

Between the pages

Welcome to the first print edition of the new magazine! Many of you have enjoyed the digital version but we also know many were keen to have the printed format too. We hope you enjoy reading the articles and look forward to hearing your comments.

Working together, growing stronger

We have all been navigating our way through difficult times. We know the challenges of covid and now the cost-of-living crisis are particularly affecting many. At our meeting on 26th November, we shared some ideas on taking TCUGB forward including what support we can give you. We will put the minutes and slides of the meeting on the website but here is a short re-cap.

Where are we now?

TCUGB became a community interest company (CIC) in 2018. In simple terms, the TCUGB CIC looks to support two communities, our members and the public. Our members get the many benefits including this magazine. We support the public by providing non-style specific information, including where to learn.

Simplifying the membership

The technical panel, who assess the quality of practice and teaching experience, were finding that the long-established grading system was becoming divisive and not fit for purpose for today's union.

In response to feedback, they have massively simplified the grades to: instructor (minimum of five years training) and senior (minimum of ten years training). This better supports our developing membership. Full details will be available on the new website.

Encouraging new members to join

Ordinary membership has always been open to everyone interested in tai chi and the internal arts from the very experienced to beginners and the merely curious. Alongside simplifying the membership, we are looking to increase the number of ordinary members, and particularly students as they are the future of the arts; their input and experiences can benefit everyone.

Website updates

Led by Ben Morris and John Johnson, we are rebuilding the website. Sections had been added this year, including qigong, and newsletters, but this is a full redesign. It will be more customer focused and include improved class search facilities, resources, and eventually a members only secure area. As the project develops you will be kept informed via the e-newsletters.

A journal with a difference

As part of the board's efforts to cut expenses, we reviewed the magazine costs and found significant savings in production and printing. We are reintroducing the hard copy of the magazine from this issue, December 2022.

We will continue the digital version too, as many members like this option, plus we also plan to enhance it with additional articles for the public as part of our CIC commitment. John Roper and Suse Coon should get full credit for this new magazine.

CIMSPA

Working with CIMSPA is another key part of TCUGB's plans for 2023 and beyond.

Mark Peters leads and he has created the Q&A article included in this journal.

Financial support

Thanks to cost savings, fees can continue at the same price as they have for many years, while improving benefits. For example, we are introducing a fund for those working with the disadvantaged (more details will follow) and we have stopped

taking fees for insurance. Feedback on the new insurance provider has been excellent as the policies are clearer and offer great value.

What would you like from the union?

We continuously listen to your feedback. The TCUGB C.I.C. is owned by its members so we would like to hear from you about issues that are close to your hearts and how we can help you better achieve your goals.

Members have already said they would like TCUGB-led events and workshops. Areas suggested are: introduction to traditional Chinese medicine, anatomy & physiology; safeguarding, cross-style events etc. We hope to offer member-led sessions in 2023 and we need your help to do this.

We are looking for people with enthusiasm and time to come and work with us, to continue the TCUGB development through project working groups. Email us at enquiries@taichiunion.com

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

Finally, we want to thank our fantastic support team (Aileen and John); we all owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their hard work, goodwill and humour. Without them there would be no TCUGB.

Board of Directors
The Tai Chi Union for Great Britain CIC