

Inner Yoga Trust AGM Minutes
23rd April 2015 The Festival Hall, Heath Road, Petersfield GU31 4EA.

Attendees:

Jenny Beeken
Trustees: Colum Hayward (Chairman), Russell Stone, Kate Rowland, Tina Moxon
School Board: Lesley Charters, Patricia Lopez (new member)
Members: Chris Wyeth, Sue Tupper, Sheri, Cryn Horn, Murray Nettle, Val MacKenzie
Non-Members: Ben Moxon
Apologies: Pauline Sawyer, Bridget Whitehead, Jill Stafford, Janis Binnie.

Sounding – Russell Stone

The IYT AGM 2014 began with a sounding from RS with thanks from all.

Chair's welcome and introduction

CH opened the meeting with "An awakening and welcoming to all."

To recap, the IYT functions as a non-hierarchical structure and all in the room introduced themselves. It was noted that with apologies, the official AGM date of November 2014 was delayed due to the March 2014 restructure; the Trustees felt it was better to land the restructure rather than host the AGM mid-air. Thanks to all involved in restructuring and all look forward to the new look trust working well for the future.

Chair's report

CH shared the IYT strategy document with all, noting that Page 2 is still under review (bursary scheme, and accreditation to be further discussed today) and Page 3 – "objects and public benefits" are legal requirements. Essentially the first two pages describe the shape of the trust as now is with a few areas to be finalised; with thanks to fellow trustees.

School Board report

LC gave a review of school board report shared in the recent newsletter, which outlined 1) the verification of courses (teachers who teach the foundation course will have every third course verified, as will those running the Teacher Training Awareness Program [TTAP]), 2) the accreditation for the TTAP (to be further discussed today) and 3) the sharing of information on the IYT apprenticeship scheme for teaching Foundation/TTAP. LC also gave an update on the Foundation courses (and apprentices): Leigh – Emsworth, Bridget – TBC, Jenny – Lisa.

Apprentice needed for the TT15S (first stage Administrator and specific retreats – next August 2016).

Discussion ensued with an enquiry around Foundation courses: it is a set fee course, but what if halls cost more....should we charge more for London? The costs are often prohibitive in London (a morning costs four times more than other halls which are much better - £60 for whole day in South East vs £80 half a day in London) KR confirmed that the £60 Teaching Fee isn't a fee to partake in teaching the course - it is for use of IYT logo, teacher training material and verification.

The school board give guidance – the course is currently the same price everywhere and there have been suggestions to reduce the cost in North. Further discussion ensued around a structure of cost per area. It is the responsibility of the teacher to review the cost of halls. Ongoing suggestion is to set an advisory price for teaching, independent of hall hire, e.g. charge less if using a cheaper venue.

Discussion also around "benchmarking" IYT against other teaching schools. If we undercharge, perception is we are cheap. Do we need to review where the market is and gain a fairer value? Do IYT undercharge for the foundation course and workshops? However, some schools are overcharging (view as a commercial business). Suggestion to look at local competition re classes and foundation course. How much do you value your teaching? Ask "Am I happy with this?"

Consensus was that the school board should structure a guidance rate for teaching plus hall hire but that ultimate responsibility lies with the teacher who best knows their area and their students. Would be of interest to get some feedback on pricing of hall hires in different areas; invites the teacher to get to grips with this. Consider the use of bursary fund to encourage others to study our courses. A Pricing structure (for classes) should be of how you value and how others value.

RS added having someone from the school board at the trustees meeting is brilliant.

Introduction of Janis Binnie by KR

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Treasurers Report of 2014 Accounts

TM introduced self and gave an update. During 2014, new trustees were appointed (Claire Connor March 2014 – October 2014, Jill Stafford April 2014 onwards, and Tina Moxon October 2014 onwards). Financial regulation of the Trust successfully continues through observance of clear guidance on all income and expenditure areas and strong controls. The Trust now has a Co-ordinator (March 2014 onwards) and a Book-Keeper (March 2014 onwards) to aid provision of this. Risk management programme in place and regularly reviewed.

A bursary is in use for the current Teacher Training programme (TT13) and the trustees are working with the school board to promote the availability of these for the next Teacher Training programme beginning in October 2015 (TT15). Many workshops have been undertaken during 2014. TT15 begins in October 2015 and there has been a notable increase in planned Foundation courses for 2015. During 2014 membership was broadly stable; work has begun to explore membership benefits with a view to increase our membership base. A restructuring of the Trust in 2014 decided that teachers should take financial responsibility for their own events, i.e. by processing finances using their own accounts and undertaking all promotion and administration, therefore being exposed to both the full risks and profit.

The IYT's strategy is presently that it will continue to run the TTAP with a split of takings between teacher and Trust under regular review. The split is presently 3/5 to the teacher, 2/5 to the Trust, this to be reviewed each time the annual budget is set up.

