

ROs Report to Regional AGM 31/10/09

Hello from Ian Burgess, I hope you have an enjoyable AGM.

The past year has been an important one for the Wheel. Many changes have been brought about which will change the running of the organisation. However, most of these changes will not greatly affect the way the Regions are run so for the majority of members, both teaching and non-teaching, life in the Wheel will go on pretty much as it always has.

As you will notice from David's report, we had a very successful year financially which has enabled us to offer a larger than usual discount to those attending Yoga Days over the fees charged to non-members. The discount will now be 50%.

This is for a trial period of one year only starting tomorrow 1st November. Finances allowing we hope to be able to continue this into 2010/2011,

Over the years I have been teaching I have frequently been struck by the number of people attending Yoga classes, some for a good number of years, who have never heard of the British Wheel of Yoga. This I found a most extraordinary situation. To try to raise awareness of the Wheel in people who are Yoga students, Pierre Bibby, our Chief Executive Officer has agreed to a printing of 5,000 of the Wheel's "Yoga for Everyone" leaflet for Eastern Region which I hope to distribute to teachers at IST days for them to give away in their classes.

This, I hope will raise awareness of the Wheel which may in time result in more people joining us. I think our strategy should be at first to make people simply aware of us and then join, rather than try to persuade them to join an organisation they've previously never heard of!

We have changes coming about on our committee. Today I hope we will be electing into post two new County Representatives; **Sophie Leek** in Cambridgeshire and **Annya Stoddard** in Suffolk and a new Regional Training Officer, **Vonnie Bloom**. I would like at this stage to thank them for putting themselves forward to work for Eastern Region. Thanks also of course to the outgoing office holders **Beverly Nolan**, **Kari Knight** and **Gill Pendreich**.

Also, **David Primett** is looking for someone to take over from him as Regional Treasurer. Please give this some thought and contact David if you think you or anyone you know could be our new treasurer.

As if all of that was not enough, I have to tell you that this will be my last year as your Regional Officer.

I have been very fortunate in that someone has already come forward prepared to take over from me in October 2010. Please do not think that is all cut and dried though. Anyone can still put themselves forward for this post if they have a proposer and seconder.

Thanks

First, I would like to thank your committee for all their hard work throughout the year and the support they have given me.

Second, thank you to **Karen Mcqueen** for organising today's event.

Third, and probably most important of all, thank you everyone for being here today.