

Melbourn & District Photographic Club

Minutes of the Club AGM held

Tue 12 April 2016

Present: David Gray (Chair), Keith Truman (Vice Chair), Jenny Collier (Treasurer), Peter North (Secretary / Webmaster), David Stocks (Competition Sec / Asst Prog Sec), Bob Dennis (Member).

Pam Aynsley, Ian Aynsley, Gary Baker, Sarah Blackaby, Cath Brooksbank, Sam Buchanan, Rod Bufton, Rosemary Burt, Roger Care, Lynne Cole, Dave Cole, Gerald Cranwell, David Harper, Penny Harper, Mark Howard, Mo Hunt, Mike James, Stan Keen, Bernhardt Lanzrein, Paul Lidbetter, Trevor Marcuson, Eve Maythorne, Val Moules, Andre Neves, Jo Norcross, David Reynolds, Pat Rowley, Barbara Stanley, Malcolm Taylor, Anne Truman, Ian Tulloch.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Nick Holman, Helen Holman, Paul Ravenscroft, Keith Taylor, Monica Gray, Peter Burt, Karen Butler-Clark, Ken Crane, Carol Warren, Colin Fielder

2. Adoption of Minutes of AGM held 31 March 2015

The minutes were unanimously carried without change nor comment.

3. Matters Arising from the 2015 AGM – None

4. Chairman's Report - David Gray

David warmly welcomed all present and thanked all members for making the club so friendly and welcoming during another successful year. The club's conviviality has been commented on by many visiting judges and lecturers and has contributed to their willingness to return.

The committee has met a couple of times throughout the year and David thanked them for all the work they had done in support of the club.

In particular, David thanked Keith Truman for being a stalwart in organising the projection of all the images, the display of all the prints and for his extensive input into the various competition and club nights. He also thanked Peter North for securing and moving the website following the malware infection last Sept.

David also congratulated Keith and Peter for both being awarded their CPAG distinction last April and noted that Peter was runner-up and had two commended images in the Your View category of the 2015 Landscape Photographer of the Year competition.

David thanked the membership for responding to the recent questionnaire on club activities. This highlighted that the majority of members supported the nature and diversity of the programme but some changes will be made to the Pairs Trophy competition and the Spain – Melbourn Competition. In particular, the evening dedicated to the judge's feedback from the latter competition will be dropped.

The responses from a questionnaire sent to participating clubs in the Melbourn Trophy (MT) has prompted a review of the competition and the MT will be re-launched for the 2016-17 season. The number of participating clubs will be reduced from 16 to a more committed 8 and will involve a single knockout round followed by the final on 18 Mar 2017.

The new MT will utilise only the main hall and we will cease the labour-intensive exercise of displaying a selection of our own club's prints in the small hall. The MT will include all 8 participating clubs entering a portfolio of their prints, to be displayed at the back of the main hall, and there will be prizes for the best winning portfolio and the best overall single print. The 8 clubs taking part in the 2016-17 MT have been confirmed as: Stevenage, Swavesey, Biggleswade, Shillington, Ware, Cambridge (New Members) and Melbourn.

5. Vice Chairman's Report - Keith Truman

Keith thanked David for continuing to chair our club from strength to strength in what has been a difficult year for him and his family.

Keith noted that PDI entries have been maintained at a similar entry to last year. For prints submissions, after a push on helping members to make and to mount prints, submissions to print competitions have actually gone up thanks in part to the contributions of the new members who joined at the start of this season.

PDIs	2014-2015		2015-2016	
	Members submitting images	Images submitted	Members submitting images	Images submitted
1st Open	31	91	31	88
2nd Open	30	81	29	81
3rd Open	28	79	30	90
Average	30	84	30	86

Numbers of PDIs have been maintained in 2015-2016 even though 5 of our new members have regularly submitted images.

Prints	2014-2015		2015-2016	
	Members submitting images	Images submitted	Members submitting images	Images submitted
1st Open	20	56	24	61
2nd Open	16	43	21	60
3rd Open	19	51	22	61
Average	18	50	22	61

The numbers of members submitting prints this year has increased by 4 or 5 members which relates to the new members who have joined us who have all been submitting prints into most of the print competitions.

