

SANAC-Meeting Sunday 5 October 2025 13:15-15:15 - Hybrid

The below submitted minutes have been summarised by AI program Fireflies. Their GDPR and Security policies can be found [here](#). The AI submission are in *italics*.

The full written reports by each subcommittee member have been pasted into the body of these minutes, as written by the relevant Chairs.

These minutes are available as a PDF on the Sussex NA website.

In accordance with Concept 5, the Chair of SANAC is the single point of decision and accountability for the SANAC Committee.

Present: Dean (Chair of SANAC - taking this meeting), Lexi (Vice Chair of Tech and minutes taker), Adam R (Chair of Tech), Teresa (Vice Chair of Healing), Ben (Treasurer), Lou (VC of Reg), Katie (VC of Creche), Stephen (VC SANAC), Jez (C of Reg)

Apologies: Adam M (C of Programming), Peter (C of Graphics)

Absent: Pat (C of Healing)

Agenda:

Moment of Silence

Serenity Prayer

12 Concepts

Attendance

Apologies

Reports from Sub-Committee and Chair

Announcements of New Committee at next meeting

ASC

Next meeting to be decided by next committee

CHAIR REPORT

SANAC 16 Wash-Up Report

Event: SANAC 16 Convention

Dates: 29–31 August 2024

Venue: Falmer University Campus

1. Purpose of the Report

This report is written from my perspective as Chair of SANAC 16. It is intended to give the next committee an honest account of what went well, what challenges were faced, and what lessons may be useful moving forward.

2. Background

I was voted in as Chair on 29 October 2024, shortly after moving to Sussex. At that point, I only knew a few members locally. The previous year's committee had been removed from the WhatsApp group, which left me to start the committee again from scratch. That decision may not have been intended to make me feel unwelcome, but at the time I did feel isolated and unsupported.

Through persistence, my experience of the fellowship, and encouragement from members, people gradually began to put themselves forward and a committee was formed.

3. Challenges Along the Way

- **Committee Formation:** Starting from zero created a slow and difficult beginning.
- **Treasurer Election:** The way our previous Treasurer was voted in led to unpleasant exchanges. This created tension and, at times, a hostile feeling at ASC meetings. I want it on record that I did not feel supported or encouraged as a subcommittee chair during this period, even if that was not the intention of the ASC Chair.
- **Resignations & No-Confidence Attempt:** Several members resigned, and at one point another member canvassed for a vote of no confidence in me. That did not happen, but it unsettled the committee and contributed to losing some good people.
- **Vice Chair ASC Role:** At times I felt the Vice Chair was overstepping and taking over aspects of the committee. It sometimes felt

like I was accountable to them rather than to the GSRs, which is where accountability rightly sits. That said, in the final six weeks before the convention, teamwork improved, and things came together.

- Communication: The WhatsApp group was often used for very long and in-depth discussions. This created confusion and tension. In future, I recommend using WhatsApp for updates only, with key issues kept for committee meetings.

4. Strengths & Contributions

Despite the difficulties, the members who stayed on worked with real commitment. We held regular monthly meetings, moving to weekly meetings closer to the convention, both online and face to face.

I want to highlight two contributions in particular:

- A member who worked tirelessly to sell tickets and spread the word.
- Another member who organised a sponsored walk to raise funds for the crèche.

The crèche itself was invaluable, and I strongly recommend it remains a priority for future conventions.

5. Event Outcomes

- Carrying the Message: Our main purpose — to carry the message to addicts — was achieved.
- Financials: We managed to cover costs, though it did feel like a burden at times to rely so heavily on ticket sales. Future committees may want to explore other fundraising methods to ease this pressure.
- Venue: Falmer University Campus was an excellent location with good parking and affordable accommodation. However, the canteen opening hours were too limited, leaving many members without refreshments between 3:00–6:30pm. I have raised this with the venue, and they are happy to review it. They have also confirmed they are willing to host our next convention on the same terms and price.

6. Lessons Learned

- Handover from outgoing to incoming committees should be smoother, so the new Chair does not have to start from scratch.

- Chairs of subcommittees need support and encouragement at ASC level.
- Internal conflicts should be handled quickly and constructively to avoid hostility.
- Committee roles should be clearly defined to avoid overlap and confusion.
- Communication channels need to be better managed — WhatsApp for logistics, meetings for important discussions.
- Fundraising should not rely only on ticket sales.
- The crèche should remain a central part of the convention.

7. Conclusion

Chairing SANAC 16 was both challenging and rewarding. There were times I felt undermined, unsupported, and even worked against. At the same time, I had the privilege of working alongside dedicated members who stood by me and helped deliver a successful convention.

Despite the difficulties, I thoroughly enjoyed being Chair, and I am grateful for the support I did receive. My hope is that these reflections will help the next committee build on our successes and avoid some of the struggles we faced.

