

ESIYI Representative's Report – January 2011

This is my third and final year as your ESIYI Representative to the IYA (UK) Executive Council and, I am pleased to say, that Agnes has agreed to stand for election in 2012. I have recently volunteered to take part in a working group set up to establish guidelines for teachers teaching yoga to sports people, so if you have any experience to share in this field, then please get in touch (head.yoga@googlemail.com).

I have recently returned from the IYA(UK) Executive Council meeting held in London on 22 January. As I did not manage to put together a report from the previous meeting held in September, I am appending the minutes here. At last weekend's meeting, there were three salient points of interest to Scottish members, which included the association (IYA (UK)) becoming a limited company, national accreditation for Iyengar yoga teachers, and the forthcoming convention at the University of Strathclyde on 17-19 June.

At last Saturday's meeting, the Chair submitted the following extract from his report, regarding the IYA becoming a limited company: We had had a presentation at the September meeting from Pat Dunphy, who was asked to come along by our Treasurer Pam MacKenzie. Philippe has been working with the Constitution Officer Emma Pinchin to rewrite some of our constitution to facilitate this procedure.

Becoming a limited company

At the moment, the IYA (UK) has no legal status as we are not registered at Companies House. Our intention is to become a limited company so that we exist as a legal entity. This means that we can own our domain names and the Certification Mark etc. instead of these things having to be registered in the names of individuals, as at present. It also provides more protection of Committee members should the IYA (UK) ever run into financial difficulties. We have been meaning to do this for some time now and are finally on the point of managing it. It won't involve any real change in the way we operate - we will still be able to make decisions democratically and collectively – but we do need to re-write our constitution in order to satisfy the requirements of Companies House. We will be discussing our new Articles at the next Executive Council meeting in January and before we can go any further these will need to be passed at the AGM in May.

If you have any concerns relating to this matter, then I will forward these to the appropriate Officer Bearer on your behalf.

Accreditation Working Group

Sharon Klaff presented a lengthy report, which I will not attempt to reproduce here other than the pertinent paragraphs about proposals for Scotland. However, but if you do wish to read it in its entirety, then please check the minutes when these go up shortly on the ESIYI website.

Basically, the previously proposed association with the City and Guilds awarding body had fallen through and the working group has since been in discussions with Ofqual, the government regulatory body, to establish our own Awarding Organisation (AO). This will allow the Iyengar teachers training, assessment and subsequent certification to become a 'recognised' national (ie, England, Wales and Northern Ireland) qualification. Sharon briefly outlined the proposal for recognition in Scotland:

"In terms of Scotland, some AOs choose to become approved by SQA (Accreditation) in order to have their qualifications recognised on the SQCF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework). This can either be done in parallel with the Ofqual application at the outset, or we could first complete the AO application

with Ofqual and then have the qualifications re-credited and levelled separately for the SCQF. SkillsActive have several AOs in their sector that are approved by the SQA for the SCQF.

The alternative is to offer the QCF version in Scotland on the understanding as with other countries, that it is “as accredited by Ofqual in England, Wales and Northern Ireland”. People in Scotland understand this as unlike in England, Wales and Northern Ireland where the QCF is regulatory, the Scottish SQCF is not, so Scottish teachers do not have to have qualifications on it to have them recognised as proper and fit for purpose.

Although we have not researched regulation in other countries I would image that they too have bodies that can be approached should the need arise in the future.

Costs

There is no cost element for the AO application with Ofqual/SkillsActive other than any agreed consultancy that SkillsActive might provide and which we currently do not need. There is a cost element should we wish to be recognised on the SQCF. At the time of writing I do not have this, but hope to get the information before the Ex. Meeting on 22nd January.”

As Agnes Matthews is a member of this Working Group, she may be able to answer any queries you may have on this subject.

Convention - University of Strathclyde, 17-19 June 2011

The Events Committee reported that bookings for the forthcoming Glasgow Convention were progressing satisfactorily with over 70 applications already received. Could I remind members that the 'early bird' booking (£10 discount) finishes on 31 January. However, you can still get a £5 discount when booking online. I have printed off a paper booking form, which I shall photocopy and place copies in the centre

Linda Head
ESIYI Representative