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IYENGAR® YOGA (UK)

President: Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar

ORIYI REP Report

Committee Name: The Oxford and Region Iyengar Yoga Institute (ORIYI)

Date of Report: 6th June 2014

Report compiled by: Clare Bingham

Changes to Assessments

It has been agreed that Pranayama will be introduced into all Junior Intermediate and Senior Intermediate assessments. It has been agreed to trial this, starting with the Senior Intermediate assessments in November 2014 and reviewing after the Junior Intermediate assessments in March 2015. Junior Intermediate Level 1 and 2 will involve practice only of the Pranayama on the day of the assessment, whilst Level 3 will involve teaching and practice of Pranayama. For Level 3, Teaching of Pranayama will take place the evening before the assessment and practice will take place on the day of assessment. The same will apply to Senior Intermediate Levels, with Level 1 and 2 involving practice only and Level 3 involving teaching and practice. To accommodate the additional time frames involved to include Pranayama in the assessments, it has been agreed to no longer provide personal feedback to candidates following Junior and Senior Intermediate assessments, with all results being posted to the candidates after the assessments.

By BKS Iyengar's request and to resolve the issue of unqualified people teaching in BKS's name without the full certificate, changes are being made to the Introductory Level certification on an international basis. The Introductory Level assessment will no longer have two levels of assessment, i.e. a Level 1 assessment after the first year and a Level 2 assessment after the second year. Instead there will be one assessment at the end of the second year. Therefore, the Introductory level 1 assessments after October 2014 will no longer take place.

Assessment results

Junior assessments 64% passed and 36% failed.

Honorary Membership

The most senior teachers in the UK are to be given honorary membership of the IYUK.

Proposal from the Assessing and Teacher Training Committee

The Chair of the Assessing and Teacher Training Committee has identified how time consuming the role is, which takes approximately two working days per week to fulfil, so has proposed that it be a paid role.

'National Iyengar Yoga Day' in Ireland (January 2014)

The "National Iyengar Yoga Day" organised in Ireland on 18th January this year was a huge success with 700 students attending across venues in Ireland. A letter of thanks from BKS Iyengar was sent to Susanne Sturton in Ireland for the Newspaper clippings and CD of a radio interview that she sent.

'National Iyengar Yoga Day' in UK (2015)

Due to the success of the National Yoga Day in Ireland in January it was agreed for the UK to have a National Iyengar Yoga day in 2015 instead of having a stand at the 2015 Yoga Show. It has been proposed to try alternate years with a National Iyengar Yoga Day one year and the Yoga Show the next. The intention is for as many Iyengar Yoga teachers in the UK as possible to offer to teach a free one hour (beginner level) Iyengar Yoga class in their own community on a set date, to be decided. The aim of the event is to raise the profile of Iyengar Yoga within the UK through the generation of local and national media coverage. There is also the hope that the event will promote the practice of Iyengar Yoga in local communities to generate new students. Some financial assistance may be available for venue hire.

Progress with OFQUAL

The administration manual for the OFQUAL application is now at review and approval stage. It is being reviewed objectively to arrive at best practice and make the 2nd application to OFQUAL successful.

IY Staffing

A new part-time administrator, Kate Woodcock, has been employed by the IY to work alongside Jo Duffin to help organise assessments.

First Aid Certification

Research is being made into numbers of teachers with current First Aid Certificates. Currently there is only a requirement to achieve a First Aid Certification at Introductory Level teaching. It is still being debated whether renewal of First Aid Certificates should be made compulsory. It has been identified that 39% of Teachers do not hold a first aid certificate and the remainder are due to expire between 2014 and 2016, depending when taken, as First Aid certificates are valid for three years. Approximately 20% of the people without valid certificates did not have courses near to them, 11% had not realised the certificates had expired and 39% planned to review soon. The situation is being reviewed.

Insurance

Teachers are reminded to report any incidents that may lead to a claim to their insurance company within 24 hours of the incident. An article is to be written and published in the Iyengar Yoga News to remind teachers of this.

Finance

Due to the closing gap between income and expenditure of the IY(UK), largely due to increased costs of travel for Moderators, Assessors, attendees to Committee meetings, etc, it was agreed at the latest Executive Meeting (26th April 2014) that costs would go up by 5% in fees and £5 for assessment fees.

OBE nomination

The IY Committee is to approach Mr Iyengar and seek his approval for the OBE nomination.

2014 Convention

The convention in Harrogate with Abhijata Shridhar Iyengar on the bank holiday weekend of 3-5th May 2014 was a huge success with over 500 people attending. Abhijata's teaching started at a nice steady pace on the first day, building to an exciting crescendo of speedily delivered instructions on the third day! The Harrogate International Centre was an excellent venue with very good facilities. Harrogate itself was a beautiful place to spend time in over the convention weekend with many fabulous shops, cafes and restaurants to enjoy. On the second evening, approximately 200 people enjoyed a vegetarian meal at a local Indian restaurant, privately booked for the purpose and took the opportunity to have fun with old and new friends.

2015 Convention

Richard and Kirsten Agar-Ward are looking for venues in the Bristol area for the 2015 convention. It has been agreed to invite Birjoo Mehta for this convention, who has kindly accepted the invitation. The event will be a smaller event than this year's Harrogate event, so instead of one large event there will be the main event in the Bristol area with the capacity to hold approximately 270 attendees, with a second event in Ireland and a third event in another region of the UK, yet to be decided. It is believed that having the three events geographically arranged in different locations will resolve the recent issue of tickets selling out. It was requested at the AGM not to have any of the convention dates on a bank holiday.

2015 Calendar

The 2014 Iyengar Calendar, expertly designed by Katie Owens quickly sold out raising £2,000 for Bellur. Katie will also be designing the Calendar for 2015 which will be available for purchase through Yoga Matters towards the end of the year.