

# BACKWELL CAMERA CLUB

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY 27th OCTOBER 2016 AT THE W.I. HALL, BACKWELL AT 7.30 P.M.

<u>Present:</u>	David Callister	Chairman
		Vice Chairman
		Secretary
	Klaus Gottschling	Treasurer
	Peter Holt	Programme Secretary
	Frank Feeney	Internal Competition Secretary
		External Competition Secretary
	Peter Harris	Committee Member
	Bob Fowler	Committee Member
	Pip Sawtell	Committee Member
	Carol Thirkettle	Committee Member
	Mike West	Committee Member
	+ 27 Club Members	
	[Total Membership: 63]	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Ruth Roberts, David Bax, Eileen Bax, Brenda Ballard, John Belcher, Daphne Smith, Margaret Collis, Roy Ackrill, Mary Pears, Nick Cambourne, Richard & Anne Pring.
2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 29/10/15: Previously displayed on the website. Proposed by Alan Wood and seconded by Peter Harris.
3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM: There were no matters arising from the 2015 AGM.
4. REPORTS The Chairman proposed that as all the reports had been available on the website they should be taken as read.

Treasurer's Report: Klaus Gottschling reported: As the club's Treasurer I present the fully audited accounts for the club financial year ending on 31st August 2016.

I can report that this last year has financially again been a very successful year for the club. The current year has seen a further increase in our financial assets from £8,732.95 to £9,651.56

Due to a slightly decreased membership, the fees received showed a reduced income of £50. However, receipts from the door levy and the Travel Group showed an increase of £75.00 while income from the Practical Group decreased by £30.00.

The Practical Group had an attendance of 175 over the last year with door receipts of £262.50. The Travel Group did not submit complete attendance records but submitted door receipts of £119.00.

As already mentioned in last year's report, I omitted to submit my expenses for printing, stationary, postage and telephone and the current year are therefore showing these expenses for a two year period.

The costs of refreshments have reduced quite considerably during this current year and our thanks must go to the volunteers who week by week serve our refreshments.

The charges for the W.I Hall have again increased this year but in contrast, fees for Claverham Village Hall have shown a reduction of £36.75.

Visiting speakers and fees for judges increased by £443.00 this last year . Thanks must go to all club members who contributed to meetings throughout the year and also to Peter for arranging

the programme and ensuring that we always have a full and interesting programme for the year.

My thanks must also 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 Bob Gilbert who again has carried out the audit of the accounts and has assisted me with the presentation of these accounts.

I recommend that the accounts be accepted by the committee and the membership.

Finally, as mentioned in my last report, due to my personal circumstances I am standing down from the position of Treasurer. I would like to thank David Callister and all members who have supported me during this last three years and my best wishes go to my successor.

There were no questions about the accounts.

**ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS:** The audited accounts were adopted. Proposed by Neil Marshall and seconded by Bob Cheshire. The Auditor Rob Gilbert was thanked.

5. PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S REPORT: Peter Holt reported: We have had some great talks in 2016 and more are coming in the remainder of this year - I am grateful to those club members who suggested speakers. The programme secretary relies on sources such as the WCPF Handbook for speakers but it is invaluable to have suggestions by people such as club members and other programme secretaries who have actually heard these individuals speak. For 2017, we have a varied programme with something for everyone, whatever their photographic interests. The detailed programme will be available on our website once remaining speakers have sent me more details of their talks.

Images will be presented as DPs, Prints and AVs by outstanding speakers on topics as diverse as macro-photography, wildlife, landscapes, people and portraiture, travel and fashion photography. Many of the speakers' names will be well known to you, others less so, but all have been chosen on the quality of their photography and their ability to enthuse the audience about their subject. Where available, we include speakers' websites on the programme so you can preview their work.

We also have sessions by our own, home-grown excellent photographers. In keeping with the aim of Backwell Camera Club to improve us all as photographers, we have another of the popular "How I..." session where club speakers describe how they go about producing the outstanding images that they do.

I will be standing down as Programme Secretary at this AGM but am happy to continue to assist the new Programme Secretary and guide him/her until the end of this year to make the transition as smooth and easy as possible.

Peter reported that there is a change to the programme for 2017 as Gabriel O'Shaughnessy is unable to give his talk on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. He is looking for a replacement and will advise members at a later date.

