

# **Melbourn & District Photographic Club**

## **Minutes of the Club AGM held**

**Tue 18 April 2017**

**Members Present:** Pam Aynsley, Ian Aynsley, Gary Baker, Sarah Blackaby, David Beavan, Rod Bufton, Karen Butler-Clark, Rosemary Burt, Gerald Cranwell, Bob Dennis, John Ellis, Colin Fielder, David Harper, Penny Harper, Mark Howard, Mike James, Stan Keen, Paul Lidbetter, Graham Martin, Eve Maythorne, Val Moules, Andre Neves, Jo Norcross, Paul Ravenscroft, David Reynolds, Pat Rowley, Keith Taylor, Malcolm Taylor, Anne Truman, Carol Warren

**Committee present:** David Gray (Chair), Keith Truman (Vice Chair / Competition Secretary), Jenny Collier (Treasurer), Peter North (Secretary / Webmaster), David Stocks (Projectionist), Ian Tulloch (Member), Roger Care (Member).

### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cath Brooksbank, Sam Buchanan, Mo Hunt, Ian Jeffries, Bern Lanzrein, Barbara Stanley

### **2. Adoption of Minutes of AGM held 12 April 2016**

The minutes were unanimously carried without change nor comment.

### **3. Matters Arising from the 2016 AGM – None**

### **4. Chairman's Report - David Gray**

David welcomed the membership to the AGM and thanked the club for another successful year during which many visiting Judges and Lecturers have complimented the Club for its friendly and positive attitude.

David thanked David Stocks, Ian Tulloch, Roger Care and Barbara Stanley for undertaking their new roles throughout the year. Their contribution has added to the

tireless work of the more established members, Keith Truman, Peter North and Jenny Collier. Collectively, these members do a lot behind the scenes and needed to meet only once throughout the year as most the minor issues were solved by email.

All the committee worked hard to make the year run smoothly and Bob Dennis was thanked for his contribution to keeping the essential hardware in good repair and for his role in choosing images for external competitions.

The Melbourn Trophy (MT) went smoothly and the new format was easier to set up and organise especially by having the print portfolios exhibited in the main hall.

The observation that some MT competing clubs used the same images for both their PDI entries and their print portfolio has been resolved by amending the rules to disallow this in any future MT. We have lost one MT competing club, Hitchin, but have gained Bishops Stortford.

The 2017 MT final was won by Stevenage who also won the Print Portfolio Competition on the night. It was felt that the 2017 MT started too early and, accordingly, it will commence at 19.30 in future with doors opening at 18.00 for the prints to displayed.

David thanked the membership for all the support and friendship he had received during a particularly difficult year for him personally.

## 5. Vice Chairman's Report - Keith Truman

As Vice Chairman, and on behalf of all members, Keith thanked David for his leadership over what has been a tremendously difficult year for him

### 1) Internal Competitions

- The number of submissions to PDI competitions has dropped compared to last year even though the number of members and the average attendance at meetings is very similar. Keith explained this would be a worrying trend if it continued and asked if this is something we are comfortable with or are there steps we could take to increase the level of participation? Bottom line on all competitions is that on average only 50% of members enter competitions.

PDIs	2015 - 2016		2016 – 2017	
	Members submitting images	Images submitted	Members submitting images	Images submitted
1 <sup>st</sup> Open	31	88	23	66
2 <sup>nd</sup> Open	29	81	30	89
3 <sup>rd</sup> Open	30	90	22	64
Average	30	86	25	73

There then followed a good debate with members making suggestions and comments:

- More discipline from members to ensure they prepared images early enough (bringing forward submission dates was discussed and rejected)
- More reminders and a count-down to submissions to be given (David Stocks to action) (Prog to include reminders of submission dates Keith/Pete to action))
- Themed competitions debated and rejected
- Summer Programme and Pairs competition both help members to have greater numbers of competition entries
- More experienced members could be asked to help with short-listing

Using the self-judged competition of the Season as a group critique evening felt to be a good idea (Keith will action).

In general, the numbers of members submitting Prints into Open competitions has remained consistent with last year.

Prints	2015 - 2016		2016 – 2017	
	Members submitting images	Images submitted	Members submitting images	Images submitted
1 <sup>st</sup> Open	24	61	23	65
2 <sup>nd</sup> Open	21	60	24	67
3 <sup>rd</sup> Open	22	61	18	49
Average	22	61	22	60

## 2) External Competitions

### Summary of Battle Results

vs Royston	Melbourn = 435, Royston = 404
3 Counties Cup	Saffron Walden = 333, Melbourn = 332, Letchworth = 290
vs Gamlingay	Melbourn = 453, Gamlingay = 429
vs Bottisham & Burwell vs Ely	Melbourn = 321, Bottisham & Burwell = 315, Ely = 306

Our Inter-Club results certainly show a year of improvement and good results.