VICE-CHAIR REPORT

Firstly,

I wish to say well done to everyone. Committee members and volunteers alike, for your efforts. You all managed to help bring everything together during the final push through the convention weekend.

However, during the run up to the event itself our regular committee meetings were sometimes intense. We now need to put that behind us from this point onwards.

The reality is we made it. We managed to fulfil our remit with a small donation available to the Sussex ASC.

How did we get there?

Flyers: Getting the message out there.

I took this on and managed to distribute over 1500 flyers to UKCNA, UK Region, ECNA European Convention Rotterdam and the EDM(European delegates meeting) as well as ensuring they were on display at our local meetings and also neighbouring areas, Hampshire, Surrey and Kent.

We had some Events page coverage at www.UKNA.org and locally at www.Sussexna.org

Raffle ticket sales 29th-31st August

3400 tickets sold=£680.00 Thanks to Rachel H(cash paid) & Jez for taking card payments.

Donations made to Merchandise table.

22 T shirts from past local and foreign conventions. Sold out.

Various NA approved Keyrings.(8) Sold out

Quantity of NA pocket torches Sold out

Peter managed these sales in cash and Stripe: He estimated all of the above at £400.00

Contact Peter himself for confirmation.

Pre-sold Paper tickets:

This again prompted the need to move this forward on a general consensus.

I ordered 1000 NA generically printed tickets. The remainder of Which I am donating to area for future events for F&E, Campout, Sanac 17 if they want to make use of them.

We are left with 885 tickets. This relates to having sold +/- 115 tickets in advance of the convention itself. Included in that figure were more than 24 newcomer donated tickets. (only a small hand full were used for that purpose).

All monies for these ticket sales were paid to our Treasures.

My estimate suggests ticket sales in excess of £1300.00+

Auction Sales:

Went very well we have been told. Sales included a painting which sold at the front desk for £35.00

Adz kept a list of the items sold. report.

PROGRAMMING

I was Vice, could have done with a chair (who would have knocked up a report). Programming went relatively smoothly in my opinion with a wide variety of chairs with varying clean time from 2 years to 40 years. The chairs included different sexualities, genders, sexual orientations and races. Just leaves me to say thanks for allowing me to serve on your committee and I'll see whoever goes at the ASC in love and fellowship Adam M x

TECH & VENUE SETUP

So as far as my Tech report goes it will be short but here goes:-

SANAC 16 Tech report

Having made use of all the facilities available to us at the university which involved radio mics and projectors it seemed to run seamlessly as far as audio and visuals went. The creche made full use of the projection facility in there room. The document camera was a nice touch enabling us to project on the screen in the main auditorium each of the items that were up for auction. The radio that were kindly borrowed by Katie were really useful to ease communication between committee members if needed as the venue was large. Would suggest thinking about investing in a set of radios for use at other larger NA events. The healing room went well but they had no Tech involvement. It has been a massive learning curve on how to fully use zoom during this convention which has been useful. I would liked to have recorded more of the shares to make available to Sussex NA but it took some time to get it working due to the university's Internet security but I did get to record the final share with his permission with a signed consent for. I would like to say a massive thankyou to Lexi who was an absolute superstar in terms of the zoom meeting minutes and being on call if any problems happened during the convention or zoom meetings. A great experience for me and I believe everyone had a great time. Thanks for letting me give service. We definitely fulfilled our primary purpose 🙏🏻🕉️

Also a massive thankyou to rob for kindly supplying the sounds along with Julian for the dance 🙏🏻🕉️

REGISTRATION

Registration had a great Convention. Thanks to everyone who attended. To those who bought tickets in advance, thanks so much as this money helped with putting on the event. And to those who bought tickets on the day, equally, thank you for coming.

The REG DESK had a fantastic group of willing volunteers over the weekend, which made it a great place to be for the Convention, and hopefully, very welcoming to all who arrived. Thanks again to all those who helped out, you know who you are, and you're awesome!

STRIPE ONLINE PAYMENTS

Registration looked after the setup and use of Stripe. We were able to put the Stripe app on all our phones, which enabled us to take payments without having to buy Stripe card readers. This worked really well, was very simple to use, and we could use it for payments in advance at meetings and via the website, throughout the duration of the Convention itself, for raffle tickets, at the auction, and at the Merchandise Stall.

Via Stripe (minus their fees of £108) we took £3,942.50.

The Stripe account we used for the Convention is empty and has now been closed. We definitely suggest using it again and if the ASC is looking for an Online payment platform for the Sussex Area we would recommend Stripe and would be more than happy to help set it up.

CLEAN TIME COUNT

197 members signed the Clean Time book.

We had 17 members under 30 days and **5 members with 1 day Clean.**

4 members over 40yrs and 8 members 30yrs or over. The most CT entered was 45yrs.

We had a grand total, attending our Convention of;

1783yrs 2months and 24 days

It was a great Convention and an honour to be a part of. We are very grateful and thank you for allowing us to be of Service.

