

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
East of Scotland Iyengar Yoga Institute
Saturday 26th March 2011
Murrayfield Parish Church**

Attendees:

Rachel Woodward
Mona Hislop
Karen Lamb
Steve Gowenlock
Rossella Riceobono
Susan Laurence
Judy Learmont
Julie Amers
Catriona Instrell
Blanka Peters
Diane Love
Maureen Clarke
Teresa Berg
Kyoko Atsumi
Liz Ballantyne
Elaine Pidgeon
Fiona Sarjeant
Jay Carlyle
Wendy Fraser
Jack Bannerman
Annie Beatty
Katie Rutherford
Alasdair Reid
Shelagh Atkinson

Apologies:

Lesley Johnston
Linda Head
Morag Jack
Julie Anderson
Catero Hawkins

Minutes taken by Rachel Woodward

AGM 2010

The minutes of the previous had been previously issued by email and they were approved as a true record of the last meeting. The minutes were approved by Karen Lamb and seconded by Jack Bannerman.

Chairperson's Report – Agnes Matthews

The full report is available on the ESIYI website – www.eastscotlandyoga.org Agnes wanted to shift the focus of the meeting from reporting from individual committee members to a focus on finance as finances have taken a loss for the 2nd year running. The reasons for the loss are numerous and are outlined in this extract from the Treasurer's Report which referred to the Profit and Loss [PL] statement that will shortly be available on the ESIYI website. Copies of the PL statement were distributed at the AGM, and the full statement of accounts will be available at the end of the financial year. Here is an extract from the Chair's Report.

“The account balance in the bank is £3,348.44 [as of 24th March 2011], but please note this is not the final figure for the year end as the AGM costs still need to be factored in. I would like to draw members attention to the loss of £627.52 this year. The Institute operated at a small loss last year too. The main reason for the loss this year is:

- *Events are not bringing in as much income as usual. This is partly due to increasing costs of hall lets and decreasing numbers at some events.*
- *Increased administrative costs, these include publicity and the website which do not bring money back into the Institute*
- *A loss on the First Aid course due to the last minute change by the event provider*
- *Increase in the cost of Membership Fees going to IYA[UK] –subs plus cost of the magazine.”*

[NB Only £4:50 of each membership fee goes to ESIYI the rest to IYA[UK].

It seemed clear that we must do something to ensure the sustainability of the Institute and that doing nothing is not a realistic option. The Chair proposed we adopt one or a combination of the following. Either **Save More Or Pay More** and opened the discussion to participants.

Events Organisers Report – Karen Lamb & Steve Gowenlock

Why are we making a loss at these events? The Helen Graham event for example lost money due to low attendance, while others like the First Aid course had to get a new course leader at short notice which resulted in additional cost. The reason that events are making a loss is that overheads are high; eg. cost of the teachers, venue hire. Do the members have any suggestions for saving money? For example are ticket cost too high or perhaps different cheaper venues? As to teaching costs we follow the IYA[UK] recommended rates for teachers and these too have gone up recently but Institutes can negotiate around these figures. Alternatively should we approach IYA (UK) for assistance with costs?

Membership – Rossella Riceobono

How does membership work? Is there a cost issue here as well? The current subscription is £12 pa of which £7.50 goes to IYA (UK) for affiliation and bi annual magazines, so only the remainder of the money ie £4:50 goes to ESIYI to cover admin and event costs.

Library – Report by Liz Ballantyne

A more detailed report that Liz had prepared will shortly be available on the website. There are about 70 books of which 14 are about the Iyengars, there are others on therapy, children's yoga, general yoga. A pilot scheme has recently been run to allow trainee teachers to borrow the books but it was both difficult to manage and there wasn't much interest. The books aren't in a poor state of repair and not attractive to potential borrowers. The books are currently in the Edinburgh Iyengar Institute thanks to Elaine Pidgeon for housing them. Elaine also has her own stock of reference books for teachers. Elaine can't administer a library on our behalf. So to keep the library running would need an initial outlay plus an ongoing cost to maintain it. Liz suggests that as the relevant books are so easily these days that it's easier for an individual to build up their own reference library. Also the lending of books is time consuming to administer and monitor, also books get borrowed but not returned. So a lot to think about.

Finances – AGM participants

A lively and constructive debate ensued on how to best save and/or make money. There was general agreement on the main suggestion which was to raise membership fees as current fees were considered low. It was suggested that Membership Subs should cover Admin, the website and the Newsletter costs. Raising the number of members would also help – we currently have 96 members. Other suggestions were to raise Events fees. There was some debate on whether to make this cheaper for people travelling from afar but there was no consensus on this. It was also recommended that we focus our energies on ½ day workshops as this would be cheaper. Also if prices were raised and if finances were going well to give Freebies to members – the feel good factor. Fund raising events were also suggested.

Events Questionnaires Results

There was a good response to the events questionnaires and there appears to be a low demand for events with a social focus, costs don't seem to be an issue, a preference for ½ day and full day rather than weekend events was expressed.

Treasurers Report – Morag Jack

The ESIYI financial year end is after the date of the AGM therefore Morag had prepared an interim account for the AGM. The full statement of accounts will be available on the website later. www.eastscotlandyoga.org Morag had already outlined the main reasons for the loss and this was referred to by the Chair.

Voting in of Committee Members

Chairperson – Agnes Matthews

Nominated – Liz Ballantyne

***Treasurer – Judy Learmont & Annie Beatty**

Nominated – Liz Ballantyne

Seconded – Annie Beatty

Seconded – Jack Bannerman

** [It was agreed that Morag would meet up with them to explain what was involved and also her suggestions for improving the current system]*

Membership – Rosella Riceobono

Nominated – Agnes Matthews

Seconded – Katie Rutherford

IYA (UK) Representative – Linda Head

Nominated – Karen Lamb

Seconded – Elaine Pidgeon

Minutes Secretary – Lesley Johnston

Nominated – Rachel Woodward

Seconded – Annie Beatty

Events Organisers – Karen Lamb & Steve Gowenlock

Nominated – Blanka Peters

Seconded – Jack Bannerman

AOB

The committee need YOU. They want your ideas and your feedback. If you feel strongly regarding the library please email Agnes with your point of view as the committee will be making a decision on the future of the library as well as other money saving measures together with the raising membership fees.