Keith also stated that, in his belief, substantiated by successes of our club during the year, that not only has the overall standard of the club photography continued to go from strength to strength but perhaps even more importantly, our strength in depth has undoubtedly increased thanks to both existing members photography improving and also thanks to the contribution of the new members who have submitted some fantastic work this year, particularly natural history images, a genre which we were quite weak in before.

In competitions and inter-club battles this year we have had good success:

- Bottisham and Burwell - Melbourn narrowly lost 389 vs 387
- Gamlingay - Melbourn convincingly won 427 vs 398
- Cambridge Digital - came joint 23rd out of 36 clubs
- Royston - Melbourn convincingly won 438 vs 386
- 3 Counties Cup - Melbourn convincingly won (Melbourn 334, Saffron Walden 326, Letchworth 290)
- EAF Inter-Club Print Championships - we entered this championship for the first time and narrowly missed making it to the 2nd Round

Hopefully standards were helped to be improved in part through the Pairs Cup which was held for the first time this year which was won by Pam Aynsley and Peter North.

Those who took part in the competition all seem to have, not only enjoyed the experience, but also learnt some new tricks from their partners. It is my hope that we'll have even more than the 13 pairings we had last year in next year's competition.

Our Club Nights where we have done some editing, following up on Lynne Cole's point last year about the need to enhance the general memberships' editing skills have also hopefully gone some way to help us to raise our game.

Keith thanked those members who had hosted one of the 12 events held as our summer programme in 2015. We visited widely varying venues ranging from the rushing water of the Lea Valley White Water Centre and the smell of burning rubber at the go-kart track to an afternoon photographing flowers in Phillimore's. Special thanks to Dave and Lynne Cole for hosting the 2nd Village Challenge event, a mystery tour with cameras which ends with a nice pint of beer as a good social event for members. I very much look forward to this year's event. There was a good attendance at most of the events and hopefully this year's programme will be bigger and even better.

6. Treasurer's Report - Jenny Collier

Jenny pre-circulated copies of her accounts synopsis reproduced in full below. This synopsis represents a snap-shot of accounts as they stood on the day of the AGM.

Melbourn & District Photographic Club Accounts Synopsis

	2015-16		2014-15
INCOME			
Yearly Membership	£1,070.00		£1,000.00
Weekly subs	£923.00		£819.00
Visitors	£47.00		£27.00
Melbourn Trophy Income			£321.50
Interest			£0.23
Mount-board	£304.00		£250.00
Donation	£180.00		
Misc	£10.00	Admission collected at Henry Moore	
TOTAL	£2,534.00		£2,417.73
EXPENDITURE			
Hall Hire	£387.50	£31 April to be paid	£418.50
Lecturers and Judges	£427.50	inc £100 Jayne O'Dell	£542.00
EAF membership	£184.31		£178.13
Equipment	£313.40	£128.40 Memory for laptop; £185 for Spyder5	£462.36

Competition fees	£20.00	Cambridge - fee for EAF?	£20.00
Sundries	£173.00	£50 deposit for Henry Moore; £72 Cambridge tickets; £51 for EAF tickets	£95.67
Refreshments	£145.11	£107.61 & £37.50 for wine; 1 more week to add	£85.64
Mount Board	£380.16		£300.73
PAT Test at Hall			£7.20
Melbourn Trophy Expenditure	£50.00	Refunds of fees paid for this year	£174.92
Website	£44.91	For 6 months plus cost of domain. Will be £60 per year but only £54.91 this year, plus £14.97.	
Trophy purchase			
TOTAL	£2,125.89		£2,285.15
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£408.11		£132.58
OPENING BALANCE	£2,285.87		£2,153.29
CLOSING BALANCE	£2,693.98		£2,285.87
BANK BALANCES			
Building Society	£1.27		£1.27
Barclays	£2,665.82		£2,284.60
Cash	£26.89		
Unpresented			
Creditors			
Debtor			
Unbanked			
TOTAL	£2,693.98		£2,285.87
Membership	57.00		55.00
Attendance	36 or 56%		33 or 55%
Creditors			
TOTAL			
Unbanked cheques			
TOTAL			
Board Stock			£27.00
Price per Board			
Value	£31.00		£27.00

As our financial year is now the end of June, this is an interim report prior to the preparation of the final accounts.