One Love, SANAC 16 Registration Committee.

Below is a list of the Area Recognition Members attending.

AREA RECOGNITION

San Fernando Valley	Bognor Regis
Australia	Crawley
Nepal	East Croydon
Turkey	Shepperton
Kingston UK	Folkestone
Worthing	Portsmouth
Epsom	Western Super Mare
Lewes	Haywards Heath
Birmingham	Chichester
NW London	Eastbourne
Runcorn	Thames Valley
Redhill	Havant
Herts	Southampton
Bexhill	Peacehaven
Warrington	Hove
Glasgow	Brighton
	+ 1 more (can't read it)

HEALING

Chairs report is attached. Below is the Vice-Chair and the Kundalini Yoga teacher.

Vice- Chair - The only other thing to say from me that I thought that the timings of the healing groups clashed with main chairs and that the healing groups weren't as well attended, particularly on the Sunday. And my other point was that due to a shortage of funds, some of the expenses were met by members of the committee. The kundalini healing also mentioned about the mix up with the timings on the Sunday and that they felt that the venue was isolated. That's about it, hope that helps thanks 🙏 x

Sabrina, Kundalini Yoga Teacher - 'The healing room was brilliant I think really spacious warm cosy great vibes. Was lovely to work with a small intimate group. Feel like I was really healed from being there.

Obviously a little confusion around the times. I found the venue practical but I found the location a bit isolated compared to last year so like when it was in Brighton before it was easier to go off and get food and have some fresh air at the beach if it felt a bit intense whereas this time there was less option for that.

Creche

- *The creche successfully cared for 14 children over the weekend, offering a safe space that enabled newcomer parents to attend sessions.*
- *Katie took over chair duties unexpectedly but managed well, supported by skilled workers who calmed anxious toddlers.*
- *Activities catered to various age groups using film and projection equipment, enhancing the environment.*
- *Fundraising through a sponsored walk fully covered creche costs, suggesting a sustainable model for future years.*
- *Katie recommended earlier outreach and better marketing to parents in early recovery, including partnerships with refuges, to increase creche utilization.*

TREASURY

The treasurer at the time of the convention, Ben G, joined the committee about 4 weeks before the convention to take over from Tom. Tom helped me get access to Metro Bank and gave me a spreadsheet which I adopted to predict income and expenditure, replacing estimates with actuals when they became known. Due to the nature of Stripe payments over the convention weekend, it was unclear however exactly how much that came in was from raffle/tickets/merchandise as all were going into the same account and not everything had its source labelled. In addition, the exact total

for the sponsored walk was not clear. For these reasons, the spreadsheet is NOT an accurate picture of actual expenditure and income HOWEVER. the Payments & Receipts tab is an accurate representation of incomings and outgoings. At the time of writing this report, there is still £284.83 in the account which will be transferred to the ASC shortly. Collection and paying in of cash on the weekend went really smoothly, it was a great committee to work with and I was please for the opportunity. Please see attached excel.

Venue and Logistics Feedback

- *The venue was generally well received for its location and facilities, though some logistical concerns were noted impacting attendee experience.*
- *The University Campus offered good parking and affordable accommodation, with positive feedback from venue staff on the respectful conduct of attendees.*
- *However, canteen hours were limited, leaving attendees without refreshments between 3 pm and 6:30 pm, which generated complaints and is a key area for improvement.*
- *The healing room was praised for its atmosphere but suffered from timing confusion and a more isolated location compared to the previous year's Brighton venue, which allowed easier access to food and outdoor spaces.*
- *Future contracts with the venue will seek to ensure extended food service hours to enhance attendee comfort and satisfaction.*

Communication

- *Communication channels and reporting processes require refinement to reduce confusion and improve clarity.*
- *Chair Dean recommended restricting WhatsApp usage to logistical updates only, reserving detailed discussions for committee meetings to prevent tension and miscommunication.*
- *Reports will be compiled into PDFs and attached to official minutes for easier access by ASC, improving transparency and record-keeping.*

- *A sensitive issue regarding a personal statement in Peter's report was addressed; the committee agreed unanimously to request removal of the personal section before sharing the report externally, aligning with NA traditions.*

Next Steps and Committee Transition

- *Planning for the next convention committee (SANAC 17) is underway with a tentative timeline to establish the new committee by November or December 2025.*
- *Steve and Adam R have agreed to transition to chairs.*
- *The new committee aims to meet soon to maximize preparation time for the convention, ideally starting meetings in October or November to support an event planned for August or September 2026.*
- *Chair Dean proposed involving the ASC vice chair in facilitating the initial meeting to ensure impartiality and transparency during committee formation, though this approach was met with questions about procedural precedents.*
- *The importance of securing a fully committed and stable committee early was emphasized to avoid the challenges faced this year, with a focus on commitment beyond personality conflicts.*