## How we did in External Comps (Cambridge Digital, EAF prints)

### a) Cambridge Digital:

2017           Melbourn; 84 points; finished in 24<sup>th</sup> place

2016           Melbourn; 82 points, finished in 23<sup>rd</sup> place

### b) EAF Print:

Melbourn finished in 11<sup>th</sup> Place with a score of 162. 1 more point and we would have been in Round 2!

[In 2016, we scored 154 and finished in 14<sup>th</sup> place]

## **3) Summary of Judges Feedback**

Feedback on Judges has previously been circulated to members. There is no doubt about the usefulness of the Surveys which give all members a voice in assessing the judges we have. This voice enables us to then attempt to secure the services of the very best judges and in turn, not invite judges back to the Club if members deem them to have performed poorly.

This year, 3 judges were felt to not have judged as well as we would have liked and none of those 3 have been invited back to judge 2017 – 2018 competitions. Members should be aware that booking Judges in the western side of the EAF region is becoming more and more difficult with a number of good judges we have used in the past retiring. However, by starting the 2017-2018 Programme build before the end of 2016, we have managed to confirm many of the very best judges and also book a few new judges for next Season.

## **4) This years' Programme**

Apart from the competitions, we had a varied mix of talks and Club Nights. During the year we had 6 talks with the highlights being the talks by Jayne Odell, Ann Miles and Liz and Barrie Hatten, Sarah Kelman and Tom Way.

## **5) Look forward to next years' programme**

The programme for next year has been finalised with the Season starting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and ending on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (although there will be a Battle with Royston on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018).

Competition format will follow the lines of previous years.

The following Lectures have been booked:

- i)     Looking Local                   Chris Shepherd

Deals with the problem most of us have in that we can't see what is right on our doorstep and always wish for something else. It covers landscapes, some wildlife and many people have found it inspires them to look at their photography again.

ii) Wildlife Photography Sarah Kelman

Sarah will describe the easy and the hard way to do wildlife photography

iii) Monochrome my Way Ann Miles

An exploration of the different moods that we can create using the monochrome medium. From stark barren snow scenes to dark threatening skies in landscapes and seascapes. From detailed architectural studies to soft artistic renderings.

iv) New Horizons Naomi Saul

Some of Naomi's work from the past 3 years

v) The Beautiful Light Jane Goodall

vi) Images of Iceland Colin Westgate

We have home Inter-Clubs booked with a) Bottisham and Ely (3-way), b) Gamlingay and we are away to c) 3 Counties Cup and d) Royston. We are also at home to Ware in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the Melbourn Trophy in November. The intention is that we will enter once again the Cambridge Digital and the EAF print Championships.

For 2017 – 2018, the Committee wondered whether we should change the format of "And now for something different" evening. Whilst those members who attended the evening seemed to thoroughly enjoy it, only 13 members submitted images. The intent of this evening is that members learn and practise new Photoshop skills so does the low rate of submission suggest members would like this particular evening to be used for something else? (a) some sort of "processing challenge" or (b) a self-judged competition using images older than 5 years have been suggested. How do members wish to use this evening?

There then followed a good debate and it was felt we should retain the competition but out of the 6 test images which members need to manipulate, 3 of the images should be reserved for "serious" editing approaches and not the more usual "fun approach". What we can then do during the evening is to have members discuss HOW they manipulated some of the more highly-regarded images. (Keith will action).

## **6. Treasurer's Report - Jenny Collier**

Jenny reminded the membership that, because financial year is now the end of June, this is an interim report prior to the preparation of the final accounts. Jenny pre-circulated copies of her accounts synopsis and this is reproduced in full below.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2016-17</b>		<b>2015-16</b>
Yearly Membership	£972.00		£1,070.00
Weekly subs	£888.00		£923.00
Visitors	£62.00		£47.00
Melbourn Trophy Income	£253.00		
Mountboard	£328.00		£304.00
Donation			£180.00
Misc	£0.05	found on the floor!	£10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,503.05</b>		<b>£2,534.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Hall Hire	£395.90	April bill still to come (£46.50)	£418.50
Lecturers	£432.00		£163.00
Judges	£395.00	Excluding Melbourn Trophy judge	£264.00
EAF membership	£178.06		£184.31
Equipment			£313.40
Competition fees	£20.00		£20.00
Sundries	£191.30		£211.40
Refreshments	£82.67	Still some to add in	£147.31
Mount Board	£480.94		£380.16
PAT Test at Hall	£1.32		
Melbourn Trophy Expenditure	£162.19	Includes £70 on judge	£50.00
Website	£87.03	£4.99 to add for June	£44.91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,426.41</b>		<b>£2,196.99</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£76.64</b>		<b>£337.01</b>
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	<b>£2,622.38</b>		<b>£2,285.87</b>
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	<b>£2,699.02</b>		<b>£2,622.88</b>
<b>BANK BALANCES</b>			
Barclays	<b>£2,570.87</b>		<b>£2,622.38</b>
Cash	£128.15		
Unpresented			
Creditors			
Debtor			
Unbanked			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,699.02</b>		<b>£2,622.38</b>

