

TCUGB Chairman Report 2020/21 AGM

AGM to be held online via zoom January 16th 2021

We welcome any questions or comments by email in advance of the AGM. There is only a limited opportunity at our zoom meeting. Communication is also welcome afterwards.

Impact of COVID

COVID has impacted us all through 2020; some having to close all classes, some moving online and some off/on dependent on the changing guidelines for each area. We chose to post links to the government website, CIMPSA, EMD UK, ACRE etc. as they had specific and up to date information.

We ran an online survey to check what member's experiences were of going only. Key findings were 75% moved online and students actually attended more classes per week, so food for thought going forwards.

Impact of 'Health Qigong' trademark

Some members will be aware of the dispute (invalidity action) between members of the Qigong community, including several of our members, and the British Health Qigong Association, over registration of the phrase "Health Qigong" as a trademark (words only, 4 spellings). Although all party's affected by this may not be entirely happy with the results, an official statement was issued: *"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 full TCUGB position statement is available at: <https://www.taichiunion.com/tcu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/TCUGB-trademark-statement.pdf>

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 board and they will receive advice.

Changes to the board

Three board members resigned in 2020, in part due to trademark issue above. This has given us the opportunity to recruit new directors from our membership. Tony Ulatowski subsequently offered to step down to give another new director an opportunity, I would like to thank Tony on behalf of the board for all his hard work and am sure he will continue to contribute to the growth of the TCUGB. New directors are: Chris Thomas, Tina Faulkner, Mark Corcoran, and Wes Mollison. They bring a breadth of experience and energy and will play a key part in our development plans.

Thanks to Dan

Dan Docherty initially formed the TCUGB with Nigel Sutton in 1991, with the help of Gary Wragg, Linda Broda, John Hine, Paul Crompton and Ian Cameron. Dan has been Chairman for many of the years since then, even following health issues (diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2010). In August 2020

he felt ready to hand over the reins to Mark Peters, safe in the knowledge that Mark will keep the TCUGB to its original aims and values whilst updating its profile and functions to better suit members moving forwards. Dan will still play a key part in the Union and focus on strengthening connections with organisations both in the UK and internationally. Thank you Dan, I may lean on you from time-to-time for advice.

Finances

Costs have been rising year on year, yet membership levels have remained steady since 2016. This increase in costs of magazine design/production, admin, and expenses etc., set against low levels of magazine adverts or sales, union web-shop sales, and no growth in membership has led to a deficit for the last three years.

We, like many organisations, have been hit by COVID, meaning income has dropped even more in 2020. Our aims for 2021 is to address the deficit by reviewing costs as well as growing membership through public awareness. Investment in research, publicity and brand awareness to the wider fields of qigong and internal martial arts will really help. This, along with the CIMSPA project, will make the TCUGB the go-to organisation, which will benefit our members.

CIMSPA

The work with the Chartered Institute for Sports and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) was initially proposed by Keith Sharp at the AGM in 2016. Keith and I worked to investigate and build. At the 2019 AGM, Colin Huffen (CIMSPA) presented to the board and members on the aims and purpose of developing standards across the industry. A position statement was agreed and published. In 2020 the first Professional Development Committee (PDC) meeting was held with members being from the medical profession, tai chi, qigong education and sports professions.

A great deal of work had been done and a public consultation held. CIMSPA stated that the tai chi and qigong technical standards had received more feedback than any other standard to date. Some comments were due to a misunderstanding of the purpose of the standards, thinking they were to control the whole arts rather than specific application within specific settings. The BCCMA are involved in the development of the core skills (coaching) portion of the standards, and the TCUGB are developing the technical aspects (tai chi and qigong content).

The process has been a slow bureaucratic one but the end is in sight. The PDC meet again in January 2021 and the Professional Development Board in May for official sign off. Further information available on request.

Website and social media

We have been working on significant updates to the Union website that include: a refocus on our customers i.e. the general public and public sector organisations, adding a useful links page, access to articles, links to social media, more regular news updates and more. SEO and other developments will continue. Facebook: FB page, open group and closed members' groups have been set-up and running well. They were previously closed due to their focus and direction being lost. With more moderators in place and clearer rules, they have become a useful portal. LinkedIn and twitter has also been activated and connected.

Future development 2021-

I have many plans to continue the development and growth of our Union, with the aim to make us the go to organisation for tai chi, qigong and internal martial arts; both for practitioners and those interested in learning more. I have great faith that with the support of the board and our members we will grow from strength to strength. We aim to increase the Union's public profile, support research, and give real value and purpose.

There is a lot more this report could cover, but this is already long.

Comments and questions welcome, for the AGM or afterwards. Involvement in any activities, current or potential, and contributions to our continued development are welcome.

Thank you.

Mark Peters

TCUGB Chairman

<https://www.taichiunion.com/>

mob/whatsapp: +44 (0)7831 743737