



## NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING FOLLOWING WLHB AGM 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

As usual, after the AGM, time will be given for members to ask questions of the Trustees and to air their views about the organisation. On this occasion the Trustees would like to use the opportunity to update you on the membership pilot scheme. They would also like to get your initial thoughts about changes to the Articles that they are thinking of proposing at an EGM early next year.

The Trustees are aware that for the organisation to be successfully sustained in the future it is important that we keep on top of the way in which it is managed and how enough income is generated for it. The teachers who are the mainstay of our organisation run their classes in an increasingly competitive environment and if they are to stay with us they need all the support we can give them

### 1. Membership pilot scheme

The requirement to collect membership subscriptions is perceived by many of them as a barrier to people joining their classes, particularly those who are opening new classes, recruiting people who have never heard of the organisation. They do not understand why they have to pay membership; they see no need to belong to the wider organisation and they can go to other similar classes without that extra payment.

Alongside these people are the many loyal members, like you, who are used to paying membership, enjoy belonging to an organisation and have no problem with it. To manage these two viewpoints, the Trustees decided to run a pilot scheme. Twenty-one teachers have chosen to join a scheme where they pay into the organisation a capitation fee on every class attendance. The other teachers have continued to collect an annual membership fee but at a reduced rate. A brief update on how both elements of the pilot are being received will be available and your views will be welcome at the meeting.

### 2. Possible changes to the Articles (these are proposals only at this point)

a) The organisation should be called FL-exercise to align it with the operating name and website to provide clarity for potential new teachers and participants as to who we are. We have a proud and distinguished history which will never be forgotten even if this change is agreed.

b) That the voting members are affiliated teachers only. You will remember that until a couple of years ago the voting members were the Association Members who paid an additional membership subscription as well as our affiliated teachers. As the number of the Association Members was dwindling rapidly, it was decided that all paid up class members should have voting rights. This has proved an unwieldy and expensive move with, in addition, the bulk of the membership having no interest in those voting rights. Class participants will still be linked to the organisation through their teachers and able to enjoy the joint activities and opportunities provided by the organisation (e.g. the Bath 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event). Those of you who value highly your association with FLEXercise over many years may consider contributing to the Futures Fund.

We look forward to this opportunity to explain our thinking to you and to hear your views on all the above.