

# Board Report:



## Background:

The Tai Chi Union for Great Britain was originally founded by a number of Tai Chi Teachers from different styles and lineages to provide a single community where Tai Chi practitioners could come together to discuss and promote Tai Chi Chuan to the wider community. Over the years the Union grew to become probably the largest non-style specific group in Great Britain, and United Kingdom, and widened the scope to include Qigong and other internal arts.

In 2018, for various legal and regulatory reasons, the TCUGB decided to become a Company that would be registered at Companies House and would have statutory requirements imposed, setting out the purpose of the Company and how it would be administered this is how the Tai Chi Union for Great Britain C.I.C, (TCUGB C.I.C.) was born.

The Company was formed as a Community Interest Company (C.I.C.) it is owned by the members and managed by a Board of Directors who answer to the members.

The TCUGB C.I.C. Articles of Association set out the objectives of the Company and identifies the communities it supports, a full copy of the Articles of Association can be found on our website or at Companies House website, as they are a public record along with the Company Accounts and other details.

In simple terms the TCUGB C.I.C. looks to support two communities, our members who fund the Company's activities through the membership fees and the general public, by providing information on Tai Chi and Qigong, where they can learn etc. Any surplus income generated by the Company must be re-invested to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Company and cannot be distributed to the members.

The last couple of years have been very difficult for our members with the pandemic shutting many classes, some of which have not restarted. It also meant that running any promotional events was not possible, although a number of members did start offering online classes.

As a result, membership of the TCUGB C.I.C. has dropped and this has impacted on our income. At one point our expenditure was outstripping our income and so the Board had to take some hard decisions to cut expenditure, the most obvious was dropping the hard copy of the magazine and moving to a digital version; this saved printing and postage costs and made a significant contribution to stabilising the funds.

## Current Position:

Following the Boards decisions to cut costs we are pleased to note that funds are once more building and we have reviewed the magazine costs and found significant savings in both production and printing so we will be reintroducing the hard copy of the magazine from the end of this year.

The Board has also taken the opportunity of reduced activity resulting from the pandemic to look at the overall management and administration of the Company. Administration is mostly boring stuff that goes on behind the scenes so is not immediately obvious to outside observers. But it is essential to the running of the Company and we have made some changes to improve services, such as the

introduction of a commercial accounting process, reviewing the various databases that we run such as MailChimp, instructors lists on the website etc. to ensure they are synchronised and can be updated without the need for duplication etc.

Even though the worst impact of the pandemic seems to have passed, as a community we are now faced with the challenge of a financial crisis that will inevitably result in many people re-evaluating their priorities when it comes to spending money on classes etc.

Your Directors' are aware of the difficult times facing our members and so are working on a number of projects to help support them, these include a revamp of the website to make it more user friendly and inclusive for both members and the general public looking for local teachers, we are looking to widen the appeal of membership to encourage students and others with a general interest in Tai Chi and Qigong to join, simplifying the joining process for instructor members and looking at partnerships such as CIMSPA to make certain markets ( rehabilitation, sports facilities etc.) easier to access for instructors. We are also looking to develop workshops and trainings to support our members.

### **The Future:**

The TCUGB C.I.C. is your organisation and so we would like to hear from members about issues that are close to their hearts and how we may be able to help them achieve their goals. Most projects require three things; money, enthusiasm and time so we are also looking for people who are passionate about particular projects, to come and work with us through working groups. Email us at [enquires@taichiunion.com](mailto:enquires@taichiunion.com)

The only caveat is to remind members that all the Directors are volunteers with limited time so any projects will have to be considered in the light of existing plans, priorities and resources.

We accept that we will not always get things right and on occasions we may even make a few mistakes but working together we are looking to grow the membership and our influence in the wider community through media exposure, promotional work, events and more. With your support the TCUGB CIC will grow from strength to strength, supporting its members and the wider community.