

## Statement:

Some members will be aware of the dispute between the British Health Qigong Association and other members of the Qigong community, including several of our members, over the application to register the phrase “Health Qigong” as a trademark.

It is our understanding that the dispute has been concluded, and the group opposing the registration of the trademark have issued a statement clarifying the position.

The key point in the statement is that the term “Health Qigong”, with variations, will be registered as a trademark BUT the registration has been amended to include a disclaimer that:

“Registration of this trademark shall give no right to the exclusive use, separately, of the words “Health” and “Qigong”.

The group say this means that a wide combination of words such as “Qigong for Health” etc. could be used without fear of infringing the trademark.

It is the aim of the TCUGB to promote all recognised styles of Tai Chi Chuan, Qigong (chi-kung) and related Chinese Internal Martial Arts to the general public, not to impose restrictions on members from undertaking lawful activities. Commercial decisions, such as trademarking, taken by members are not a matter for the TCUGB unless there is a clear conflict with the aims and objectives as set out in our Articles of Association of the Company.

As a reminder, the aims and objectives of TCUGB include:

“To unite practitioners in Great Britain in the development of Tai Chi Chuan, Qigong (chi-kung) and related Chinese Internal Martial Arts;

To promote the research and understanding of Chinese religion, ritual and philosophy;

To promote Tai Chi Chuan, Qigong (chi-kung) and related Chinese Internal Martial Arts in all their aspects including those of health, aesthetic, meditation, ritual, philosophy.”

**The TCUGB Board takes the view that the registration of trademarks or other intellectual property rights, that can be employed to restrict the use of certain phrases (which we consider to be terms in general use) for commercial gain is in conflict with our aims and objectives and incompatible with the duty to promote the best interests of the Union. Any member or officer of the TCUGB associated (whether directly or indirectly) with pursuing such activities may find themselves subject to disciplinary action which could include their removal as officer or member of the TCUGB.**

If any member is concerned that a commercial decision or activity may bring them into conflict with the aims or objectives TCUGB, they are encouraged to raise the matter informally with the TCUGB executive and they will receive advice.

On behalf of the Board of the TCUGB