

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East of Scotland Iyengar Yoga Institute

26 April 2009

Wester Hailes Education Centre

Attendees:

Sheila Allan
Jack Bannerman
Annie Beatty
Maureen Clarke
Diane Clow
Nancy Dickson
Marianne Farish
Steve Gowenlock
Mona Hislop
Cherry Inglis
Morag Jack
Gordon Jardine
Lesley Johnston
Carole Johnston
Anne Kilgour
Blanka Klimczak (Peters)
Meg Laing
Karen Lamb
Judy Learmont
Agnes Matthews
Isobel Risk
Karen Smith
Rachel Woodward

Apologies

Julie Anderson
Jay Carlyle
Linda Head
Elaine Pidgeon
Katie Rutherford

AGM 2008

The minutes of the AGM were approved as a true record of the last meeting.

Chairperson's Report

The full report will be available on the ESIYI website. Agnes Matthews (AM) reported that she had enjoyed her year as Chair and working with the ESIYI committee (who had seen one wedding [Karen] and two house moves [Marianne]).

She highlighted the success of Guriji's birthday celebration (seconded by Meg Laing, who had heard great reports about it) and thanked Mona and Marianne for their hard work. Membership currently stands at 88 and there has been an increase in non-teacher members. The Lynn Farquhar event was less successful. The committee was responding to a member's request for an event to be held outside Edinburgh, but there was insufficient support for the workshop to go ahead.

The year has seen activity around a National Yoga Qualification. Yoga Scotland has been given the leading role on qualification within Scotland. ESIYI approached IYAUK to discuss this and was given the go ahead to pursue a single qualification together with Yoga Scotland. Yoga Scotland, however, did not want to develop a qualification with the Iyengar Community at this stage. The IYAUK is taking forward negotiations in England and AM is involved in a sub-committee (led by Sharon Klaff) to ensure the qualification is also available in Scotland.

The following people were congratulated on their examination success: Mona Hislop, Sheila Allen, Demetra Browning, Maurice Finn, Steve Gowenlock, Diane Edwards, Veronica Green, Emma McGurn, Di McNab, Monica Rooney and Cat Harrison.

Treasurer's Report

A profit and loss statement will be available on the ESIYI website. AGM attendees were given copies of the accounts and of the profit and loss statement.

Rachel Woodward (RW) reported that there was a healthy balance in the books of just over £4000, which is an increase on last year (though IYAUK membership still needs to be paid). Meg Laing noted that this seemed a sensible sum to maintain: neither too large, nor too small.

Events had made a profit. There were some expenses, such as the website and publicity, which did not bring any money back into the Institute.

Diane Clow asked about the membership fees. Marianne Farish noted that a decision had been made to maintain the fees as they were to encourage more people to join and in recognition of the current difficult economic environment.

Annie Beatty questioned the 'donation' in the accounts. RW advised that this was for Bellur, following Guruji's birthday celebration.

The accounts were accepted as an accurate record.

Secretary's Report

Karen Smith reminded the attendees that minutes from all committee meetings were available on the website.

She then thanked AM for her work putting together the newsletter. The newsletter comes out twice a year and is distributed by email (for environmental reasons). It contains updates on committee business (e.g. yoga governance), forthcoming events, reviews of yoga sessions, and yoga related articles. The committee is always looking for new material – so KS invited all to submit their ideas. All previous newsletters are available on the website. KS was congratulated for her recent articles, entitled "people behind the poses".

Events' Report

Marianne Farish (MF) advised the committee that she designs the leaflets, prints them and sends them out. Mona Hislop (MH) sources and books the venues. Ideas for venues would be welcomed as it is difficult to get nice places, especially on Sundays.

Annie Beatty said that she would start to put together a list of venues that she had used, which could be built on by other members.

Action – Annie Beatty

MF asked whether people thought 3-hour events were worthwhile. It was noted that they were excellent for newer students and for people who work. Isobel Risk mentioned that she travelled to come to yoga workshops – so she preferred the longer sessions. A mix of opportunities should be continued.

MF inquired about the interest in Indian teachers. The AGM attendees reacted favourably. Initially the committee had not felt they had the personal contacts with these teachers to be able to arrange a visit. Meg Laing suggested that some ESIYI members did have contact, so it should be possible to arrange workshops under the auspices of ESIYI. Meg continued that this integration of personal and corporate lay behind the initiation of the Institutes and should be encouraged.

MF noted that many teachers invite Indian teachers for retreats – but that shorter workshops were likely to have appeal. 2010 events are now organised – but this should be pursued in 2011. Gordon Jardine cautioned that the committee should be careful that losses were not incurred.

Action – events' organisers 2011

Jack Bannerman asked whether a tree diagram showing how the ESIYI fitted within the IYA organisation.

Action – AM for next newsletter

Voting in of Committee Members

The following people were elected onto the committee.

Chairperson: Agnes Matthews, nominated by Gordon Jardine seconded by Meg Laing
Treasurer (and student representative): Morag Jack, nominated by Agnes Matthews, seconded by Karen Smith

Events: Karen Lamb and Steven Gowenlock, nominated by Agnes Matthews, seconded by Blanka Klimczak

Membership secretary: Marianne Farish, nominated by Agnes Matthews, seconded by Gordon Jardine

IYA(UK) Rep: Linda Head, nominated by Agnes Matthews, seconded by Meg Laing

Minutes Secretary: Karen Smith, nominated by Agnes Matthews, seconded by Isobel Risk

Any other business

Logo – AM asked Gordon Jardine about the ESIYI logo. Gordon noted that the paripuna navasana design, returned by the printer, was not acceptable. ESIYI currently uses the Iyengar registered trademark and AM asked whether the committee should spend time finding a logo and an identity for the ESIYI. Meg Laing suggested that if someone had a

great idea, we should go with it – but if not what we had was fine. The AGM attendees agreed.

Library – Diane Clow asked whether the recent email about the library was to inform discussions at the AGM. AM noted that it wasn't – it was to gather information about the library and its use for later discussions. Diane noted that the email question approach looked like a quick and effective means of getting information.

All business having been resolved, the fourth Annual General Meeting of the ESIYI was closed.