

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday 18th May 2017
At Tangmere Village Centre**

1. Welcome

The Chair, Lorna Brown, welcomed the 38 members present, whose names are recorded on the attendance sheet. She expressed profound disappointment that the only meeting of the year devoted to Club business should be so poorly attended. In fact, the attendance was such that she was unable to declare the meeting quorate. However, unless there were specific objections raised, she proposed to continue with the AGM, there being no matters of a constitutional nature on the agenda, other than the appointment of the Officers and Post Holders. There being no objections the meeting proceeded accordingly.

Due to the illness of the secretary, Dave Abbott was asked to take the minutes of the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following members:

Angela Acland, Philip Acland, Frank Adams, Jill Adams, Don Baldwin, Joan Barham, Jon Barham, Tony Baverstock, Jean Brooks, Linda Bullimore, Andy Cole, Jan Davis, Hilary Featherstone, John Field, John Larry, Stephen Marsh, Iain McGowan, Sue Nash, Jerome O'Hea, Margret Preece, Charlie Roe, Sheila Tester, Joy Whiting and Jean Wilson.

3. Minutes of the AGM of 26th May 2016

The minutes, having been circulated by means of the Club newsletter, were taken as read and accepted unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

None were raised.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, David Harris, spoke to his report for the year April 2016 to March 2017, which had been previously circulated. The Treasurer drew the attention of the meeting to the fact the Club following an operating surplus of £1,260 for the previous year, this year had ended with an operating loss of £1,010 instead of a planned surplus of £800. He noted that this wasn't due to any single event but to cost overruns, under-budgeting and un-budgeted but necessary expenditure, but that this pattern could not be allowed to continue.

He reported that income was down by £1,125 and costs up by £700. This was in part due to disappointing outcomes for both the North Mundham and Annual Exhibitions, and that while sub-groups are overall covering their costs, the income from those was also down. Expenditure was over budget, with extra hall hire costs, despite room charge rates not having increased, and the programme and exhibitions costs being higher than anticipated.

The aim of funding our core programme from our core income was not achieved with the funding gap being approximately £2,000. This gap has to be closed by reducing costs and increasing income or the future aims of the Club will be unsustainable.

It was reported the accounts had been signed off as a true account of the position as at 31st March by Sarah Nichol, the Financial Examiner and Dave Abbott on behalf of the Management Committee. The meeting was content to accept the accounts without objection.

There followed considerable constructive discussion as to how to address the financial situation of the Club. The Treasurer felt that a £10-£15 increase in subscriptions was required soon, for the reasons explained in his report. Varying amounts were suggested but in the end a figure of £10 was thought to be about right. There was a general consensus that a small regular or annual increase in subscriptions would be preferable to large periodic hikes. The Treasurer added that every effort should be put into the fund-raising aspects of the three Club Exhibitions and into being prudent with expenditure.

The matter of funding a new projector was touched on and the general consensus was that at least part of the cost might have to be met by additional fund raising such as a two or three year supplement to the fees.

The Chair thanked all those who had contributed to the lively and constructive discussion and was confident the new Management Committee would be guided by the feeling of the meeting.

6. Report from the Chair

The Chair gave a comprehensive review of the past year. It had been a year with the loss of our President Jeanne Beavis, some illness and injuries. It had also been a year of considerable successes for the Club and individual members. Of particular note was yet another Gold Medal won by Graham Sergeant for his documentary AV Bees Wing.

The Chair thanked the members of the Management Committee and the Post Holders for their support and dedication during the past year and looked forward to an equally successful year in 2017/18.

6.1 The Selection Committee

In the absence of the Chair of the Selection Committee, Glyn Edmunds gave a brief report on events of the past year. The Selection Committee had been well supported by the membership who submitted a good range of both prints and PDIs for consideration. This had contributed in no small part to the success in the SCPF print league.

