

The Tai Chi Union for Great Britain



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TAI CHI UNION FOR GREAT BRITAIN HELD ON 22nd APRIL 2017 AT CHINESE CULTURE CENTRE, UNIT E4, STAFFORD PARK 15, TELFORD SHROPSHIRE .

Apologies: Shelliagh Grandpierre, Marnix Wells, Barry McGinlay, Tony Ulatowski and Aileen Cromar

Present: **Executive Members and Officers;** Dan Docherty, Gary Wragg, Peter Ballam, David Hackett, Faye Yip, Mark Peters and 5 members

THE NOTICE CALLING THE MEETING was taken as read and the meeting commenced with Dan Docherty in the chair.

1. **Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting & Matters Arising:**

Two items from the previous AGM were to be discussed under any other business. There were no other matters arising from the previous Minutes and these were unanimously accepted as a true record.

2. **Annual Report:**

Chairman – Dan Docherty notified the meeting that the membership is growing and roles are becoming more onerous so it had been agreed to increase payments to the treasurer, webmaster and the facebook co-ordinator to £12.00 per hour.

Dan also talked about the Taijiquan & Qigong Federation for Europe (TCFE). It is no longer intended to hold a Congress but the competitions are popular so it is planned to hold these every year with the UK hosting every other year. In 2017 the competition will be held in Oxford 17th – 19th November 2017.

Treasurer Report – The Accounts were posted on the website for members to view, no specific questions were raised about the finances but Peter explained that the Union funds were healthy and there was still a significant balance in the account.

3. **Nominations for Executive and Posts:**

Peter advised that all the current postholders had agreed to stand for re-election and no further nominations had been received.

The nominations are :

Gary Wragg (Executive)	Peter Ballam (Executive & Secretary)
Dan Docherty (Executive & Chair)	Tony Ulatowski (Executive)
Mark Peters (Executive)	Marnix Wells (Executive & Vice Chair)
Faye Yip (Executive)	David Hackett (Executive)
Shelagh Grandpierre (Executive)	Barry McGinlay (Nominee)

Non Executive Officers:

Aileen Cromer (Treasurer)

Ballot papers and the arrangements for voting will be issued shortly, please note eligible members have until 19th June 2017 to vote.

Nominations for Honorary Posts

Peter reminded the meeting that Nominations for the Honorary Posts of President and Vice President are invited from members in respect of people who have made a significant contribution to promoting Tai Chi and Qi Gong to a wider audience. Nominations are to be made to the Secretary by 19th June 2017. The nominations will be considered by the Executive and any new appointments will be posted on the website.

4. Any Other Business:

- a. **Mark Peters:** Following on from the request from Keith Sharp at the 2016 AGM, for assistance in promoting Tai Chi & Qi Gong the Executive Committee asked the Health Sub Committee to investigate possibilities for a TCUGB recognized programme to be introduced.

Mark provided the background to the options for a programme that may be accepted by NHS practitioners. The REPS route had previously been investigated and found unsuitable.

Mark made the point that the NHS has no national policy on referral and it is a local decision by practitioners, so there will be a need to promote any programme locally.

He had made further enquiries and now believed the Open College Network scheme offered the best option. This would allow the TCUGB to provide accredited programmes while not dictating the content of the programme.

After some discussion it was agreed that Mark would finalize a proposal for the Executive to consider.

- b. **Peter Ballam:** At the 2016 AGM Carl Bateman had expressed concern at the wording of the Constitution as it appeared to make individual members liable for any costs incurred by the Executive as the Executive are indemnified by the organization. Carl requested that the Executive seek a suitable Officers Indemnity insurance so members are not exposed. It was agreed that an investigations would be made to see if a suitable product could be found and also to review the Constitution to decide if some alterations may be needed.

Peter had made enquiries and was unable to identify a suitable product however a Directors and Officers Indemnity product would be available under certain circumstances.

This prompted a review of the Union's status and if it was still fit for purpose. Alternative options were considered including seeking charitable status and becoming a limited company. The most appropriate option to take the organization forward appears to be converting to a Community Interest Company (CIC) these Companies have a legal status, are not for profit organizations and have to be registered, regulated and administered in accordance with Company Law. Conversion to a CIC will put the administration on a more formal basis but with a growing membership this may be the time to become more "professional".

It was agreed that a draft Articles for a CIC, incorporating the aims stated in the TCUGB Constitution, would be put to the membership for consideration.

- c. **Gary Wragg:** Mark Langweiler, the editor of the TCUGB Magazine had now produced his first edition and made some comments/suggestions for consideration to expand the readership. These were discussed and it was agreed the Executive would consider how to take them forward.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 2.20pm.