The IYT made a profit this year; with exact amounts to be confirmed in due course.

Partnership with the Independent Yoga Network or the Yoga Alliance

CH and KR introduced Ben Moxon (BM) of Arkenford who had conducted the recent IYT Questionnaire as part of the work looking into accreditation of the IYT. BM gave a short presentation on the results (to be shared and kept alongside the minutes). The questionnaire looked at Accreditation and Membership benefits. Mainly teachers responded.

General conversation ensued after the presentation with regards to the IYT community, membership, etc
Awareness of data protection – teachers of foundation gain lists of attendees' details, not the IYT.

Increasing membership: best practice sharing – at the beginning, suggest next step sheet, to register with the IYT as a member. (TTAP need to be a member, foundation you don't) Foundation students can use IYT student membership. Strong consensus that IYT should introduce student membership as mandatory for the foundation course.

Review membership benefits: newsletter frequency and making more community focused. The use of an article focused newsletter becomes an incentive for membership. JB suggested sharing the research from TTAP as source material for the newsletter (each student studies an ailment/area as part of their Year Two work); this would keep within the IYT teaching and increase the sense of community. PL referred to the Facebook group – suggested more content about what inner yoga trust is doing rather than just an update of workshops etc. All agreed there was a requirement for a closed "Inner Yoga Trust Teaching" Facebook group for teachers. PL kindly offered to set up and this will be referenced in the newsletter.

Further discussion around CPD: points vs hours, what is required? Looking at being able to log CPD via the website. PL kindly offered to join school board and look after CPD. Question what sort of CPD members would like.

Referring back to accreditation and "levels" required by schools/leisure centres; remember nobody will insure you if you're not a teacher, therefore this also gives confirmation on teaching status.

Update on the Abundance Club

KR introduced the Abundance Club which was voluntarily run by a Committee including Sue Peggs, Bernard Kennedy and Chris Rumble. They have given a lot of energy to the club and have now stepped down, and Janis Binnie has agreed to take it on. The trustees extended their grateful appreciation to the members of the committee for their hard work over the last few years and also to club members. Janis will incorporate it into marketing plans and facebook to aid rejuvenation. Abundance club funds bursaries, so is vital; hardly any bursaries exist for yoga teaching in the UK. Funds ready for bursaries at the moment. Need to tell people more about them. Yoga Scotland announce bursary requirements and application date 3 months before TT with a deadline, so people can enter the course knowing that the financials have been covered.

General discussion ensued - Do we use a form with a request for evidence? We currently ask for a letter from the applicant, usually with a letter from the teacher. School board to review future requirements. Could we offer a

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young person's bursary? Is it just teacher training – what about the need to do the foundation? What about apprenticeship scheme? Need to think about apprenticeship course availability (could have more than one).

JBinnie leading the IYT co-ordinator position. Teachers should also be part of the promotion of the abundance club; therefore should it be a committee to aid bursaries? Teachers can promote through leaflets (Sue Peggs created a leaflet – PDF on website). LC added that people should know what makes us a charity. JBinnie will contact a bursary holder to get a quote on the importance of the AC.

(It was acknowledged that the agenda point relating to Holidays promoted through the IYT should have been for the Trustee meeting so no discussion was needed)

Any Other Business

Questions around the Yoga Alliance differences between .com and .co.uk were outlined and answered by KR and TM. CH asked "I'm an inner yoga trust teacher, if I teach something not taught by the inner yoga trust, can I still market it as an inner yoga trust?". JB would say yes but what is it – yoga nidra, yoga for teacher, etc. School board should make a decision. CH suggested providing clarity for the sake of students, e.g. make clear the sources you learnt from etc. Can someone who is IYT accredited teach something in accordance with the ethos, i.e. then it becomes part of IYT – good example is Sarah Waterfield and her chanting work.

School board to review then trustees to review and come back.

CrynH also asked about the hall used for the end of course party which was acquired at a special rate because the IYT is a charity. "As an individual, can I say it's on behalf of the IYT and therefore get a similar rate?"

ColumH added that the IYT don't have to make a ruling here, but individual has to recognise own integrity at stake. If not running the event for the IYT, can you say that? It's reasonable to say it's an IYT event if run past the school board but if really and truly running the event as an individual, then a risky area. The trustees will review possible ways that the IYT could better support teachers with promotion.

In addition, use of the IYT logo in promo materials was discussed. If the finances come through IYT, then the logo could be given for use. Everything through individual couldn't be seen as an IYT event, but can use certified teacher's logo. CH added there is a reluctance to advertise on the website/newsletter – there is a cost involved when facebook is free – others mentioned that the main target audience was other teachers.

With thanks to all for a positive, robust, freely speaking AGM, CH drew the meeting to a close which was then marked by sounding from RS.