

**BRITISH WHEEL OF YOGA EASTERN REGION**  
**MINUTES OF REGIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2017**  
**AT ORSETT HALL**

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**Present**

Full Eastern region committee plus attendees of BWY Eastern region, the Agender was available from the Secretary.

Apologies for absence

Chris Newman outgoing Treasurer

**Action**

The meeting started at 2.30 pm and was chaired by Angela Thompson.

**1. Changes to Committee** members stepping down were thanked, and these were Chris Newman as Treasurer, Claire Randall as Secretary, Penny Cronyn as Training Officer, Fiona Gibson for Bedfordshire, and Sarah Moss for Suffolk.

**2.** All Nominations were on line for the correct period of time. None of the nominees were opposed and so voting was not needed.

New and continuing committee members were introduced to the floor and these were Catherine Nixon as Marketing Officer, Suzanne Morrison as Treasurer, Claire Randall as Training Officer, Nkechi Aligbe-Abeng as Editor, Helen Craig as Secretary, Angela Davey for Bedfordshire, Gemma Skells for Cambridgeshire, Maggie Adesanya for West Essex and East London, Rosie Evans for Norfolk and Michelle Mellor for Suffolk.

As Chair, Angela commented that there have been so many changes. Not only with the committee, but changes to the national and regional website as well.

**3. Slide Show: Regional Officers Update**

Beginning with pictures of the UN International Day of Yoga celebrated in Essex, there was a county by county round-up and look-forward. We are one of the largest regions in the country, so this format was chosen to shorten the time of the presentation, and hopefully to be enjoyable as well.

**4. Any Other Business**

**1. Q:** One member raised the point that she had had difficulty booking onto the day at Orsett Hall. She struggled until finding out that there is no separate Yoga East site any more: it's now impossible on the Yoga East site. She suggested that this should be included as an item in the magazine.

**A:** Penny Cronyn said she had mentioned it in her county report, but that some people tend to read the report only for their own county. Angela T proposed a group email to all BWY members in the Eastern Region, because our next newsletter is not due out until December. She stated that the committee fought hard to keep the paper newsletter, but there are now only 3 a year.

Someone else reported that if you book, the website is not syncing it up with your CPD points. We have to log CPD points manually. Angela T said the main people running the website are 'Hat Trick'. So, in brief, the main areas of concern are: a) logging on; b) booking events; c) recording

Angela T

CPD points. She will forward our feedback to Hat Trick – please would all members send emails to her to be forwarded if you have had any such problems.

2. **Suzanneh** asked that no-one send anything financial to her until early in November. She will be taking over the same email address used by the previous treasurer, and so there is no need to use her personal email address for financial matters.

3. **Pauline Fleming**, our national Training Officer, raised the subject of introducing new people into our pool of IST tutors. Anyone is welcome to put names forward for approval. At Congress, people are show-cased. So it's great when county reps go to Congress, so they can recommend people. But also, Pauline wanted to put over that ordinary members can and should propose new tutors coming in.

There is a list of approved tutors, held by Claire Randall. Rosie Wright is the NISTO trainer. If anyone wants someone else on the list, they should make a proposal and Rosie will take him/her through the procedure developed by BWY.

One member reported that Rosie does not respond to emails, however she does respond to phone calls.

**Q:** Chrissie Clarke-Fordham said that she knows plenty of new teachers who would love to run a day on, for example, Mudras & Bandhas or Chakras. Pauline responded that they would need to be able to attract people and get attendance at days – have a following, in other words. So we have to collectively identify good tutors.

One member asked about how we do this, and Pauline mentioned that there is still a space at the end of the IST/Open day feedback form, offering the opportunity for suggestions.

Chrissie reported that she has had days approved in the past, and after a gap wanted to get back to doing them, but communication regarding re-approval of such days has proved impossible, with no reply from Rosie.

**A:** It was suggested that she go instead to the Regional Training Officer i.e Claire.

4. **Q: Access to Teacher's Training** – there has been a problem with potential teachers hearing about upcoming diploma courses. If you join a Foundation course, you should hear about them from the tutor, but this has not always been happening across the region.

**A:** Pauline replied that the Foundation course is not accredited nationally, but it is a development course, and some people are prompted to go on to train by having done the course. Other courses are available which would develop you in this way, and Tariq Dervish is the Modules Officer. Taking a module could act as prior learning for a diploma course as well.

In conclusion, Pauline commented that things are changing fast in the area of training for BWY members. She will be going to a National Executive Committee meeting soon and hopes to learn more there.

5. **Q: Gold, Silver and Bronze scheme** This was mentioned in the latest issue of Spectrum magazine – could Pauline say a bit more about it?

**A:** Pauline said that this scheme, proposed by Paul Fox, was still at the discussion stages when it appeared in the magazine, too early in her view. She feels that it doesn't always work in the way suggested. Another member commented that qualifications are rarely, if ever, asked for of teachers by employers, and this view was echoed across the room as a very common experience. This calls into question the value of such a seniority scheme.

- 5. Thanks** were expressed to our Regional Organiser, Angela Thompson, for all her hard work over the past year, and for organising such a lovely day.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

*A EThompson*                      *07/11/17*