

Minutes of 4th TCAA Management Committee (MC) Meeting for 2024-2025
held on Tuesday 24 June 2025.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

In attendance at the meeting were: Cyril Loa; James Gao; Sam Miller; Elisa Palazzo; Jon Zhou; Sam Ruan and Robert Snow. The following apologies were received: Peter Eves; Bruce Jin; Fang Qin; and Bruce Roggerio.

Absent were: Stephen Lin; and Lina He.

The meeting started at 7:36pm and chaired by Cyril Loa.

Cyril welcomed all those present and stated that this will be his last meeting as the Chairperson. He also took the opportunity to thank all the MCs for their support over the past three years, in particular, James, the deputy Chair, for all what was achieved by the TCAA, as a team effort.

2. Report from State Vice-President Reps.

- (i) WA: Robert Hall- Report on Memberships, Events and any relevant matter.
- (ii) Qld/NT: Bruce Roggerio- Report on Memberships, Events, and any relevant matter.
- (iii) SA: Fang Qin- Report on Memberships, Events, and any relevant matter.
- (iv) VIC/TAS: Peter Eves- Report on Memberships, Events, Weapon's control and relevant matter.
- (v) NSW/ACT- Steve Heard- Report on Memberships, Events, and any relevant matter.

NSW/ACT Report

- MCs noted Steve's email dated 24 May 2025 advising of his resignation on that date due to other priorities.
- Cyril is to organise the collection of assets (computer and uniforms and any other assets) from Steve and also to organise a formal handover in relation to competition events.
- Calling for expression of interest for the positions of NSW/ACT State Representative and Competition Convenor.

SA Report:

- Planning for a Taiji get-together to celebrate forthcoming Moon lantern festival in October.

VIC/TAS Report:

- No weapons exemptions issued.
- Completion of Members Benefits Brochure

NSW/ACT Report:

- Booking confirmed for mid-autumn (mooncakes) festival at Parramatta Square on Saturday 11 October.

Noting/Result/Action:

For noting of above.

Strategy and Promotion of TCAA memberships and Fees

Following final comments and feedback received by MC members, Peter has now finalised a DL/A5 flyer/handout in order to promote and increase memberships base.

Decision Taken at Meeting and Action to be Taken:

MC approved the flyer and it was decided that the following actions are necessary:

- The flyer/handout can be put out at events, public talks and/or at other TCAA events.
- A dedicated benefits' page on the TCAA website which lists all the benefits.
- The same list of benefits can be posted under the memberships listing navigation bar.
- Have an introductory question *Why Join the TCAA?* Here are the benefits for being a paid member of the TCAA.

Action: Jon (and Quentin) is to commence posting and publication on TCAA website and other social media, as they see appropriate.

Proposed Membership Fee Adjustment

- 4-Year Membership: Proposed increase from \$100 to \$120 or \$130.
- Yearly Membership: Proposed increase from \$30 to \$40.

Reasons for Proposed Increase:

- Significant recent increase in operational costs, including, public insurance liability and financial compliance.
- Keeping revenue base from memberships in line with operational costs.
- First increase since 1999 for the 4-year membership.
- Current fees are significantly lower than those of comparable associations.

Decision to Approve:

Following discussions, the MC unanimously approved the following new pricing:

- 4-Year Membership to increase from \$100 to \$130, effective on 25 June 2025.
- Yearly Membership to increase from \$30 to \$40, effective on 25 June 2025.
- Organisation Member to increase from \$200 to \$260, effective on 25 June 2025.

3. Treasurer Report- Budget, Process and Guidelines: Led by Sam Miller.

As a SA Representative, I do not have much disposable fund to do much free public event for promoting TCAA and Tai Chi in general. Issues are:

- (i) How can we raise fund which will be used to promote TCAA branding and Tai Chi in general?
- (ii) As a non-for-profit organisation like TCAA, is it possible to have a clear process how each state should apply for funds and how much each state can have?