Last year the final accounts did not reach members until August as Bruce Huett (who examines our accounts) was travelling. This year the reconciliation process should be easier and the accounts will be given to Bruce as soon as the final bank statement is received at the beginning of June. Jenny hoped that members will receive a copy of the final accounts in July.

Our financial position is looking positive. We have had several new members this year, although others have not renewed their membership, and the amount collected in weekly subs has increased in line with attendance. We were fortunate to receive an anonymous donation of £180 which has increased our income this year. Not all bills are in yet but it looks as if we have made a profit over the year of between £300 - £400 once all outstanding bills are in.

Consequently, membership fees for next year will remain the same, even allowing for additional expenditure for the website and a potential rise in the cost of the hall.

This year as well as paying for ongoing expenses such as hall hire, judges, speakers, EAF membership and insurance, we have had the memory in the laptop upgraded and have purchased a second monitor calibrator. We spent less than anticipated on equipment, as it wasn't necessary to replace the laptop. Expenditure on refreshments was slightly higher because of the availability of wine at the Spanish – Melbourn competition evening.

The cost of judges has fallen but this is dependent on where they live and therefore how much they charge for expenses rather than their quality. Some of the most successful judges and lecturers have actually charged us very little. It was noted that many judges do not claim their full expenses entitlement and that next year we should insist that the full amount is paid. This may increase costs next season.

We entered two external competitions this year. The cost for Cambridge was £20 and there was no charge for the EAF competition as they cover the entry costs via the ticket price.

The visit to the Henry Moore Sculpture Garden, which was part of the summer programme, made a loss of £40 as a group deposit based on 10 admissions had to be paid in advance, and only 6 members were able to attend.

We have spent more on mount-board this year but have also sold more. The income & expenditure in this area will never balance as the board costs slightly more than we sell it for; we do not charge for board for the panel prints and some is used to make the annual awards. We currently have 31 in hand.

There doesn't appear to have been a PAT test this year.

Entry fees for the Melbourn Trophy paid in advance by participating clubs had to be refunded.

Following the problems with the old website we have now purchased a new domain name which costs £4.99 per month for hosting plus £14.97 p.a. for domain registration (£74.97 pa - a small price to pay for total website security and independence).

The bank balance currently stands at £2665.82, and while this may seem like a large amount, we need to keep a reserve in case of any major equipment failure. If members have any thoughts about useful equipment that we could purchase, they should let Jenny know.

We still have a very small amount (£1.27) in a Building Society account. In order for this to be closed we need to formally propose a motion that this account be closed.

Accordingly, a motion to close the Building Society Account (£1.27 in credit) was proposed by Jenny Collier, seconded by Penny Harper and voted unanimously in favour by all present.

7. Secretary / Webmaster's Report - Peter North

Website

Peter reported that the biggest issue during the year was the infection of the club website by malware last September. This manifested itself by malware reports from some antivirus software when launching the site, the site launching very slowly, or not at all, and the URL request being directed through various other portals.

These re-directions register as false hits for the other portals and increase their perceived popularity in search engine results. It is assumed that this was the objective of the malware attack rather than anything more malicious.

The source of the infection was confirmed as a WordPress vulnerability on the parent Melbourn Village Site of which our site was a sub-domain. A completely clean back-up from June was used to over-write the infected site but the external hosting company was not being responsive and our website was repeatedly re-infected 8 times following each clean re-install.

Accordingly, a new (and shorter) domain name was purchased, a new hosting company engaged and a clean version of the site was moved to the new domain / server in mid-October.

The WordFence security software plug-in, which adds a security firewall against hacking, was also installed and sends email alerts every time a targeted or

automated hack is attempted on the site. Since installation, such alerts are received around 20-50 times a day underlining the need for this firewall software.

Because of this defensive software layer, and the fact that our site has many graphic images, the site launches fractionally slower at about 3-5 secs per page view. In view of the problems encountered, Peter advised that we live with this lag rather than compromise the site further.

The domain registration cost (i.e. the cost of owning the domain) is £14.97 pa. in addition to the ongoing webhosting cost (i.e. the cost of renting the server that hosts the website) of £4.99 per month. Peter felt that the total cost per year of £74.85 was an acceptable price to pay for website autonomy and security.

