

BACKWELL CAMERA CLUB

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 25TH 2018

held at Backwell WI HALL 7.30 pm

Present

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman | David Harkness |
| Secretary | Anna Dagger |
| Treasurer | Richard Bedwell |
| Membership Co-ordinator | Carole Thinkettle |
| Programme Secretary | Sarah Robbins |
| Internal Competition Sec. | Ann Belcher |
| External Competition Sec. | David Bax |
| Publicity Co-ordinator | Mike West |
| Equipment Maintenance Co-ordinator | David Callister |
| Health and Safety Officer | Pip Sawtell |

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Ken Weldon, Bob Fowler, Nck Cambourne, Al Ritchie, Alison MacKay, Mary Pears, Daphne Smith, Margaret Collis, Neil and Dee Marshall
2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM 27.10.17: Previously displayed on the website. Proposed by Bob Bishop, seconded by Clive Williams. All agreed.
3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 2017 AGM No matters arising.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT :

I present the fully audited accounts for the club financial year ending on 31 st August 2018. This year saw the Nett value of the club's assets decrease by £579.48 to £7351.48. This is in line with expectations. There are several factors that contributed to this, which are detailed below.

This year we saw increased subscriptions through the year as membership grew from 68 last year to 71 this year but this was balanced out by a drop in attendance/door receipts.

Receipts from the Practical and the Travel Groups were down slightly but both continue to contribute a small income to the club. As in previous years, the Photoshoot Group has no cash impact to the club accounts, although this year the fees of £135.96 for the Bristol Zoo event were held temporarily in the accounts. Insurance expenditure returned to normal levels after having the correction last year.

Increases in Backwell Hall rental fees show in the difference of £78.75 compared to last year. Cleeve Hall fees have also increased but there have been fewer meetings there this year. The increase in Claverham Hall costs reflect the increased usage by the Practical Group and its use by club members preparing and rehearsing their presentations to the club. Our speaker fees have reduced this year in line with the budget described in last year's report. This reduction is due to distribution of speaker fees during the calendar year rather than a decision to reduce the quality of the speakers. Next year's speaker expenditure will be around £2,100.

The increase under Donations is due to the donation made to the RPS for a memorial stone in their new headquarters in memory of Denzil Ellis who sadly passed away this year.

This year has seen our club increase our exposure to the local community through a number of exhibitions in local venues such as Libraries. There has been a small expenditure of £42 in fees and materials and some Capital Expenditure to support this. Our Capital Expenditure this year has seen us invest in: • A monitor that has been used in exhibitions. • A display stand was

also acquired in support of the exhibitions. • An audio recorder was purchased for use in the Darwen competition. • A portable hide.

My thanks go to Carol Thirkettle and her helpers for collecting the door levy every week as well as other members who are always willing to step in and help when required. I would like to thank Malcolm Flintoff who has carried out the audit of the accounts and has assisted me with the presentation of these accounts.

This will be my last report as I am standing down due to my impending move away. Malcolm has kindly agreed to take on the Treasurer's role and I wish him good luck. I would like to extend special thanks to everyone at the club for an enjoyable last six years.

Richard Bedwell Oct 2018

Hilary Britland asked if the net assets include equipment and the answer was no.

5. PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S REPORT

The 2019 programme was published on the website during the summer and at the opening meeting after the summer break, Bob Bishop presented a taster of speakers to come for this year and next on my behalf. Thank you Bob!

Work on the 2020 programme will commence just after Christmas and we welcome suggestions from members about speakers that should be approached.

The committee agrees a budget for external speakers and it is part of the programme secretary's role to fill the programme within the budget and to cater for the wide variety of interests of our members - an interesting challenge. We generally try to have a gap of at least three years before inviting individual speakers back.

External speaker fees vary quite considerably and, for information, the range of fees for the 2018 and 2019 speakers are given below. Speaker fees are often significantly weighted by travel costs and there is not always an obvious correlation between total fee and the perceived quality of the speaker, but on the whole I think the speakers this year have been well received.

| Fee Band | Number of speakers 2018 | Number of speakers 2019 |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| £1 - £50 | 10 | 4 |
| £51 - £100 | 3 | 12 |
| £101 - £150 | 1 | 0 |
| £151 - £200 | 1 | 4 |
| £201 - £250 | 2 | 0 |
| £251 - £300 | 1 | 0 |

External speakers account for 20 of the 37 club nights in the 2019 programme and the remainder of the programme will be made up of competitions, appraisals, critiques and presentations by club members - either individually or in groups. All of these club members give their time for nothing and contribute to a varied and informative programme across the year. On behalf of the club and the committee, I would like to thank all of the club members who contribute to this substantial part of our programme for their efforts.

Planning for 2020 will begin in January and any suggestions for new speakers will be welcome.

Sarah Robbins Oct 2018

6. INTERNAL COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT

There were three competitions in this calendar year. The first was the Nailsea Town Council Award for six photos on a mount board and voted for by members on the night of the AGM. The winner was Anna Dagger with "Spirals".