- (iii) Since I joined TCAA a few years ago, there is never a fund-raising event mentioned at MC meeting.
- (iv) Anyone who has good fund-raising experience, maybe can share how it works and whether it is worthy for TCAA to explore it, so that TCAA could have more funds, then use it to promote Tai Chi.

Treasurer Report and Update:

As a guideline/principle, the Treasurer is very supportive of any Tai Chi related events by State Reps, however, an application for funding must be submitted and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The submission must include the following considerations:

- Must be a Tai Chi related event;
- Event must also promote TCAA brand;
- Explain how event will promote membership base; and
- To the extent possible, any event should be on a cost recovery basis; and if not, whether the benefits of event outweigh the costs.

James provided an example of the 25th TCAA anniversary event in December 2024 which had clear outcomes, in terms of TCAA exposure, led to an increase in membership base as well as income exceeded the costs, notwithstanding the financial sponsorship. He would also encourage State Reps to organise educational events which could provide an opportunity to raise funds. He would provide whatever support is necessary, if requested.

If requested, Sam M would be happy to prepare a *Request for Funding Template* for use by State Reps when submitting an application for funding. Sam M would also be happy to assist all the State Reps, with any Grant application and/or sponsorship of an event.

Noting/Result/Action:

For noting of above.

4. Competition Sub-Committee: Led by Steve Heard and James Gao

Competition Sub-Committee- organising national competition (taolu and push hands) and any related matters.

The TCAA annual Tai Chi competition (taolu) took place on 15 March 2025 at Niagara stadium in Central Coast.

MC noted the following:

- the resignation of Steve Heard effective on 24 May 2025; and
- the call for expression of interest for the position of NSW/ACT State Rep.; and
- the nomination of a Competition Convenor (Taolu).

5. Publication & Webmaster Sub-Committee: Led by Jon

Management and co-ordination of all social media, including, Website, Newsletter, Facebook, WeChat, and WhatsApp.

New Website Development:

- Quentin started WordPress installation in April 2025.
- WordPress template testing will commence in June 2025.
- VPS need to be considered for membership management.

2. Newsletter Updates:

- The TCAA Newsletter April 2025 had an open rate of 63.2%.
- The next issue is scheduled in July 2025.

3. Social Media Updates:

- A new Facebook group has been created for TCAA members and gained over 600 members.
- Continue growing engagement on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms.

Jon provided the following updates:

- Discussed with Quentin about the website upgrade and testing. However, the latter is going on leave for a few weeks which will delay the progress.
- Advised on TCAA subscribing to VPS rather than current web hosting. The difference in cost is not significant. VPS has better functionality whilst web hosting is an older technology.
- A newsletter for July is being prepared. He will ask someone, a member of TCAA, to assist with a view of handing over this task.
- A policy of TCAA social media platforms is necessary, in particular for Members and non-Members. These are outlined below.

Decision Taken and Approved at the Meeting, effective on 25 June 2025:

- Only paid TCAA members may submit an advertisement for publication on official TCAA newsletters and other social media platforms.
- TCAA members must provide a valid membership ID when submitting an advertisement for publication.
- To ensure that advertising privileges are reserved for paid members so as to maintain integrity and consistency in TCAA communication channels.
- Priority to TCAA members to demonstrate their Taiji schools/styles at any TCAA sponsored events, including WTQD and Mooncakes festival.
- A case-by-case submission and policy decision, if necessary, in certain circumstances.

6. Health Sub-Committee. Led by Cyril

Natural therapy and private health insurance, research, summarise and share research findings with members and relevant stakeholders on the health benefits of Tai Chi.

Since 1999, the Federal government undertook a *review of natural therapies for private health insurance rebates*, and TCAA ongoing participation at stakeholders' meetings.