6.2 The Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary, Vanessa Stern, reported the Club had a membership of 131. However, records for the year showed the attendance for the most popular evenings to be just over 60 whilst the average attendance was closer to 50.

Seventeen new Members had joined the club at the start of the 2016/17 year, six of whom had been very infrequent attenders. In view of this it had been agreed that all of those on the waiting list would be contacted and offered membership for the coming year. Of the 21 on the list 17 had taken up the offer of membership for the year 2017/18. It was expected the waiting list would be repopulated with new applicants following the Annual Exhibition.

Vanessa drew the attention of the Members that subscriptions for the coming year would be welcomed in July and August and may now be paid directly into the Club bank account.

6.3 Mentoring

David Donati, the Management Committee member with responsibility for mentoring new Members reported this was the third year of the scheme. Of the intake of 17 new Members for 2016/17, 15 had attended the New Members' meeting where they were welcomed by the Chair. Each of the new Members was asked to give a brief summary of their photographic experience and their hopes for achievements from Club membership.

Thanks were expressed to the mentors for the year, Dave Abbott, Linda Bullimore, Kim Tattersall, Lynne Owen and John Howes. The Chair was also thanked for revising the Members' Handbook in time for the meeting.

Eleven new Members submitted work to the Selection Committee and were graded accordingly. New Members have featured strongly in Club Class print and PDI competitions over the year and gave strong support to the Spring Exhibition, exhibiting excellent original work. The mentoring scheme has proved its worth and will continue for the coming year.

6.4 The Programme

Glyn Edmunds, the Programme Secretary, stated that his aim when arranging the programme for the year was the pursuit of excellence. The 2016/17 programme had been constructed using this aim and had been considered a success. The programme for the 2017/18 season had been put together in a similar manner and promised an excellent and varied offering from outside speakers spiced with very talented Members from within the Club.

6.5 Special Interest Groups

Dave Abbott gave a brief summary of the activities of each of the special interest sub-groups over the year, emphasizing the importance of the sub-groups to the Club, both in spreading information and improving standards but also as a source of revenue to the Club.

As part of his review of the individual sub-groups, the attention of the Membership was drawn in particular to the A/V Group. This had not seen a growth in attendance for some years and it was hoped that some of the Membership would consider joining this particularly rewarding activity.

He noted however that numbers attending the sub-groups had fallen whilst, at the same time, the number of sub-group meetings had increased. The reasons for this need to be understood and actions taken to reverse the trend.

6.6 External Competitions

Glyn Edmunds told the meeting that the Club had been extremely successful in the SCPF print league, finishing second to Winchester and would therefore be going to the PAGB finals in Blackburn to represent the SCPF. The Club had been much less successful in the PDI league and serious consideration must be given to discover the reasons for this.

6.7 Individual Members successes

In addition to the RPS Gold Medal presented to Graham Sergeant for his outstanding AV Bees Wing, 10 members of the PAGB Group have been awarded distinctions. These were 4 AFIAP awards, 2 EFIAP awards, 3 CPAGB awards and 1 DPAGB.

In addition, Members of the Club have won numerous awards at International Salons of photography. Amongst these, Peter Rocchiccioli had an image accepted by the London Salon. Sheila Tester won an RPS Gold Medal at the Edinburgh Salon whilst Ann McDonald, Lorna Brown and Mike Davison had images accepted, and Lorna Brown had also achieved her ARPS. Others with multiple acceptances at International Salons were Frank Adams, George Atkins, Jean Brooks, John Howes and Keith Sawyer.

Last but by no means least, Janey Devine has been elected a member of Arena Photographers, one of the most prestigious, invitation only groups of photographers.

7. Election of Officers

7.1 Election of President

Following the death of Jeanne Bevis the post of President had become vacant. John Bradshaw had been proposed by Iain McGowan and seconded by Janey Devine and there being no other nominations, John was duly elected unanimously.