Due to the lack of a nomination for a new Programme Secretary there was a discussion regarding the role and the 3 year rule for committee members. A suggestion was made that an assistant would be helpful and perhaps people would be willing to take on the role for a year.

6. INTERNAL COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT: Frank Feeney reported: My final report in the post of Internal Competitions Secretary coincides with the change from quarterly competitions to critique evenings. The reduction in the work load for the Internal Competitions Secretary has resulted in the proposed amalgamation of the posts of Internal and External Competitions Secretary.

The last year has had its ups and downs. Although most of the 'downs' were dealt with before becoming apparent.

## Quarterly Competitions

Statistics 2016	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Average
Mono	17	18	21	13	69	18
Colour prints	18	20	20	16	74	23
Digital projections	26	29	35	32	122	35
Total	61	67	76	61	265	66

Statistics 2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Average
Mono	19	22	12	18	71	18
Colour prints	29	25	17	20	91	23
Digital projections	34	42	28	36	140	35
Total	82	89	57	74	302	76

Statistics 2014	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Average
Mono	17	20	17	17	71	19
Colour prints	21	20	20	22	83	21
Digital projections	40	44	52	33	169	42
Total	78	84	89	72	323	81

The disappointing drop in entries continued. The decreases for 2015/16 were:  
Mono prints: -3%; Colour prints: -20%; DPs: -13%

The overall drop for 2014-16:  
Mono prints: -3%; Colour prints: -11%; DPs: -18%

Hopefully the non-competitive structure of the planned critique approach will encourage members to enter their images for appraisal.

The Living World Competition. The new committee are charged with reviving interest in this competition which is slowly drawing less entries.

Summary. I believe there are some interesting times ahead. I only hope the new system will prove worthwhile.

7. EXTERNAL COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT: David Bax reported: We took part in three External Competitions during the past year. Firstly we hosted another Battle with Darwen Camera Club which we just lost but we still retain our 3-2 lead in this annual event. In the WCPF Kingswood Salver Competition we put forward what we thought was a strong entry but received no award. Finally in the WCPF DPIC Competition we came 14th out of 56 clubs in the South West.

Darwen CC will host this year's challenge during October but the result will not be made known until on November 4th when a recording of the event will be played back at the Backwell club meeting. The Kingswood Salver Competition will be held at Ottery St Mary on 19th November and once again we have put together what I believe to be a strong entry. I hope we fare better this time. We have been invited to take part in a four-club multi-battle at Bleadon in December. Last time we participated, in 2013, we came first in all three sections, mono prints, colour prints and DPI, as well as being overall winners. Next year's DPIC competition will be held in Exeter on February 5th.

I will be standing down as External Competitions Secretary at this year's AGM. I would like to thank all those in the club who have contributed prints and images and helped to make it an enjoyable job.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: David Callister reported: Since my report was put on the website there has been a change of nomination for the role of Internal/External Competition Secretary. Frank Feeney has kindly offered to take on this role for a year.

As you already know this will be my last report as your Chairman and I have to thank you all for your support over my time in the Chair and for making the task so enjoyable, thank you.

Of course as Chairman I am the public face of the structure that helps keep a club like this operating and meeting the need of you, the members. I have greatly valued the hard work and dedication that your committee, without them my job would have been impossible.

At the risk of repeating myself from last year I would like to acknowledge their individual contributions especially as several of them are also standing down tonight.

Ruth Roberts as secretary has been excellent and deserves all our thanks.

Klaus Gottschling has kept our accounts in order and ensured that the bills get paid.

Frank Feeney who has ensured our competitions run smoothly and cajoled us into getting our entries in on time. Roger Alder who has helped Frank.

David Bax who has organised our external competitions and again ensured our entries are in on time.

Peter Holt who has given us an excellent programme and also prepared another excellent programme for next year.

Bob Fowler who has supported both Peter and myself when we have been absent.

Peter Harris who runs our website. Pip Sawtell our Health and Safety Man.

Carol Thirkettle who keeps our 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.

Again I must thank those members who unfailingly carry out tasks that are needed for the smooth running of the club.

Hilary and Denzil for displays and exhibitions, Brenda and Sally for door fees, Bob Bishop, Bob Fowler, Nick Cambourne and Pip Sawtell for sound and projection.

