

## The Dorset and Hampshire Iyengar Institute

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the DHIYI held at Trinity Hall,  
Southbourne Methodist Church, Southbourne, Bournemouth on April 5, 2014  
at 1:20 pm

Present: Giulia Howard-Hole (Chairman), Zoe Hobbs (Treasurer), Jenni Doohan (Recording Secretary), Cara Bowen (Membership Secretary), Kim Trowell (Dorset Events' Organiser), Carol Batterson (Hampshire Event's Secretary), Mary Heath (Liaison and Coordination), Beth Perrior (Advertising/PR), Elaine Rees (EC Rep), Cheree Low (Advertising/PR), Monica Mooney, Martin Chilvers, Kathi Vaile, Sally Hogsflesh, Bridget Campbell, Carolyn Ryan, Ann Casemore, Juliette Smith, Tarja Armitage

### 1. Apologies for absence

Iris Lee, Jean Robinson, Chrissie Barrett, Anne Richardson, Jackie Lynch, Jenny Trayford

### 2. Approval of minutes of 27th April, 2013

The minutes were approved as circulated.

### 3. Chairman's report

Giulia welcomed everyone to the ninth AGM. During the past year there had been four yoga events: a weekend workshop with Margaret and Gordon Austin in June, Andrea Smith day in July, Judi Sweeting day in November, and Judith Jones day in January. All had been well attended and enjoyed. Today Sallie Sullivan was teaching for the DHIYI for the third time. Events held for teachers were a Professional Development day last November and two Teachers' Get-Togethers in Dorset. Future events for this year included a PD day in October with Judi Sweeting and a yoga day with Brenda Booth, both to be held in Botley, Hampshire.

The committee had held three regular meetings as well as three website sub-committee meetings. The website was undergoing a "facelift" and there were many interesting ideas to promote ideas and provide information. Two newsletters had been produced. Giulia stressed that the DHIYI always welcomed articles from members about yoga related topics. An official sub-committee had been created for the newsletter which meant that a team of a few people would be responsible for producing the newsletter, liaising mostly via e-mails.

The DHIYI had been pleased to donate £95 to the Iyengar Development Fund in acknowledgement of Mr. Iyengar's birthday last December.

Changes to the committee included four members stepping down: Martin Chilvers (a student member), Webmaster Co-ordinator, Beth Perrior, Advertising/PR Agent, Elaine Reese (EC Rep) and Giulia herself (Chairman). Martin was happy to be involved in the web sub-committee. Monica Mooney would be taking Martin's place as the student member on the committee; Monica would be taking on the role of Recording Secretary, currently held by Jenni Doohan. Cheree Low would be taking over Beth's position as Advertising/PR Agent. Giulia thanked those who were stepping down for their consistent work and she welcomed those who were new to the committee. Elaine's post as Executive Council Representative was still vacant as from May this year. Elaine would be happy to answer any questions about the job.

Giulia had mentioned last April that this year would be her last year as chair. She had been working throughout the year to find a replacement. Finally three potential candidates had been proposed and, after discussion with all three, Jenni Doohan had agreed to take on the role of DHIYI chairman. She would be formally proposed and seconded in due course.

Giulia thanked all the members who had responded to the vote for the proposed clause change to the DHIYI Constitution. The result was 70 voting for a change and 2 against. Two thirds majority of the membership required for a change to take place had been reached so as from this AGM the change would therefore take effect.

Giulia thanked all the committee members who were stepping down or continuing for their involvement, enthusiasm and dedication to keeping the DHIYI alive and working for its members. Giulia had been working with most of the people on the current committee from the inception of the DHIYI in June, 2005 and it had been, albeit a few teething problems, a positive experience. The committee had been on a learning curve since the beginning and there was still much more to learn but Giulia felt the committee had achieved a lot in establishing a tight, organised framework, always with the aim of promoting Iyengar Yoga for all its members. Apart from the regular DHIYI yoga days, the DHIYI had organised four weekend workshops, enabled teachers to attend Professional Development days, had organised regular teachers' get-togethers, as well as providing first aid courses. Giulia thanked them all for their support and ability to work as a team, always keeping in mind why the committee met.

Giulia summarised what was written in the DHIYI constitution: "One of the reasons for starting the Institute was the promoting of yoga as taught by BKS Iyengar. To practise, to learn, to share and deepen our understanding of yoga.' It should also be for the benefit of its members, so it is up to us, student and teacher alike, to make that happen."

Giulia concluded that without doubt changes in the committee would initiate new ideas which would be positive but the ultimate purpose would not be lost, thus enabling the Institute to continue to flourish in the immediate and longterm future.

#### **4. Membership Secretary's report**

Cara reported that at the moment the DHIYI had 70 members; of these a couple came from the following counties: Wiltshire, Berkshire, Somerset and West Sussex. The majority of the members were from Dorset and Hampshire. At the AGM last year (held at the end of April), the membership was at 62. Hopefully numbers would increase.

It was suggested by a member that an events' list should be sent out with membership renewal/ application forms.

#### **5. Treasurer's report**

Zoe reported that the DHIYI finances looked healthy. The surplus from March 2013 to February, 2014 was £1456.69, bringing the total balance to £9363.80. Zoe stressed that the DHIYI was a not-for-profit organisation. The money could be seen as the first step for an institute building. It was being used to subsidize yoga days. Zoe thanked Giulia, Elaine, Beth and Martin.

Zoe was happy to carry on for another year as Treasurer but she would like someone to step forward who she could show the ropes to. New people refreshed things.

## **6. Elections**

Kim Trowell proposed Jenni Doohan as Chairman and Kathi Vaile seconded it.  
Julie Smith proposed the present committee and Martin Chilvers seconded it.

## **7. Any other business**

Members thanked Giulia.

One member said that the DHIYI bank balance (roughly £9000) was not a large sum and suggested that either the Institute should be more pro active in raising funds or forget about the goal of having a building and spend the money elsewhere.

Zoe answered that the DHIYI did not make money from membership subs as it was all spent on postage, printing costs and subs to the IY (UK). Giulia stressed how the DHIYI aimed to keep the cost of yoga days reasonable. One member voiced her appreciation for the DHIYI keeping its prices down.

Other centres had been started by people having to mortgage their own homes.

It could be possible to rent a place first as Manchester had done. The institute in Manchester was run on a democratic basis. It was pointed out that it was not only the rent/mortgage but also the running costs. Mary stressed that the income generated from running the classes would have to cover all the costs.

Cheree suggested putting together a business plan.

Elaine expressed her positive experiences serving on the committee. She had taken on the role of EC Rep to give a link to the IY (UK), sharing the whole picture. She had enjoyed being a part of the EC committee where she had felt listened to. Elaine detailed what being an EC Rep entailed: Joining the DHIYI and attending DHIYI Executive Committee meetings, attending 2 EC committee meetings in London and 1 in York (all expenses paid), writing up a summary of the EC minutes and writing up a summary of what the DHIYI had been up to. Elaine would attend her last meeting of the EC committee in April.

A member expressed her thanks to Carol for organising the half day in Hampshire in March. It was pointed out that that had not been a DHIYI event. At the moment the DHIYI did not run half day events as many individual teachers ran their own events and these could be advertised on the DHIYI website as well as the newsletter.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

This will be in April, 2015. The date would be confirmed.

The meeting was closed at 1:50 pm.