

The Tai Chi Union for Great Britain



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TAI CHI UNION FOR GREAT BRITAIN HELD ON 9th APRIL 2016 AT CHINESE CULTURE CENTRE, UNIT E4, STAFFORD PARK 15, TELFORD SHROPSHIRE .

Apologies: Gary Wragg, Marnix Wells, Barry McGinlay, Emma North & John Roper

Present: **Executive Members and Officers;** Tony Ulatowski, Sheilagh Grandpierre, Dan Docherty, Peter Ballam, David Hackett, Faye Yip, Mark Peters and Aileen Cromer (Treasurer) and 3 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:**

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 commented on the sad loss of Ronnie Robinson and invited all those present to share their recollections of Ronnie, everyone present had positive memories of Ronnie as a teacher, a colleague and as a friend. Aileen, who has worked closely with Ronnie, stated that although Tai Chi Caledonia was really Ronnie's baby it was the intention of all those involved with the event to keep it running to honour Ronnie's memory. This year's event will be held on the 8th – 15th July at Stirling University and the organizers are also considering introducing a Bursary in memory of Ronnie to assist people in attending future Tai Chi Caledonia events.

Dan spoke briefly about the various roles Ronnie fulfilled for the Union and the need for the Executive to decide how to fill the vacancies.

Dan also talked about the Taijiquan & Qigong Federation for Europe (TCFE) competition that is planned to be held in St. Petersburg in October 2016.

Treasurer Report – A report was circulated with the Notice calling the meeting, no specific questions were raised about the finances but Peter explained that the figures were a little skewed as the 2014 figures were based upon a period from 1st April to 31st December 2014. It had been agreed that the financial year would be changed to 31st December to give the treasurer the opportunity to prepare the accounts and have them circulated to the members with the Notice for the AGM.

Peter also drew attention to the loss for 2015 and that this was a result of the costs associated with running 3 regional events to mark the Union's 25th anniversary.

Dan explained that a number of overseas instructors were invited to participate in running workshops at the events and all those holding workshops were paid for their time and expenses.

Aileen commented that the Union funds were still healthy and there remained 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 two 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)
	Ben Morris (Nominee)

Non Executive Officers:

Aileen Cromer (Treasurer)

Peter advised the meeting that as some reservations had been expressed that the election was not secret and that he had acted as returning officer as well as a nominee, the Executive reviewed the arrangements. Aileen is now able to produce voting papers that bear a unique number to keep the ballot secret and Sam Forder, a member of the Union based in Devon has agreed to act as returning officer.

Ballot papers and the arrangements for voting will be issued shortly, please note eligible members have until 31st May 2016 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 31st May 2016. The nominations will be considered by the Executive and any new appointments will be posted on the website by 31st July 2016.

4. Any Other Business:

- a. **Tony Ulatowski:** spoke about the work he has been doing to promote Tai Chi and Qi Gong within schools. He has been successful in arranging classes in two primary schools. These sessions are within the school curriculum and not lunch club or after school activities.

As a result of this work he is hoping to take teams to compete in the British Open and wished to thank the TCUGB for financial support towards the entrance fees, transport costs etc.

Tony made the point that he has no desire to teach in schools but feels passionately that there is a real need for this area to be developed and that it will become a source for new students. He wishes to use his experience to create a template that can be adopted by other members wishing to follow this route.

- b. **Keith Sharp:** is seeking assistance in promoting Tai Chi and Qi Gong to our aging population. He feels as passionately about the elderly as Tony is about the youngsters. Keith believes Tai Chi and Qi Gong can be used for prevention, self help and after care for a wide spectrum of medical conditions affecting the elderly.

Unfortunately Keith has found that the health and social services require that instructors have a recognized qualification before they will recommend classes to patients/clients.

Usually the services are looking for a level 4 qualification as provided by REPS or YMCA.

Keith requested that the Union consider how it could provide such a qualification for members.

Mark advised the meeting that he had been involved with REPS in the past and was not impressed.

It was agreed that: the Health Sub Committee would be asked to consider Keith's proposal and decide if it is practical for the TCUGB to become involved in providing a suitable qualification.

- c. **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: 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.

- d. **Paul Brewer:** was concerned at the levels of administration and other charges associated with the instructors insurance offered through the Union.

It was agreed that: the brokers would be approached regarding their level of charges and that the Union would review the provision and provider to ensure the product on offer still represents good value for those members wishing to take out the cover.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 2.15pm.