A big thank you as well to those of you who regularly help put out and tidy away the chairs and tables.

Finally an especial thank you to Jo and Anna who kept us refreshed at the interval.

Our special interest groups have seen some changes this year in terms of leader with Richard Bedwell taking on the mantle of the two Bobs and organising an excellent Photoshoot programme, well done Richard.

In a similar vein Neil Marshall and Richard Pring have revitalised the Travel group and have found a new venue for meetings that will enable them to welcome more members to their meetings.

Pip Sawtell continues to run the Practical Group and challenges us to show and discuss our work.

As you know with the new programme the quarterly competitions are to be replaced by the Appraisal Evenings and as a result there will be some changes that stem from this. Both Frank Feeney and David Bax are standing down and Denzil has kindly offered to take on the task of organising the limited number of internal competitions still in the programme as well as the external competitions. Thank you Denzil.

The new Appraisal programme will be run by the working party (Eileen Bax, Bob Bishop, Bob Fowler and myself) and Bob Fowler will stay on the committee to liaise between the two. We have the first evening planned for the 2nd February and we will continue our work to bring this idea to a successful series of evenings. However it also needs you, the club members to submit you pictures if the idea is going to work.

If I have overlooked anyone in this report, my apologies and my thanks. I have enjoyed my time as Chairman but now look forward to a bit more time to concentrate on my photography, Thank you all.

#### OTHER REPORTS:

EXHIBITIONS: Hilary Britland reported: A selection of our work is on permanent display at the Brockway and Backwell Medical Centres. Thanks to Den and Ethne for collating and changing these prints. The GP Practices have merged with Tower House and Long Ashton's to form the Tyntesfield Medical Group and we may also display work in the Long Ashton Surgery in future. The club displays eight images in Backwell Parish Hall Committee Room which are changed every six months.

Den and I placed a display of members' work in Nailsea Library during November 2015 and will be doing again in November 2016.

We were also able to place two successive displays of work in an empty shop window in Nailsea's Crown Glass Shopping Centre through July and August, having gained approval from Mr Rob Stokell, the Centre Manager. This was well received, with positive feedback from the public and traders alike.

Sincere thanks to all photographers who have contributed images to all of the above exhibitions, some at quite short notice for the Summer Exhibition in Nailsea.

W.I Hall Committee

I continue to attend these as the representative from Backwell Camera Club. If anyone would like to replace me in this role I should be happy to support them.

This year the cooker in the kitchen has had to be replaced.

The Committee are fund raising to work towards the re-decoration of the main hall, replacement of lighting and curtains, although each these may have to be completed in separate stages as funds permit.

PRACTICAL GROUP REPORT: Pip Sawtell reported: The group remains well supported with an average attendance of seventeen members per meeting. The dates for next year have been requested from Claverham Village Hall and will hopefully soon be confirmed. We intend ten meetings during 2017, forgoing January and June. Financially the group is self supporting. The discussions at group, and the prints/images shown, indicate that the photography of the members is moving forward.

The presentations to the Thursday main club evening, shared with the photo-shoot group, seemed to be well accepted. Presenting work based on members projects rather than a month by month account, seemed to be an easier and more accurate account of the group's activity. I would like to thank Denzil Ellis who is kindly organizing our November meeting and the December meeting will encompass the Photo-shoot challenge.

PHOTOSHOOT GROUP REPORT: Richard Bedwell reported: 2016 has seen Bob Bishop and Bob Cheshire step down from running the Photoshoot Group after 13 years. I, and I am sure everyone else, would like to thank them for all their efforts.

I have endeavoured to provide the group with a varied programme of events, a summary of which is:-

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- March: Motorcycle trials event
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- April: Lacock, village and Abbey
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- May: Steam & Steam Punk at Tyntesfield
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- June: Garden Open Day
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- August: Steepholm
- 
- September: Frampton Country Fair
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October: Photoshoot Challenge - St. Fagans, Wales

There are plans for at least one more event before Christmas, please watch the BCC website and Dropbox for the announcement.

The events have proved popular and I trust successful from a photographic point of view as well as providing interest and entertainment to attendees.