Secretary Role

In order to consolidate various synergistic tasks, Peter will add competition score compilation, all local village newsletters and the design and production of new award certificates (to replace labour-intensive mounted print awards) to his current roles.

8. Programme Secretary's Report – David Stocks (for Nick Holway)

David delivered the report in the absence of Nick and Helen Holway who were unable to engage fully in club activities and attend the AGM because of very demanding family issues throughout the year. The committee wished Nick and Helen well and would write to them to formally thank them for the hard work done at the beginning of the season.

David reflected that the programme structure throughout the year had been mainly unchanged with respect to the number and nature of competitions, the lecture programme, the club nights and the summer activities. The Pairs Trophy and Spain – Melbourn competition were new additions and had been well supported and received.

The 5 lectures were a good mix of travelogue and techniques and the club nights, which were voted the item of highest interest in the survey, were varied and interactive. It was thought that the ideas for lectures / club nights tended to rely too much on the input from committee members and that ideas from the wider club membership should be encouraged.

For the next season, programme items covering lectures, competitions and the Summer programme were being assembled but nothing had yet been planned for the club nights.

9. Competition Secretary's Report - David Stocks

The season had a full array of internal club competitions and external battles with other local clubs. The internal competitions have included our traditional externally judged 3x PDI, 3x Print, Panel Print, PDI of the Year, Print of the Year and the new Pairs Trophy. The submission statistics for some of these competitions are detailed in item 5 above

In addition, there have been the internally judged, club night competitions including Points of View, Self-Judged, Village Challenge and Now for Something Different.

Regarding the selection and performance of external Judges, these are chosen from the approved list in the official EAF Handbook and David has instigated an anonymous, web-based 'Survey Monkey' tool in order to collect the views of the committee on the judge's performance after each competition.

The results of these surveys have tended to reflect accurately the feelings of the broader membership with several being scored worthy of a re-invite, some borderline and 2 unworthy of a re-invite. This information will be used for future seasons.

Malcolm Taylor commented that too many judges spend a disproportionate amount of time commenting on the first batch of images only to give too little critique of later images. Keith commented that he does prompt the judges to speed up if they are lagging but is limited because of the overriding need to retain a positive and polite attitude. It was felt that giving guidance on approx time to be spent per image at the beginning combined with polite reminders during judging, if necessary, was the best approach.

The club did very well in most of our inter-club battles the results of which are recorded in item 5 above.

The existing internal / external competition programme format has proved successful over many seasons and will be adopted in the next season with only minor some changes to the Pairs Trophy pairings.

10. Awards Presentation - David Gray

David Gray presented the annual awards as follows:

Chairman's Trophy (highest cumulative competition score)

1st	Keith Truman	(335)
2nd	Peter North	(325)
3rd	Ian Tulloch	(322)

Ken Clifford Trophy (highest cumulative score for projected Images)

1st	Keith Truman	(169)
2nd	Gary Baker	(166)
3rd	Peter North	(163)

J&J Cox Trophy (highest cumulative score for prints)

1st	Keith Truman	(166)
2nd	Ian Tulloch	(163)
3rd	Peter North	(162)

Projected Image of the Year

1st	Peter North for 'Waiting'
2nd	Barbara Stanley for 'Malachite Kingfisher'
3rd	Keith Truman for 'Rush Hour Gaze'

Print of the Year

1st	Keith Truman for '6 Posts'
2nd	Paul Ravenscroft for 'Cromer Cottages'
3rd	Peter North for 'Line of Sight'

Points of View

1st Anne Truman

Panel Print Competition

Joint 1st Barbara Stanley for 'Head to Head'

Joint 1st Peter North for 'Faded Blooms'

2nd Ian Tulloch for 'The Old Shed'

3rd Anne Truman for 'Strata'

Pairs Trophy (cumulative score)

1st Pam Aynsley & Peter North (79)

2nd Paul Lidbetter & David Stocks (76)

Joint 3rd Rosemary Burt & Keith Truman (75)

Joint 3rd Cath Brooksbank & Jenny Collier (75)

Rookie of the Year

1st Ian Tulloch

11. Election of Officers - All

The following Officers were elected by a block majority vote by members. The motion was proposed by Anne Truman, and seconded by Pat Rowley:

Chair	David Gray
Vice Chair	Keith Truman
Treasurer	Jenny Collier
Secretary / Webmaster	Peter North
Projectionist	David Stocks

Programme / Competition Sec	Keith Truman
Committee Member	Bob Dennis
Assistant	Roger Care
Assistant	Ian Tulloch

Bruce Huett was elected as Examiner of Accounts by a majority vote proposed by Eve Maythorne and seconded by Cath Brooksbank.

