding principles for the desire to

have the founders of the fellowship come to the UK in early 2019 and hold a weekend event in the northern region. We are aware the cost to this would be circa £4000 including flights. We are also aware the NSC (not the now defunct LSER) would like for financial security purposes an event in London, although currently no one in the Southern region has come forward in service to put an event on in London. I (Tony) have agreed to liaise with Sue who has some contact names from Salisbury and is on the northern event committee to see if I can assist in getting a London venue with the view of getting that group started to serve at an event in March 2019. CODA North would like to make it clear at present that whilst every effort will be made to make any monies back making the money back would not be a condition to agreeing the payment of flights and venues etc with the view to making the money back on ticket sales. This is all in view of Tradition 5; Each group has 1 primary purpose - to carry its message to the codependant who still suffers”