The second was the print and DPI of the year competition, when the judge was Barrie Bluer and the winners were: Print - Alan Wood "Puffin" and DPI - Alison McKay "Oh Such A Perfect Day".

For the final competition, The Living World, it was decided to trial the use of projecting a DPI image onto a screen while showing the print. This took a lot of expertise on the part of the technical boys and was difficult to get synchronized. It wasn't the success that we had hoped for and it also caused the judge, Susanne Akerstrom, some frustration, so after the event it was decided to abandon this way of showing prints. In future, prints will be displayed in the interval and judged in the second half of the evening. The results for Living World were: Print - Mary Pears "Boxing Hares" and DPI - Grete Howard "Tender Moment".

7. EXTERNAL COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT

The club entered two external competitions in the past twelve months.

In the WCPF DPIC held at Exeter Corn Exchange in February we came 29th out of 57 clubs from the South West. Bob Bishop was awarded a Highly Commended for his image "Out on the Moor". The annual Battle with Darwen took place at their club at the beginning of October but the result will not be disclosed until our club meeting on November 1st when a recording of the event will be shown. These Battles have always been enjoyable and the running total, excluding this year, stands at 4-2 in our favour.

We had planned to enter the WCPF Kingswood Salver Competition but despite a lot of work by a small group of dedicated members we decided that we were unlikely to come up with a worthy panel of five prints and so abandoned the idea for this year.

After seven years in the job I have decided not to stand for re-election as External Competitions Secretary. I would like to thank all those who have given me so much help and hope my successors will find it as enjoyable a task as I have.
David Bax

8. EXTERNAL COMPETITION SECRETARY VACANCY

Sarah asked if anyone would like to come forward to fill this post. No-one volunteered.

Sarah then went on to explain that after discussion (having anticipated a lack of response) the Committee would seek to solve the issue as follows.

DIPIC - Bob Bishop has kindly offered to take on this competition.

Kingswood Salver - we shall be looking for a volunteer to come forward for next year's entry and if there isn't one then we shan't be submitting an entry.

Darwen Battle - we shall be looking for a volunteer to take this for next year. Sarah briefly explained that it involves requesting and collecting entries, using software to present our images and booking a judge.

9. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am sorry to announce that I will be standing down as Chairman of the Camera Club and I would like to thank everyone for their support during my time as the Chair and for making the job so pleasant and enjoyable.

At the risk of repeating myself I would like to thank the committee for supporting me throughout the year. I have greatly valued the hard work and dedication of the committee, without them my job would have been impossible.

Earlier this year the committee agreed to focus more efforts on recruiting new members to the Club. As a result of that decision we put on a number of exhibitions at various local villages in the surrounding area. As a result of this the most significant development from those efforts has been a close relationship with No.65 High Street Nailsea. We now have a display place for our members work for much of the year at no cost, benefitting both the club and No.65 High Street. This relationship is due to the hard work of David Bax who deserves our thanks. Many thanks also go to our other club members who contributed to our summer exhibitions. Thanks to:

- Anna Dagger as secretary has been wonderful in organising us all and standing in for me especially on short notice and deserves all our thanks.
- I would also like to thank Richard Bedwell for keeping our accounts in order and ensured that the bills get paid on time. And we wish him well on his future move.
- Sarah Robbins our Programme/Website Secretary has given us an excellent programme this year and also prepared another excellent programme for next year. A special thanks to Sarah for maintaining and updating our website
- Our Internal Competitions Secretary role has been taken over by Ann Belcher from Sarah Robbins freeing Sarah up for her other roles.
- Carol Thirkettle who keeps our membership database up to date, without it our communications would quickly fall over!
- Mike West who regularly gets Club news and pictures into the local press.
- Pip Sawtell for his Health and Safety contributions.
- Bob Fowler and Bob Bishop for their work on our new Appraisal Evenings.

Further thanks to

- Hilary Britland for organising displays and exhibitions.
- Carol, Brenda and Sally for door fees.
- Bob Bishop, Bob Fowler, Ken Hunt, Nick Cambourne and Pip Sawtell for sound and projection.
- All those of you who regularly help put out and tidy away the chairs and tables and volunteer to do teas and coffees etc.
- Photoshoot Group Richard Bedwell
- Travel Group Richard Pring and Neil Marshall
- Practical Group Pip Sawtell

We are pleased to welcome our "New Members" and that you are enjoying what the club has to offer and welcome your contribution to the running of the club.

If I have overlooked anyone in this report, my apologies and my thanks.

Thank You All
David Harkness.

Other Reports

Photoshoot

This has been a difficult year for me in terms of being able to line up as many varied events as I would have liked. Nevertheless we did have the following shoots:

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|-------------|--------------------------------|
| • September | Bristol Zoo |
| • December | RSPB Ham Wall Murmuration |
| • December | Nailsea Christmas fair |
| • February | Day-Night shoot at Wells |
| • February | Nailsea 10K run at Long Ashton |
| • April | Studio shoot at Cleeve |

- May Yeo Valley Garden
- May Nailsea 10K run at Tyntesfield
- June Clevedon Aquathon
- June Bristol Triathlon
- June Clevedon SwimRun Event
- July Clevedon Long Swim

I believe the highlights were Bristol Zoo, Studio and the Yeo Valley Garden shoots. These provided some significant opportunities to get some very interesting images whilst challenging our techniques.

