

**The Society of Yoga Practitioners**  
**TSYP Meeting of teachers, practitioners and guests**

**24 July 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

1.	<p><b><u>Welcome and introductions</u></b></p> <p>The Chair Bea Teuten welcomed everyone to the annual meeting of teachers, practitioners and guests. She explained that as TSYP was now a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG), this meeting was not officially an Annual General Meeting (AGM) but remained an opportunity to involve all interested parties in TSYP's plans and to take questions.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the Director of Education and Training Michelle Tarling had sent her apologies and that any questions for her attention would be sent on.</p> <p><b><u>Lisa Soede, Director of Vedic Chanting chanted saha nāvavatu</u></b></p>
2.	<p><b><u>Thanks and farewells</u></b></p> <p>The Chair Bea Teuten thanked all participants for coming.</p> <p>In particular, she thanked those who had now stepped down, namely the Director of Communications Sara Butler, Director of Events Jatinder Wilson and Board Secretary Christina Jones for their service. All three aim to continue to actively support TSYP.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the Director of Communications post remained vacant and encouraged any interested parties to get in touch (Bea Teuten, Chair - <a href="mailto:chair@tsyp.yoga">chair@tsyp.yoga</a>, Maggie Shanks, Vice-chair - <a href="mailto:vicechair@tsyp.yoga">vicechair@tsyp.yoga</a>)</p> <p>The Chair also thanked Director of Events Katrina Heather and aYs's Debbie Kerr Nesbit for organising the 2021 joint gathering.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the 14 November 2020 AGM</u></b></p> <p>No questions were raised at or before the meeting in respect of the minutes of the AGM on 14 November 2020</p>
4.	<p><b><u>Highlights</u></b></p> <p>The Chair Bea Teuten listed TSYP's activity highlights since the November 2020 meeting and outlined plans for the future.</p> <p>The following reports were shared with all members via TSYP's website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair's annual statement</li> <li>• Treasurer's Report 2021             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance Sheet 2020</li> <li>• Profit and Loss 2020</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reports from the Committees             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Education and Training and Safeguarding</li> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Governance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Membership and IT
- Vedic Chanting

The Chair highlighted:

- TSYP's transition to Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) status, thanking Treasurer Helen Saaler and Vice-chair Maggie Shanks for their work.
- The upcoming autumn launch of Mentoring and Supervision Training, thanking Director of Education and Training Michelle Tarling and Head of Yoga Therapy Annemarie Visser.
- The launch of the TSYP Guest Lecture Series 2021/22; booking is scheduled to open imminently.

On TSYP's future aspirations, The Chair highlighted the organisation's desire to ensure diversity and integration at the heart of its work and outlined plans to:

- Establish a Vedic chanting bursary in honour of TSYP Patron Radha Sundararajan who passed away on 14 May 2021.
- Establish a second general bursary fund to extend access and support to TSYP's training.

The Chair pointed members to the financial statements and explained that the way in which TSYP derives its income can give a misleading impression regarding any surplus on the balance sheet. Payment for training courses is in advance; costs that have already been allocated and will be paid out in the future need to be considered against these sums. Any surplus will go towards the Bursary Funds as outlined in the Treasurer's Report.

5. **Discussion and questions**

The Chair Bea Teuten noted that the TSYP Board had held a meeting in June 2021 focused on the organisation's strategy and future direction. She invited members to share their thoughts and ideas on the TSYP and what they would like it to deliver.

Questions and comments were submitted in writing in advance to the vice-chair, verbally at the meeting and also via the chat function on Zoom.

- Thanks were offered to the TSYP for the resources it offered to members during the pandemic.
- A request for detail on the TSYP's plans for a Yoga Therapy Training course.
  - Head of Yoga Therapy Annemarie Visser said that the curriculum review had progressed and the scope of the course better defined. She said that in order to position the TSYP's training appropriately, the various accreditation requirements in the UK and from the International Association of Yoga Therapists (IAYT) needed careful consideration. She said that the roots of the tradition would be retained but it was important to look at the local context: what do people expect in the UK? What kind of support do they need? She said a draft of the curriculum is due by September 2021 with the aim of running a course by the end of 2022.
  - TSYP also planned a number of short courses with KYM within the next year – details to follow.
- Thanks were offered to TSYP Advisor Andy Curtis-Payne for his Introduction to Yoga Therapy series. It was agreed that he would continue to provide these sessions for the time being.
- A request for ongoing continuing education opportunities via seminars, workshops, events etc
- An idea to establish a centre for yoga therapy to raise the profile of yoga therapy and enhance training by securing case studies for teacher trainees was suggested; it was deemed a useful ambition
- Feedback was requested on the monthly Sunday chanting sangas which were established during the pandemic.
  - The response indicated support for them to continue but there were also suggestions to add or alternate offerings such as yoga classes and meditation with themes adapted monthly so they always felt current.
  - The Director of Events Katrina Heather noted that in order to run this, a minimum of two

	<p>further volunteers would be required. She invited all interested parties to contact her: Director of Events Katrina Heather - <a href="mailto:events@tsyp.yoga">events@tsyp.yoga</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A question regarding the offering to non-UK members when the pandemic ends and events are in-person rather than online. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Chair Bea Teuten said that there were huge benefits to holding events online and an element of that would be retained but not wholly. In-person events were still very important to us all.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A question on teaching people with "long Covid". <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TSYP will be running a course with the KYM on teaching students with this diagnosis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A question on whether there would be more chanting courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Director of Vedic Chanting Lisa Soede said that a two-year Vedic Chanting Teacher Training course was set for September 2022. It is expected to comprise three residential gatherings with additional online meetings. Four Vedic Chanting Foundation Courses are running at the moment and more are expected.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Members were asked to please update their profiles and certification information on the TSYP website by the Membership Secretary Karin Worthy.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair invited members to get in touch with any further thoughts (Bea Teuten, Chair - <a href="mailto:chair@tsyp.yoga">chair@tsyp.yoga</a>; Maggie Shanks, Vice-chair - <a href="mailto:vicechair@tsyp.yoga">vicechair@tsyp.yoga</a>)</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b><u>Director of Vedic Chanting Lisa Soede chanted mahā vākya and om śāntih śāntih śāntih</u></b></p> <p>Director of Vedic Chanting Lisa Soede led members in a moment of silence to honour the passing of TSYP Patron Radha Sundararajan.</p> <p>Following the closing chants, the Chair Bea Teuten thanked all members for attending. She said she hoped everyone would enjoy the rest of the events planned as part of the joint TSYP and aYs gathering.</p>