

REPORT FROM IYA(UK) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING 22.9.07

I am beginning to get the swing of things and see where the power struggles are in this group!! But seriously it is interesting to see what goes on behind the scenes to keep our organisation running.....

.....and what they really need from a rep is someone who is also active on a standing committee, listed as 1-7 below to give some idea of the areas covered. This is something that I am simply not able to do but if there is slimmest chance that you might I am ready to step aside.

What I consider to be generally of interest follows. And more specifically can I draw **all teachers attention to read the bold sections in 3) where you will find useful reminders**, and indeed students may be interested to know exactly what high standards are required of their teachers.

1) PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Ability to use Skype would be good as they plan to go this way more for convenience and cost saving.
- Precise protocol for election of reps is to be requested, our constitution is pretty good so this will have little effect on us.
- Two new part-time staff have been appointed from a large no of quality applicants.
- A new working party is to be formed to pursue an International Iyengar yoga Assoc.

2) MEMBERSHIP

- Numbers are generally on the up.
- Still a significant number of teachers are joining independently as opposed to through an institute despite encouragement to do so financially.
- Possibility of creating partner institute, such as Maidavale, is being followed up; this would greatly increase our membership and give the option on good space for events.
- Criteria for reinstatement of teacher membership have been produced and will be available from the office as required.

FINANCE

- Has finally, after awaiting Indian legislation, been able to transfer donations to Bellur with an annual date set for future transfers.
- Financial accounts for 2006/7 were submitted and approved.

3) ETHICS AND CERTIFICATION

- Specialised training is to continue to be part of the 25 hour training requirements.
- Use of the name Iyengar by centres or businesses

This applies to businesses primarily concerned with the teaching of Iyengar yoga.

A licence to use the Certification Mark (CM) is not a licence to use the name "Iyengar" as part of a teacher's business name.

Permission to use the name Iyengar in the title of a centre or business is granted to the teacher owning or running the centre, not the centre or business itself.

Should you be interested on eligibility, how to apply, requirements or affiliated centers I have some more details here or you can contact the office.

- PDDays to cover pregnancy and the teaching of yoga to children next year.
- There has been a case of teacher-teacher harassment this year resulting in official complaint procedures being drawn up should a similar event arise in future.
- Iyengar Yoga Development Fund

Classes are going well with 4 new projects in the pipeline.

The other part of the project is the scanning of all documents in Pune to create an international archive this moves into a new phase in November when it is planned to install all relevant equipment at RIMYI where SQ will oversee operations. In tandem to this the archive website is being established as part of ours at IYA(UK)

- **Constitutional and contractual rules on teaching for Iyengar Yoga Teachers:**

Since 2004 almost all teachers worldwide who are qualified to teach the Iyengar method of yoga are required to hold (and licensed to use) the Certification Mark (the exceptions are Indian teachers).

The IYA(UK) is the license holder in the UK and is therefore responsible for the administration of the CM on behalf of BKS Iyengar who owns the trade marks that make up the Certification Mark. The aim of the Certification Mark is to show that the teacher who displays the CM logo can meet the highest possible standards for the teaching of Gurujī's methods and philosophy of Yoga. It is a kite mark for Iyengar Yoga so the public will know what they are getting. It is there to protect Gurujī's name and reputation and at the same time it protects us as Iyengar Yoga teachers. We have worked hard to get our qualifications and now no one without our training can make a false claim to be an Iyengar teacher and bring all our reputations into disrepute.

As holders of the CM we are entering into a contract with the IYA(UK) (as Gurujī's representative) to uphold the standards of Iyengar Yoga. Therefore we are required to sign a Sub Licence Agreement to abide by the rules of the contract and the rules of the IYA(UK). The licence to use the CM has to be renewed annually by paying a fee but also by seeing that we do indeed abide by the rules of the contract, that we are

teacher members of the Association and therefore that we abide by the rules of the Association. Teacher membership and holding the CM go together and cannot be separated.

At the moment these rules are to be found in different documents attached to the constitution so for your convenience what follows is a summary of the rules relating to what we may teach and when. It is also a guide to where these rules can be found.

First, look in your contract. There in the Sub Licence Agreement on page 2 is the clause 1 c) **where it says that we agree to teach yoga "only in accordance with the IYENGAR method without mixing other styles of yoga or other disciplines". So we agree when we sign the contract not to teach other forms of yoga or to mix our teaching with other forms of yoga. Please note the word *only* plainly states that we may not teach other methods of yoga and still call ourselves Iyengar Yoga teachers.** A more complete definition of what this means can be found in Appendix F of the Standing Orders attached to the IYA(UK) Constitution on the web site (iyengaryoga.org.uk). This is what it says; ***"Iyengar Yoga teachers are committed to teaching only one form of yoga, i.e. Iyengar Yoga according to the methods of Yogacharya BKS Iyengar. In addition Iyengar teachers do not introduce anything into the Iyengar method from another discipline or activity. It is a mark of integrity in Iyengar teachers that they do not mix the stream of learning that they are responsible for passing on."***

Finally **as teachers we must stay within the syllabus we are trained in.** In other words we cannot teach beyond our Certificate Level. These rules are to be found in Appendix C of the Constitution in clause 1 b) where it is stated, ***"each Certificate has a separate syllabus and members are expected to adhere to the syllabus appropriate to their Certificate"***. In addition **Introductory teachers can conduct general classes within the Introductory syllabus, but in Clause 2, a) viii) it is explained that "before the teaching of individual pupils, specialised classes or the training of teachers is undertaken, higher certificates are required."** However Introductory teachers can teach the Introductory poses to children, but must first obtain enhanced disclosure – contact the main office to find out about this.

The Constitution of the IYA (UK) itself is our version of the international constitution that has been approved and presented to us and to all other national Iyengar Yoga Associations by Yogacharya BKS Iyengar himself.

4) COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

- The website is to be revamped particularly to improve the searching of a teacher/classes.

- Continue to have press in yoga and health and generally promote the TM
- Launching the calendar will also hopefully be good PR

5) EVENTS

- New committee formed.
- 2007 profits around £3500
- 2008 bookings now for Birjoo in New Castle June
- S.Quirk therapeutic workshops are now running in 4 centres.
- Geeta has agreed in principle to come and teach in the UK although probably not until 2009/10. She requests that it be for a week and open to all levels of students.

6) ASSESSMENT AND TEACHER TRAINING

- There has been various movements of people on and off this, at various levels such as trainee assessors/moderators and committee members.
- Good news for anyone failing Introductory level2 is that that Guruji says they will not have to resit level 1 – some consolation!
- We continue to support the growth of Iyengar Yoga in Northern Ireland with a full compliment of trainees now in training to be teachers.
- Guidelines to be produced re first-aid qualifications for existing teachers (those sitting assessments have to have this).
- Review of level 1 assessments with regard to location.
- Any changes to the teachers handbook are not just placed on the website, members are also informed.
- Junior Intermediate papers and syllabus are under review to remove inconsistencies.

7) ARCHIVES

- Continue to progress with nothing to report.

AOB

- Ireland received funding to attend the Yoga Show there and raise the profile of Iyengar yoga.
- Ireland working on child protection issues too as there is no disclosure procedure as yet.

Finally please consider representing your Institute at this level, I am willing to discuss what this entails with any interested party.....so be warned I am on the lookout.

Julie Anderson

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