The second half of the season was dominated by community events where we attended sports events at the request of the organisers. This has led to the creation of a new group who can focus on such events. These events have presented a new set of challenges, like how to take images of all the competitors (in the hundreds) and make them interesting and of high quality. I believe we succeeded, as witnessed by the organisers continued requests for our support. Good luck to Jo Shepherd for the future of these community events.

I sadly have to surrender the reigns of this group to Mike West and Bernard Yeo as I am moving away from the area. Good luck to you both.

Richard Bedwell

Practical Group

As you may know I will be standing down as leader of the practical group as from the AGM. This will be my last report and Clive Williams will be taking over the reins from the November meeting. The keys to the hall and the necessary information has been handed to Clive to enable his take over, hopefully, seamlessly. I will be in contact with Clive over the next few weeks to move Dropbox to his account.

Traditionally the monthly attendance falls over the summer months due to holidays etc but our figures are running from October 2017 to the present. Over eight monthly meetings the highest attendance was 21 persons and our lowest 5. However, an average for the last year runs at between 11 and 12 persons and average income of £16.50 per meeting. The cost of the hall being just under £16 shows the group to be financially neutral (more accurate figures from the treasurer).

One of the main aims of the group within the club is to improve our photography.

I believe if you take into account the number of LRPS distinctions attained recently within the club as a yard stick, club photography is on the up. I hope the practical group may have contributed just a little to these achievements.

I thank all members of the club for their support over the last five years and may you continue to support Clive in the future.

Pip Sawtell

Travel Group

The Travel Group has continued to meet at Cleeve Village Hall, and has enjoyed another successful season, attracting some new faces.

During the year we have visited diverse places including Southern Ireland, Burma, Cyprus, Sri Lanka, Kefalonia, Comoros, Palestine and Southern USA. We have also enjoyed City Breaks to San Sebastian and Amsterdam.

As a result of experiences described, several members were encouraged to consider some of the destinations for a visit themselves. Conversely, some of the experiences confirmed to others that certain places were not for them. Trip Advisor has nothing on Travel Group reports!! The coming season already includes Krgyzstan and Uzbekistan, Oman, France and Tenerife.

All members of the club are welcome to come along and enjoy our very friendly evenings and get some new ideas. Nobody will be forced to contribute, although gentle persuasion may be applied - space is available in the 2019 meetings.

Richard Pring and Neil Marshall

The Committee then stood down and the nominations for the new Committee were read out, along with proposers and seconders. There was unanimous agreement that all standing for re-election should be voted in. The new Committee is set out below.

| POSITION | NAME | PROPOSED BY | SECONDED BY |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| CHAIRMAN | Grete Howard | Anna Dagger | Margaret Collis |
| TREASURER | Malcolm Flintoff | Eileen Bax | David Bax |
| SECRETARY | Anna Dagger | Ruth Roberts | Kay Welsh |
| PROGRAMME/WEBSITE SECRETARY | Sarah Robbins | Bob Cheshire | Bob Gilbert |
| MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY | Lynn Gowler | Jo Shepherd | David Harkness |
| INT COMPETITION SECRETARY | Ann Belcher | Richard Pring | Clive Williams |
| EXTERNAL COMPETITION SECRETARY | | | |
| PUBICITY | Mike West | Clive Williams | Ken Hunt |
| COMMITTEE MEMBER | Bernard Yeo | Sarah Robbins | Anna Dagger |

David Harkness will be taking over the Equipment Maintenance role and Ruth Roberts will be Health and Safety Officer, both non Committee roles.

AOB

1. Lighting - Peter Otley suggested that we look at the issue of lighting problems during our evenings and try to minimise issues of glare, reflections and heat from our lighting set up.
2. Practical Group - Grete raised the question of whether the format of the Practical Group will remain the same or be flexible to make some changes. This is something that others have also mentioned recently. Clive thinks this is a good idea and hopes to invite a discussion at the second meeting.
3. Eileen asked for clarification over the distinction between the Community Photography and the Photoshoot Group. Sarah and Jo Shepherd provided answers. There are both differences and an overlap but the Community Photography purpose is to take and provide images that have been requested by the Community and the Photoshoot's purpose is to provide opportunities for members to take images for themselves. There is no intention to lose either or exclude anyone from joining in both. It was pointed out that the Community Photography has provided us with good publicity.
4. Richard announced that we have received a bequest of £500 from a previous member, Caroline Holder. This will most likely go towards a new Projector.
5. Sarah announced an upcoming event by St Peters Hospice where some of Denzil's Prints will be on sale, to raise money for the charity. This is to be held at the Bristol City Hall on College Green on Saturday 24th November between 3 and 5 pm. Sarah asked for a volunteer to transport the print stands there and back from No. 65. Initially Grete volunteered but then found she would be away so we are still waiting for a volunteer.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.30 pm