Currently there are almost 40 people registered as participating in the group. We have seen attendance at shoots vary from 8 to 23. There is always scope for more people - come along! May I end by thanking members for their support and encouragement since I took this group.

TRAVEL GROUP REPORT: Richard Pring & Neil Marshall reported: The Travel Group has continued with its aim to provide a chance for members to show the photographic results of their travel in all forms to a friendly and interested audience. Numbers average about 12, and the group has enjoyed both travelogues and impressions of places near and far. These have ranged from areas within 10 miles of home, to Europe, America and Yemen, and have covered both energetic and more sedentary schedules. As well as holiday accounts, venues have included city breaks and dedicated events in various parts of the world. This season it has been great to welcome some new presenters, and the organisers wish to emphasise that all members of the main club are welcome to any or all of the Travel Group meetings, and suggestions or offers for the programme are always welcome.

Note that from the next (October) meeting, the group will meet at Cleeve Village Hall, BS49 4PGI. The hall is directly off the A370 in Cleeve. From Backwell it is the first turning left just after the Alfresco Cucina Restaurant, and just before the Lord Nelson. We will continue to meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, BUT, just to keep you on your toes, the November meeting will be on MONDAY 21st November!

## 9. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2016-2017

David Callister reported that there were no nominations for the post of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Programme Secretary. A discussion followed and several members were asked if they would consider being Chairman as without one it would be necessary to consider whether the club is still viable. Several members expressed their concern and it was suggested that members should offer to give back something to a club they are proud of.

Sarah Robbins kindly offered to take on the post of Programme Secretary and Peter Holt offered to give her some support. Proposed by Peter Holt and seconded by David Callister.

At 8.10pm David called for a tea/coffee break to give members a chance to further discuss the situation.

The meeting resumed at 8.40pm and David Callister was happy to announce that David Harkness had offered to take the post of Chairman.

Proposed by Peter Harris and seconded by Bob Fowler.

David Callister has offered to stay on for 6 months to give support.

Proposed by Dee Marshall, seconded by Val Cheshire.

Frank Feeney has agreed to carry on for another term as Competition Secretary. Under club rules an Officer should not hold an office more than 3 years without agreement from the membership. As this will be Frank's 4th year club members were asked to agree to this.

Proposed by David Callister seconded by Hilary Britland and carried by a show of hands.

Denzil Ellis suggested that someone should help Frank.

The Committee stood down and the new Committee was voted in en bloc.

POSITION	NAME	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
Chairman	David Harkness	Peter Harris	Bob fowler
Past Chairman (6 months only)	David Callister	Dee Marshall	Val Cheshire
Treasurer	Richard Bedwell	Jo Shepherd	Debbie Boobier
Secretary	Anna Dagger	Debbie Boobier	Jo Shepherd
Programme Secretary	Sarah Robbins	Peter Holt	David Callister
Competition Secretary	Frank Feeney	Hilary Britland	David Callister
Committee 1 Club's Website	Peter Harris	David Callister	Bob Bishop
Committee 2 Membership Co-ordinator	Carol Thirkettle	Eileen Bax	Ethne Ellis
Committee 3 Health and Safety	Pip Sawtell	Sue Boniface	David Bax
Committee 4 Publicity	Mike West	David Harkness	Hilary Britland
Committee 5 Appraisal Group representative	Bob Fowler	Ruth Roberts	David Callister

#### 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Hilary Britland expressed her wish to come off the WI Hall committee and asked if anyone would be happy to take her place. There was no response.

Bob Cheshire commented that the Club receives a lot of thanks for exhibitions in Nailsea. He mentioned that the last time he saw the shop display some prints had fallen. Denzil replied that this was due to the sun on the prints causing them to bow and fall from the stands. He is looking for a solution to this problem. Access to the shop is also restricted.

Frank Feeney asked for more entries next year for the Nailsea Town Council Trophy. This year there were only two entries.

David Callister has received a letter from Roy Ackrill which he read to members. Roy raised the question of viewing prints on competition nights. He mentions that only the judge and people with binoculars can see them until the interval and suggested that the club considers purchasing a Visualiser. The Chairman told members that in future this problem won't occur as the Quarterly Competitions are being replaced by Appraisal Evenings when the prints will be displayed around the hall and judged after the interval. DPIs will be judged before the break.

David Callister will reply to Roy.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.50pm