Membership	55.00	57.00
Attendance	33 or 53%	36 or 56%

**Creditors**

**TOTAL**

**Unbanked cheques**

**TOTAL**

<b>Board Stock</b>	£117.00	
Price per Board		
Value	£117.00	£31.00

Bruce Huett has once again kindly agreed to examine the accounts when the financial year has ended. Jenny expects to send final accounts to members in July, but this may be delayed by Bruce's travel plans. When the final figures are available, it looks as if we will have made a very small loss this year as there are still a few more bills to pay.

Membership has fallen slightly over the year and although we have been pleased to welcome several new members, others have not renewed for various reasons. Despite this, attendance at meetings has been good and we have had a greater number of visitors this year, so the amount collected in weekly subs has not fallen significantly.

The Committee proposed that membership fees for next year will remain the same. It was agreed that potential members visiting the club for the first time, to see if it met their expectations, would not be charged entry for their first visit but the charge for subsequent visits and other occasional visitors will remain at £2 per meeting. It was agreed that this should apply until they become full members.

The cost of the hall had increased this year and the amount spent on lecturers and judges had also risen. This is largely due to a few professional speakers who charge more for their services, as many of our judges and some lecturers are volunteers who only charge for expenses. The committee had asked Jenny to list the costs for lecturers and judges separately, which she has done, and she has also separated those figures for last year on the summary sheet.

There has been no expenditure on equipment this year, but it is proposed that money is spent on a new light box for print competitions before the start of the new season.

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

Once again, we have spent more on Mountboard this year but have also sold more, although the number of entries to print competitions remains in line with last year. The income & expenditure in this area will never balance as each board costs 15p more than we sell it for and we do not charge for board for the panel prints. We currently have 117 boards in hand.

The Melbourn Trophy took place again this year, and swelled Club funds by £90.81. All income and expenditure for this competition has been noted separately to get a clear & full picture of the financial position. We are very grateful for the cakes and raffle prizes donated by members without which it would be difficult to make a profit.

The bank balance currently stands at £2570.87 with £128.15 cash in hand, and while this may seem like a large amount, we need to keep a reserve in case of any major equipment failure. Jenny invited any thoughts about useful equipment that we could purchase.

The Building Society account was closed just before the end of the last financial year and the £1.27 that was in it was included in last year's final accounting.

Jenny's accounts were accepted by the membership unanimously.

## **7. Secretary / Webmaster's Report - Peter North**

### **Website**

Peter reported that there had been no repetition of the malware attacks on the club website that had occurred during the 2015-16 season. The previous malware attacks were mainly re-directions to other sites which increase their perceived popularity in search engine results.

The installation of anti-malware software (Wordfence) and the autonomy gained by migrating our site to a new domain managed solely via club resources, has been instrumental in improving our security.

Interestingly, Wordfence consistently logs several failed 'brute-force' hacking attempts on a daily basis thus emphasising the need for effective defences.

Peter reminded members that they can have a personal gallery on the website as a repository for their best / favourite images. Any high-scoring open competition images would be automatically added to the personal galleries by Peter.

## **Secretary Role**

As agreed at the last AGM, Peter has now undertaken the writing of all village newsletters throughout the season and has designed, printed and mounted the new-style award certificates (to replace the labour-intensive mounted awards) given to all of this season's award winners.

## **8. Projectionist's Report – David Stocks**

David acknowledged that it was daunting taking this role over from Keith with a new software tool to learn having its own set of quirks, and the associated processes needed to prepare for the many competition / club evenings that need a projectionist.

### **Submissions**

David thanked the membership for working to the earlier submission deadline of Saturday night. It seems to have worked with just a couple of late entries at the start.

Most people are now getting images sized and named correctly although David was surprised at how many people were having issues emailing images to him. Mac users seemed to have an extra layer of difficulty thanks to additional obstacles put in by Apple – most are now getting around this.

Dropbox brought in the new file collection feature which seems to have worked quite well while making it easier easy for him.

