

Comment



It seems a long time ago that I started working on Tai Chi Chuan and Oriental Arts. Although a member of the union for a number of years I thought I had kept a low profile. I am still not sure how our chair, Mark Peters, discovered my day job and that it included a couple of online publications. Long story short, in August 2021, I suddenly found myself as editor but ably assisted by Suse Coon, herself an experienced journalist.

Over the past year a lot has changed. First of all Oriental in the magazine's title was felt to be inappropriate so was changed: Tai Chi Chuan and Internal Arts was born in January 2022 – published a little late to allow for tributes to Dan Docherty who had sadly passed away in December 2021.

The union now has around 1,000 members so it was a little disappointing that only 30 of us turned up at the Zoom members' meeting recently. But that is the way of clubs and members. It is not an unusual experience. The last tai chi union AGM that I attended saw, aside from the committee, only four members in attendance.

The union moves forward into 2023 with a slimmed down board. At the recent meeting the board reported though that the union's finances are now on an even keel with cash in the bank and a forecast to break even in 2023.

This is good news for members and for TCC&IA. Then after publishing the last five editions online we are back in print and will be for the foreseeable future. In addition the union will be offering funding for members to run classes for disadvantaged students. Details will follow.

Also our membership to CIMSPA, somewhat controversial in the beginning, is now fully set up. If you have any concerns about how it might affect your teaching there is a useful Q&A on pages 19-20.

And for those of a martial disposition we are continuing our series on tai chi in combat. One of my students is a boxer. He joined me to help his recovery from surgery earlier this year. Although he is now fit and back to work he hasn't trained much at his boxing gym. So I was rather pleased when he told me that, when he did have a session with his trainer recently, the guy told him: "It's amazing, you haven't been here for ages but you are punching harder than you ever did before." The tai chi? We like to think so.

John Roper

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