Cyril and Sam M. updates and Action Taken:

Cyril and Sam provided an update following the Federal Government's public announcement of the Review outcome in mid-April 2025 and the implications. Action taken included the following:

- Promoted the positive outcome to TCAA members and the Australian Tai Chi community at large with a summary paper;
- Prepared and circulated a letter template to all State MCs to promote same.
- An acknowledgement of Brian Corless and Cyril Loa's submissions and hard work on this project since 2020 and the positive outcome;
- Cyril followed up with the Federal Government in implementation of outcome;
- Sam M and Cyril followed up with the Private Health Insurance Sectors to provide guidance and explain processes going forward; and
- CEO, Yoga Australia reached out to TCAA to join forces.

Noting/Result/Action:

For noting only.

7. Learning and Development Sub-Committee: Led by James and Jon

Organising on-line and face-to-face seminars and workshops.

- Jon delivered an online Tai Chi and TCM workshop for CMASA on 13 April 2025.
- Tai Chi and Healthcare Workshop/Seminar with Western Sydney University on 1 Nov or 8 Nov – To be confirmed with Emily Yang.

Jon provided the following updates:

- Jon is to contact Emily Yang at the UWS to organise a seminar in late 2025.
- James mentioned a Wu style master proposing to deliver a seminar in August/September 2025.

Noting/Result/Action:

For noting only.

8. Engagement and Resource Sub-Committee: Led by Sam M, James and Cyril

Liaising with other national and international counterparts relating to Tai Chi cultural events with a view to participate and establish a calendar of events for members.

Cyril, James and Sam R provided the following updates:

Cyril submitted a report on Xi'an Tai Chi international Exchange, 11-13 April 2025:

25 members of the TCAA, including 3 from Melbourne, and an additional 7 families and friends' crew represented Australia at the 2025 Xi'an Taijiquan Exchange Competition Festival from the 11 to 13 April 2025. The team leaders and coach were James Gao, Sam Ruan and Cyril Loa respectively.

The festival was comprised of the following main events:

- the conduct of an international competition, both individual and group routines;
- the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Xi'an Yongnian Taijiquan Association;
- the conduct of Masters' forum for discussions on Tai Chi related subjects, including, cultural heritage, scientific principles, research and development;
- the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) agreement between the TCAA and the Xi'an Yongnian Taijiquan Association; and
- the visit to Guangfu, the 'Holy Land' of Yang style Taijiquan'

The details of the major highlights- as per reported and on TCAA website:

Noting/Result/Action:

For noting only.

9. Instructor Accreditation: Led by James, Peter, Elisa, Jon.

Concerns were raised by MC members in relation to a peak fitness body (AUSactive) setting up a registration system for Tai Chi professional Instructors course and the adverse impact this may have on the Tai Chi industry and its current *modus operandi*.

With its 25 years of experience representing and promoting all styles of Tai Chi at the national level, the TCAA is well placed to take up this important and challenging role to ensure that the standard, integrity and values of Tai Chi is maintained in Australia.

There are three categories to be assessed for the Level 1 Instructor's accreditation:

1. Tai Chi Skills and Knowledge (Specialist Component)
2. Instructing Skills (Educator Component)
3. Professional Standards Compliance (Ethical and Professional Component)

Within each category, there are many pathways or options to choose to be assessed upon. It is the subcommittee's view to set a high but reasonable standard for the TCAA Accredited Tai Chi Instructor in differentiation to any other Tai Chi accreditation programs.

James' Update:

- Elisa is working on paper (pdf) form and interface.
- Peter and Tara are working on Assessment process.
- Jon and Quentin are working on web interface for Accreditation.

Noting/Result/Action:

For noting only.

11. Any other Business.

(i) Upcoming AGM election in July 2025.

Secretary is to propose the format for next AGM/election (either electronic or paper method) and to start the process in July.

Decision Approved at the Meeting:

The conduct of the AGM and the election of MC members will be via electronic as in previous years and the process will commence in early July 2025.

(ii) Passing of Walt Missingham and Appointment of New President of KWA

MC noted condolences sent and congratulatory note conveyed to new president, Shao Zhao Ming.

In the absence of any other business, the meeting ended at 9:24pm.