12. The New Helper Roles – David Gray

The recent appeal for helpers to assist the committee members in their respective roles was met with an enthusiastic response and, after several conversations, the following has been agreed:

- Barbara Stanley will shadow Jenny Collier (Treasurer)
- Paul Lidbetter will deputise for David Gray organizing the Melbourn Trophy
- David Cole will assist David Stocks in his new role as club projectionist
- Lynne Cole will assist Keith Truman in his new role as Programme / Competition Secretary
- Penny Harper and Karen Butler-Clarke will assist in the provision of refreshments in events that involve external guests / battles etc
- Mo Hunt and Eve Maythorne will continue organising the tea-rota. Club members should continue to volunteer for the rota at club nights

13. The New Programme / Competition Secretary Role – Keith Truman

Keith, having passed on his role of projectionist to David Stocks (Dave Cole assisting), will take on the dual roles of Programme and Competition Secretary. Keith will be assisted by Roger Care, Ian Tulloch and Lynne Cole as detailed below.

Keith, Roger, Ian and Lynne stated that they started working on the programme for next season early last week.

Judges – Keith is aiming to get judges booked early and work on this has already started. The poor judges from this last year will not be coming back. For the most part, the judges he is attempting to book are tried and tested. 12 out of the 14 judges have already been booked.

Lectures – Keith is aiming to have 6 lectures in 2016 as opposed to the 5 we have had this last year. 2 lectures have already been booked, Tom Way giving a talk on

wildlife photography and Jayne Odell on black and white. For the other talks, Ian, Roger, Lynne and Keith have already short-listed what we want to book. Malcolm Taylor suggested we might look into doing a studio night led by a good portrait photographer at one of our club nights.

Inter-Club Battles: Battles with Bottisham (and Ely as a new 3-way print competition), with Gamlingay and with Royston as well as the 3 Counties Cup and 1st Round of the Melbourn Trophy (against Shillington) are all close to being finalised. We would also plan to enter the Cambridge Digital and the EAF Print Championships again next year.

Feedback - Lynne Cole has kindly agreed to be the eyes and ears of the club this year. In the past year, members of the committee have been surveyed after each judges' performance and these results used to inform us about who to invite back; this will continue. In addition, as a new initiative this year, Lynne will survey members after every club night and after every lecture to continue to ensure we are providing members with what they want in our programme.

This coming season, Ian Tulloch and Roger Care will be running the summer programme and also the Pairs Trophy. Roger and Ian outlined plans for both events.

Accordingly, an outline Summer programme of 10 varied events is being finalised and will be confirmed, with dates, in the coming weeks. The Pairs Trophy competitors / pairings will be allocated in 1Q17. In order to ensure productive pairing, the membership will be divided into two halves, depending on cumulative 2015-16 competition scores, and members in the first half will be randomly paired with members in the second half.

Lynne Cole revealed that next season's Village Challenge may have a nature orientated theme and suggested Paxton Pitts as a potential location.

As the winner of last season's Points of View (POV) competition, Anne Truman reported that the next POV is likely to be based in Royston around the weekend 23-25th Sep.

14. Date of Next Formal Club Meeting

Proposed for Tue 13 Sept 2016 by David Gray

15. AOB

Dave Cole suggested that, as with his previous club (Swavesey), a high-profile (inter)nationally renowned speaker should feature in the programme during the year. Attendance would be free to members but visitors would pay around £10 in order to

self-finance the event. This was broadly supported, with the proviso that the event would need effective advertising (through the EAF portal) and room capacity / logistics would need to be carefully considered.

During the meeting, Dave Cole kindly thanked the committee for their commitment and enthusiasm in support of the club.

Peter North

Club Secretary / Webmaster

21 April 2016