

Minutes of the Yoga Scotland Annual General Meeting held at the Edinburgh Mountaineering Centre, Ratho on 19th April 2009

Present: Mary Agnew, Sue Atkinson, John Codd, Jenni Connaughton, Frances Corr, Derek Doyle, Morag Finlayson, Ellan Foley, Angela Foss, Emma Giles, Johnny Glover, Carol Godridge, Pamela Hardwick, Frances Hudson, Ann Hunter, Linda Hutton, Pat James, Leah Lyon, Katy McFarlane, Kath McDonald, Anne McNaughton, Donna McNeil, Fiona McOwan, Lorna Meston, Anne Morton, Susan Neal, Ruth Plevin, Cristie Purser, Christine Purves, Eleanore Simpson, Shirley Singh, Jean Stewart, Lyn Scott, James Taylor, Jill Travers,

1. Apologies: Jackie Le Brocq, Pat Beecham, Claire Thom, Linda Moodie, Joy Charnlie, Kirsty Loudon, Kate Copp, Margaret Thomson, Sheila Gillespie, Tracy Adamson, Grace McFarlane, Anne Davidson, Gillan Watt, Evelyn Stewart, Alison Palmer, Mary McBride, Evonne Fitzpatrick, Norma Lawrie, RenaLeigh, Audrey Walker, Shona Wallace, Tom Allan, Joan Honeyman, Alaine McDonald, Freda Ritchie, Aileen Hughes, Lynne Scott, Catherine Robinson, Ruth Frost, Barbara Waldie, Margaret McAlpine, Jill Paget, Margaret Milner, Aileen Borthwick, Margaret Wesencraft, Isabel Page, Sue McLennan, Yvonne Cample, Elaine Henry, Linda Forbes, Marjory Grant, Stephanie Aucote

2. Minutes of the 2008 AGM: Approved. Proposed Frances Corr, seconded Susan Neal.

3. Matters arising:

In answer to a question about progress on the development of a national qualification, the Chairperson said that, although she had had a recent meeting with the SQA, there had not been time to take this matter forward, but that it was a top priority for the coming year.

4. Presentation of the Annual Report:

The Chairperson presented the Annual Report, which was noted. A number of points were raised from the floor:

- It was confirmed that it is not possible for YS to take part in the new Individual Learning Account (ILA) scheme. In recognition of this, a new grant for people on incomes below the ILA threshold had been instituted for students on YS courses. It was agreed that the availability of this grant and the bursary should be more prominent in YS course advertisements.
- The criteria for applications to the Teacher Training Course were discussed. It was agreed that there was scope for greater flexibility for accepting applicants who showed a serious commitment to yoga and/or the spiritual path, but who might not have fulfilled all the current criteria. This was deemed to be particularly important at a time when the application rate is falling, and rejected applicants are turning to other providers.

- In response to a question as to whether the new Glasgow TTC in the autumn might also have only one hatha yoga tutor, the Chairperson replied that if numbers were insufficient to warrant two tutors, this may well be the case. If there number of applicants was seriously down, it might be that there will be no TTC starting this autumn at all.
- On the question of the low level of interest in the Teacher Recognition Scheme, and what had happened to those who had expressed interest in such a scheme initially, the former Co-ordinator said that they had been in touch to discuss the possibilities but had not taken any further steps.
- On the question of administration of the On-Going Training programme, it was agreed that it should be made clear as to who was the first point of contact for members' enquiries concerning the events.
- Asked if Yoga Scotland might be following the lead of the BWY in introducing changes to On-going Training and Continuing Professional Development, the Chairperson said that this was also a priority matter for the Executive to look at in the coming year.

5. Presentation and Adoption of the Annual Accounts:

The Treasurer presented the accounts to 31st December 2008. She said that the organisation continues to run at a deficit and, as a consequence, has fewer reserves than at the end of the previous year. She pointed out that awareness of the gradual increase in expenditure had prompted the raising of membership fees a year ago. The current TTC in Glasgow is running at a small loss, and the Edinburgh TTC, even with only one hatha yoga tutor, is also running at a loss. The Foundation courses are running at a slight loss, but are sustained by the profits from previous years. In response to a question about the large difference in insurance figures between the 2008 and the 2009 accounts, she said that this was due to the change of accountant and the fact that the accounts are now prepared on an accrual basis.

The accounts were approved. Proposed Fiona McOwan seconded Susan Neal.

6. Appointment of the Independent Examiner:

The Treasurer proposed that Chas. Leigh Brown and Son be appointed for a further year. Approved. Proposed Ann Hunter, seconded Jenni Connaughton

7. Executive Committee Elections:

The Chairperson presented Jill Travers and Carol Godridge, both of whom were stepping down, with a small gift in recognition of their service.

The following committee members were re-elected: Proposed Frances Corr and seconded by Ruth Previn.

Rosalind Batchelor (Teacher member)
Lorna Meston (Ordinary member)
Ann Hunter (Teacher member)

The following new members were elected:

John Codd: proposed Jill Travers, seconded Johnny Glover (Teacher member)
Sue Atkinson: proposed Donna McNeil seconded Lorna Meston (Teacher member)
Yvonne Campkin: Jenni Connaughton, seconded Katie McFarlane (Teacher member)
Claire Butler: proposed Katie McFarlane, seconded Frances Corr (Ordinary member)
Leah Lyon: proposed Carol Godridge, seconded Fiona McOwan (Ordinary member)

8. AOCB:

- The Executive Committee's attention was drawn to the possibility of taking advantage of the present economic climate by looking for cheap empty property that might be available to lease for a full year as a venue for training courses, events and meetings, as well as hiring out to other teachers or organisations at a small profit to Yoga Scotland.
- The Executive also agreed to look at the possibility of printing the Annual Report on recycled paper.
- It was also noted that greater care would be taken next year to ensure that the AGM did not clash with the BWY Congress or Yoga Scotland's own TTC.

9. Date and venue of next AGM

Remitted to the committee to determine at a later date.

*Carol Godridge
Minutes Secretary
20th April 2009*