### **Projected competitions were as follows:**

- Open competitions x 3
- Points of View
- Village Challenge
- Pairs
- Projected Image of Year

David wondered if PDI titles should continue to be announced or be shown on the screen. It was agreed these should be announced to avoid an additional level of complexity.

### **Inter-Club battles were as follows:**

- Melbourn Trophy 1<sup>st</sup> Round and Final
- Three Counties Cup
- Royston

## **Projector calibration**

David commented that some may have noticed difficulty with projector calibration on the Melbourn Trophy first round, and on other nights where some low-key images might have lacked shadow detail. By the Melbourn Trophy final this had finally been resolved and images are looking a better now.

## **Club nights were as follows:**

- Self-judged night
- Club evening 27<sup>th</sup> Sept: sizing projected images
- Club evening 24<sup>th</sup> Jan: bring your laptop night – printing images and compositing
- Portrait session
- And now for something completely different

David invited feedback from members and it was agreed that the 'Bring your laptop night' was particularly successful. It was also agreed that, rather than being reactive as club evenings approach, it might be worthwhile getting suggestions from members and defining the club night sessions at the beginning of the season.

## **Deputy**

David thanked Ian Tulloch for deputising for him recently but suggested that he should have a fully trained, formal deputy so we have more flexibility in David's absence.

## **9. Summer Programme / Pairs Trophy – Roger Care**

Roger noted that the season's Summer programme was diverse and well attended and had produced a good source of images for the open competitions, many of which were subsequently high scoring.

There was general agreement that the programme was also a good source of informal, social interaction for members and that organisation was good and weekday participation generally acceptable.

Following Roger's request for ideas for next season's summer programme, it was encouraging that there had been 10 suggestions. However, although Roger will coordinate the overall programme, each event will need a dedicated sponsor on the day.

There was a suggestion that Shepreth Wildlife Park after hours might be another possibility and this was generally well received.

It was also suggested that that additional villages be considered for next season's Village Challenge provided the evening ended in a good local pub!

The Pairs Trophy has now been running for 2 years and is generally regarded as enjoyable while providing the motivation to go out and take photos. Although 23

members have expressed an interest to participate next season, it was noted that, of the 32 members showing an interest last year, 5 pairs (10 members) did not participate. There could be several reasons for this and the profile will be raised next season with some additional mentoring available for those who need it.

## **10. Awards Presentation - David Gray**

David Gray presented the annual awards as follows:

### **Chairman's Trophy (highest cumulative competition score)**

1st	Keith Truman	(321)
2nd	Peter North	(319)
3rd	Barbara Stanley	(317)

### **Ken Clifford Trophy (highest cumulative score for projected Images)**

1st	Peter North	(163)
2nd	Barbara Stanley	(160)
Joint 3rd	Keith Truman	(159)
Joint 3rd	Ian Tulloch	(159)

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

1st	Keith Truman	(162)
2nd	Barbara Stanley	(157)
Joint 3rd	Peter North	(156)
Joint 3rd	Sam Buchanan	(156)

### **Pairs Trophy (cumulative score)**

- 1st Peter North & Val Moules (73)
- 2nd Anne Truman & Barbara Stanley (71)
- 3rd Jenny Collier & David Gray (70)

### **Projected Image of the Year**

- 1st Barbara Stanley for 'Stampede'
- 2nd Paul Ravenscroft for 'Wet Night at Weybourne'
- 3rd Peter North for 'Breaking Cloud'

### **Print of the Year**

- 1st Mike James for 'Worn Defence'
- 2nd Barbara Stanley for 'Stand Off'
- 3rd Graham Martin for 'If you want to get ahead get a hat'

### **Points of View**

Winner Jo Norcross

### **Panel Print Competition**

- 1st Keith Truman for 'Autumn Fruits'
- 2nd Bob Dennis for 'Up, Up and Away'
- 3rd Andre Neves for 'Turning Leaf'

### **Rookie of the Year**

Winner Bern Lanzrein

## **11. Election of Officers - All**

The following Officers were elected by a unanimous vote by members.

Chair	David Gray
Vice Chair / Competition Secretary	Keith Truman
Treasurer	Jenny Collier
Secretary / Webmaster	Peter North
Projectionist	David Stocks
Committee Member	Ian Tulloch
Committee Member	Roger Care

## **14. Date of Next Formal Club Meeting**

Tue 12 Sept 2017 (the season will end on 17 Apr 2018).

## **15. AOB**

Pat Rowley kindly thanked the committee for their commitment and enthusiasm in support of the club.

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**Peter North**

**Club Secretary / Webmaster**

**23 April 2017**