7.2 Election of the Management Committee

The Chair advised the meeting that there were proposed and seconded nominees for each post and that no post was contested by more than one nominee. It was therefore proposed that unless there were objections, the Management Committee be elected en-bloc. There being no objections the Management Committee was elected unanimously.

7.3 Election of Post Holders

The Chair asked the meeting to elect the Post Holders en-bloc as the same situation existed as with the Management Committee. There being no objections, the Post Holders were elected unanimously.

7.4 Appointment of Vice President

The Chair asked the meeting to excuse a deviation from the Club's rules, which require a Vice President announcement to be made at the Preview Evening of the Annual Exhibition, but as the nominee would be absent on that date, she believed the deviation would be approved. A nomination had been received by the Management Committee for the conferring of Vice President to Ann McDonald for her long and very active contribution to the Club and for her significant photographic skills. The Management Committee had been pleased to wholeheartedly approve this appointment, which was welcomed by the meeting. John Bradshaw's first task as President was to present Ann with a bouquet of flowers.

8. AGM Proposals

No formal proposals had been received and so the formal part of the evening was closed.

9. Exhibition

The Exhibition Secretary, Wojtek Boden, informed the meeting that entries for the 2017 exhibition had been received from 55 members. He reminded Members that the pre-exhibition meeting would be held at Tangmere on Thursday 27th July and Members were urged to attend. The Preview and Exhibition Opening would be on Friday 4th August in the Assembly Room at 7.30 and was open to all Club Members and their partners. A really good turnout was expected.

10. Programme for 2017/18

The Programme Secretary, Glyn Edmunds, gave a brief outline of the programme for the coming year. As usual it would be a mixture of old friends and new faces. Of particular note of those new to the Club were Sue Brown and Geoff Lee. Amongst the old favourites were Guy Edwardes, Viveca Koh, Ken Scott and Barry Mead. There were also contributions from talented Members of the Club. Pete Bamforth, Ann McDonald and Mike Hancock and a group contribution from the PAGB group. In all, a varied and entertaining programme.

11. Discussion on PDIs.

In the light of the relatively poor performance of the Club in PDI competitions it had been suggested that one factor was the limited number of PDI competitions within the Club. At present this was only two compared to three print competitions. One way round this was to use the evening devoted to the PDI of the year and insert an additional internal PDI competition. Were this done the exhibition judge could then be asked to select the PDI of the year as part of the exhibition judging procedure.

The earliest such a change could be made would be for the 2018/19 season and Members were asked to consider the suggestion so that it might be given a trial run in that year. Indications from the floor were that such a trial run would be favourably looked upon, and if successful, a formal proposal would be brought to the 2019 AGM to amend the Competition Rules accordingly.

In connection with the subject of PDI competitions, there would be a renewed effort to ensure PDIs were entered correctly sized and in the correct colour space. Approximately 10% of entries during the past year were entered incorrectly and these came regularly from two or three Members who had been alerted to the error.

12. The Projector

During the summer recess the projector would be sent back to Canon for a service. It was hoped this would ensure it was in the best possible working condition until the subject of a new projector and how to finance it had been resolved.

13. Reflections of a New Member

Richard Ryder said he felt it necessary for him to make comments on his first year in the Club. It had, he reported, been a wonderful experience. He had been helped by so many Members and found the sub-groups to be particularly useful in furthering his knowledge. He extended his grateful thanks to everyone in the Club.

14. Succession Planning

Mike Hancock, as Vice-Chair, drew the attention of the Members to the issue of succession planning. It was important that those with particular non-photographic skills made themselves known so that, in the fullness of time, their skills could be put to good use in the running of the Club.

15. Name Badges

Ray Acland suggested that it could be helpful to new Members if photographic accreditations, where applicable, were added to name badges. He believed it was a way in which new Members would be able to seek out information and have a better understanding of the skills level of the Member they were speaking to. Others expressed the view that some new Members in particular would find this intimidating.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed.