

# Melbourn & District Photographic Club

## Minutes of the Club AGM held

**Tue 17 April 2018**

**Members Present:** Steve Anker, Pam Aynsley, Ian Aynsley, Gary Baker, Sarah Blackaby, Andy Brooks, Karen Butler-Clark, Ron Byfield, Gerald Cranwell, Bob Dennis, Phil Dent, John Ellis, Lauren Gray-Stevens, David Harper, Penny Harper, Ray Hewett, Mo Hunt, Mike James, Ian Jeffries, Bernhard Lanzrein, Paul Lidbetter, Trevor Marcuson, Graham Martin, Eve Maythorne, Andre Neves, Paul Ravenscroft, David Reynolds, Pat Rowley, Bob Smith, Robin Southgate, Barbara Stanley, Malcolm Taylor, Anne Truman

**Committee present:** David Gray (Chair), Keith Truman (Vice Chair & Prog / Competition Secretary), Jenny Collier (Treasurer), Peter North (Secretary / Webmaster), Ian Tulloch (Summer Prog / Pairs Trophy), Roger Care (Summer Prog / Pairs Trophy).

**Guests Present:** Dave Cole, Lynne Cole, Richard Stubbs

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

Rosemary Burt, Mark Howard, Lee Isted, Stan Keen, Alan Linsdell, Val Moules, Raj Munglani, Jo Norcross, David Stocks (Projectionist), Keith Taylor.

### **2. Adoption of Minutes of AGM held 18 April 2017**

The minutes were unanimously carried without change nor comment.

### **3. Matters Arising from the 2017 AGM – None**

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

David welcomed all present and thanked the membership for helping to make this a very successful year.

The Club continues to be praised by Judges and Lecturers for its friendly and positive attitude and the for the increasingly high standard of the competition images.

The Committee met just twice during the season as many issues were resolved by email. David Stocks, Ian Tulloch and Roger Care added to the tireless work of Keith Truman, Peter North and Jenny Collier.

David thanked David Stocks and Bob Dennis for the improvements to the print box which now renders the correct colour and much less shadow over the print. The persistent slight shadow will be resolved before the next season.

The Melbourn Trophy went very smoothly despite inclement weather, and thanks go to the Judge, Daphne Hanson, who stepped in to replace Richard Walton who, tragically, has since passed away.

Melbourn won, for the second time since 1975, by 1 point ahead of Cambridge New members group. Swavesley won the best Print Portfolio and Best Print competitions.

David thanked Pam Aynsley, for running the coffee and organising the members for cakes and help throughout the year. He also thanked the membership for all for their support over the year in helping to prepare and clear the meeting room, helping with serving coffee and making cakes.

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

As Vice Chairman, and on behalf of all members, Keith thanked David for his leadership over the Season.

### Internal Competitions

Keith said the number of submissions to PDI competitions had increased slightly compared to last year although it's still below the numbers of submissions and members submitting images we had 2 years ago. This comes against a backdrop of more new members this year (who have been submitting images to competitions) and more established members submitting fewer or no images. Bottom line on all competitions is that on average only 50% of members enter competitions.

PDIs	2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018	
	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted
1 <sup>st</sup> Open	31	88	23	66	26	76
2 <sup>nd</sup> Open	29	81	30	89	29	85
3 <sup>rd</sup> Open	30	90	22	64	27	78
Average	30	86	25	73	27	80

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

Prints	2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018	
	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted
1 <sup>st</sup> Open	24	61	23	65	24	67
2 <sup>nd</sup> Open	21	60	24	67	20	56
3 <sup>rd</sup> Open	22	61	18	49	19	56
Average	22	61	22	60	21	60

However, 4 or 5 of the members submitting prints this year are new members to the Club so for numbers to have remained consistent implied there are a number of established members of the Club who had in previous years been submitting prints but haven't this year.

Having discussed these figures, Keith said the Committee felt we are receiving enough entries of a good quality to enable us to go from strength to strength and if some members just enjoy coming to Club without submitting images to Competitions, then that's just fine.

Members discussed this and overwhelmingly agreed that the Club fulfilled 2 functions. Primarily of course we are a camera club and so having a strong enough submission to competitions was important. Secondly though, some members are very happy joining in with the social aspects of the Club and for them, that was completely sufficient. The conclusion then was we are absolutely fine as we are and we should not be concerned at all that only 50% of members tend to submit images for judging.

## External Competitions

Summary of Battle Results:

Melbourn vs Royston (result post AGM)	Melbourn = 450 Royston = 424
3 Counties Cup	Melbourn = 323 Saffron Walden = 316 Letchworth = 307
Melbourn vs Gamlingay	Melbourn = 449 Gamlingay = 422
Melbourn vs Bottisham vs Ely	Melbourn = 316 B&B = 310 Ely = 305

Keith said that our Inter-Club results certainly showed yet another year of great improvement and good results - we won all 4 Inter-Club competitions. Melbourn undoubtedly has now much greater strength in depth.

A high point was also Melbourn Winning the Melbourn Trophy, a feat not achieved since 1975 with Melbourn beating Ware in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round and Swavesey, Cambridge and Biggleswade in the Final.

### **External Comps (Cambridge Digital, EAF prints)**

a) Cambridge Digital:

2018 Melbourn 83 points, finished in 25<sup>th</sup> place

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 6<sup>th</sup> place, our highest ever finish with one of Pete's entries winning one of the judges choice awards.

[In 2017, we scored 162 and finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place]

### **Summary of Judges Feedback**

Keith had previously submitted feedback on judges to members. He explained that there is no doubt about the usefulness of the Surveys which give all members a voice in assessing the judges we have. That voice enabled us to then attempt to secure the services of the very best judges and in turn, not invite back the poorer ranking judges.

Competition	% of members who would have judge back
1 <sup>st</sup> Open Projected	100
1 <sup>st</sup> Open Print	100
2nd Open Projected	100
2nd Open Print	64
3rd Open Projected	96
3 <sup>rd</sup> Open Print	100
Panel Print	62
Pairs	92
Print of the Year	100
Projected of the Year	100
1 <sup>st</sup> Round Melbourn Trophy	55
Bottisham and Ely Battle	100
Gamlingay Battle	100

Relating to whether members would invite judges back to the Club, 3 judges were rated less than 70%. As it happens, none of these 3 judges will be judging in the 2018-2019 Programme.

### **This years' Programme**

Keith explained that apart from the competitions, we had a varied mix of talks and Club Nights. Club Nights this year had been much better organised by the Committee with a survey having been conducted by David Stocks to find out what members wanted and then some 6 Club Nights planned by the Committee before the season even began. We'll aim to do the same this year.

The 6 Lectures as ever covered a broad range of topics.

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

The programme for next year has been finalised by Keith with the Season starting on 11th September 2018 and ending on 16th April 2019.

Competition format will follow the lines of previous years.

The following Lectures have been booked:

#### i) Lessons Learnt - Justin Minns

Justin is a professional landscape photographer, author and workshop leader. He specialises in atmospheric images that capture the natural beauty of the landscape, particularly near his home in East Anglia

#### ii) New Horizons - Naomi Saul - Some of Naomi's work from the past 3 years

#### iii) Tom Way - Fine Art wildlife photography

#### iv) My Special Places by Colin Westgate

#### v) Ann Miles - Creative Techniques with Camera and Software (Digital Photoart)

#### vi) India North and South - Dave & Lynne Cole

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

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

Jenny circulated a copy of her interim accounts to every member (see below).

## Interim Club Accounts

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2017-18</b>		<b>2016-17</b>
Yearly Membership	£1,060.00		£972.00
Weekly subs	£979.00		£888.00
Visitors	£71.00		£62.00
Melbourn Trophy Income	£201.50	£181.50 plus £20 cash to pay judge	£253.00
Mountboard	£355.50		£328.00
Misc.	£400.00	for Shepreth Evening	£0.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,067.00</b>		<b>£2,503.05</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Hall Hire	£421.20	£48.60 still to pay	£444.50
Lecturers	£288.00		£432.00
Judges	£379.00		£395.00
EAF membership	£184.51		£178.06
Equipment	£74.95		
Competition fees	£20.00		£20.00
Sundries	£564.13	£400 to Shepreth; £19.65 wine for Shepreth Keepers; £99 competition tickets; £45.48 mounts for awards	£229.70
Refreshments	£61.79		£97.10
Mount Board	£481.34		£480.94
PAT Test at Hall			£1.32
Melbourn Trophy Expenditure	£69.50	£49.50 for hall; £20 paid in cash to judge	£147.76
Website	£81.85		£87.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,626.27</b>		<b>£2,513.41</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£440.73</b>		<b>-£10.36</b>
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	<b>£2,612.02</b>		<b>£2,622.38</b>
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	<b>£3,052.75</b>		<b>£2,612.02</b>
<b>BANK BALANCES</b>			
Barclays	£2,900.54		<b>£2,612.02</b>
Cash	£152.21		
Unpresented			
Creditors			
Debtor			
Unbanked			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,052.75</b>		<b>£2,612.02</b>
Attendance	35 or 55%		33 or 53%
<b>Board Stock / Value</b>			£117.00

Jenny explained that this is an interim report prior to the preparation of the final accounts. Our financial year was moved to the end of June two years ago which has made it much easier to prepare accurate final accounts. However, having used this timing for the last two years, Jenny proposed that the end of the financial year be moved to the end of May. This would give sufficient time for all final bills to be included but would enable the accounts to be finalised before the travelling season begins. This proposal was seconded (David Gray) and unanimously approved by the membership

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 late June / early July.

Once the final figures are in it looks as if we will have made a profit of about £400 this year as there are still a few more bills to pay. The bank balance currently stands at £2900.54 with £152.21 cash in hand, and while this may seem like a large amount, we have been keeping a reserve in case of any major equipment failure. Our laptop and projector both need updating, as do our versions of Lightroom and Photoshop. Consequently, it is proposed that we spend up to £2000 on updating our equipment before the new season.

Membership has steadily increased over the year and currently stands at 63, giving us almost £100 extra income. Attendance at meetings has been good and the amount collected in weekly subs has also increased by a similar amount.

The Committee proposes that membership fees for next year will remain the same. This will be reviewed in 2019 following our proposed expenditure. The charge for visitors will also remain the same at £2 per meeting. Prospective members are given one free week, after which they pay the visitors admission until they become full members. Full membership must be paid to take part in competitions.

The age at which members can pay the Senior rate has been complicated by the adjustments to State Pensionable age which has been rising for women over the last few years. To simplify things, it was proposed that from next season, all members joining after their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday should pay the Senior rate, and this should continue despite further changes to State Pensionable age. This proposal was seconded (David Gray) and unanimously approved by the membership.

The cost of the hall has increased this year. The amount spent on lecturers has fallen considerably, and the amount spent on judges has fallen slightly. There are several reasons for this including early booking of good local judges.

Expenditure on equipment was lower than expected as the old lightbox was upgraded rather than replaced and a PC cleaning programme was used to improve the performance of the laptop.

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 for each competition.

We have spent almost the same amount on Mountboard this year, but we have sold a few more, although the number of entries to print competitions is similar to 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 167 boards in hand.

The Melbourn Trophy took place again this year, and swelled Club funds by £132. 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.

Financially it has been a good year for the Club and we will move into the new season in a healthy position.

Jenny finished by thanking Barbara Stanley for deputising for her on occasions throughout the year.

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

### **Membership Statistics**

Peter reported that we had the largest number (14) of new members join throughout 2017 since records were taken in 2014. Additionally, we have already had 3 new members in 2018 with more expected at the start of the new season in the Sep – Dec period. We have had some leavers, significantly some in mid-career where family and career compete for valuable time. Of the 2017 intake, new members self-defined, albeit subjectively, as:

- Beginners x6
- Intermediate x5
- Experienced x1
- Undefined x2

To understand more fully the motivations, expectations and level of expertise of new members it is proposed to ask them more specific questions when joining e.g.:

- How they heard about us
- If new to Club photography
- If new to photography using camera other than smart-phone
- If new to image editing
- If re-kindling hobby after a break
- What they hope to achieve after 2 years with the Club

## **Attendance stats**

- The Club currently has 63 registered members
- The average weekly attendance is 35 members (range 22-42) or 55% of membership
- The highest attendance was PDI of year and the 2018 AGM with 42 attending
- The lowest was the Melbourn Trophy 1st round vs Ware with 22 attending
- All open competitions have attracted a consistently high attendance of 35-42
- The range of a single individual's attendance is very broad between 1 in 28 meetings to 27 in 28 meetings with an average of 16 in 28 meetings.

## **Publicity**

This is the first full season in which 4 local village publications have been sent regular and consistent material from the Secretary. They are currently:

- Meldreth Matters
- Fowlmere & Thriplow News
- Foxton Laurentian
- Sawston Scene

These publications publish monthly or bi-monthly. Every month each is sent the Club's programme for the upcoming 2 months, a brief description of events covered and a colour and mono member's image from a recent open competition. The Editor is then free to publish for two months or edit down for just one month.

## **Website Stats**

- The Website is quite large for a 'Hobby Club' with 67 discrete pages
- It has 951 images in 75 galleries
- It has 20 dedicated member galleries (ca 30% of membership)
- It has been free of malware for the third consecutive year
- Peter has restructured the galleries to minimise loading time
- The typical loading time is 1-2 sec / page and 2-4 sec for a 90-image gallery using a 70Mbps internet connection (fibre to box / wire to house)
- Loading times will be monitored – image resolution may need to be decreased and some archive galleries deleted if a problem arises
- Cost of Webhosting / domain name is £80-85pa

## **8. Projectionist's Report – David Stocks (presented by DG in DS's absence)**

This is the second year of David's role as projectionist and he thanked Ian and Roger for deputising when he was unable to attend.

### **PDI Submissions**

- Submissions have mostly been painless and within the deadline.
- There have been very few issues with wrong image sizes or image naming.
- There have been fewer problems regarding the emailing of images as attachments.
- Most submissions do not have the author & title embedded in the metadata and David thanked those members who do this in advance.

### **PDI Competitions**

We had 7 internal club projected competitions, the same set as last year:

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

### **Inter-Club Competitions**

This year, other than the Melbourn Trophy 1<sup>st</sup> Round and the Final, we have only hosted one projected competition, which was with Gamlingay.

### **Club Nights**

We held five club evenings. This year we identified the club evening topics and owners near the start of the season, which we tried to model around the feedback we had collected from club members over the summer. This worked well to give a greater richness to the club evenings this year:

- Group Critique evening (second night of the season)
- How interesting images were taken and processed
- Panoramas and focus stacking – the introduction
- Practical camera challenges
- Panoramas and focus stacking – the lessons learned
- And now for something completely different, and serious

David will send out another survey and we will arrange a committee meeting in the summer to plan the club nights for next season.

## **Projector & Laptop**

We have not changed the projector calibration this year as it has looked good.

The club projector was used for a couple of the visiting lectures and for our own club nights using other laptops. These laptops had not been calibrated with the projector and the brightness may have been inaccurate.

Although the club laptop is getting old, David thanked Keith for doing a clean-up which has kept it usable for the season.

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

### **Summer Events 2017**

We try to organise around 12 events for each summer and in 2017 we were able to stage 9, including the Village Challenge. There were additionally a couple of suggested ideas for Members to follow up on their own.

Attendance was varied for each event, but again, the significant number of images that found their way into club competitions (and were again well received in many cases) is testimony to the value members get from them.

So far, we have 15 suggestions for this year, which is an improvement on the number at this stage last year. With the possibility that not all of these will come to fruition, we still need more sponsors so please continue to let me have your ideas.

Remember, without volunteers to sponsor events, there will be no summer season.

### **Pairs Cup 2017-18**

Although the number of participating pairs was down from 16 to 15 in 2018, raising the profile and providing a little more focus at our regular Tuesday sessions resulted in all the 15 pairings submitting images as opposed to only 11 in 2017.

Members have already asked about the competition in 2019 and requests for participants will be sent out in the coming days with a closure date of 4 May, after which, providing there is once again an enthusiastic response, the draw will be made in early May.

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

David Gray presented the annual awards as follows:

### **Chairman's Trophy (highest overall competition score / average score)**

1st	Peter North	(336 / 18.7)
2nd	Ian Tulloch	(321 / 17.8)
3rd	Keith Truman	(315 / 17.5)

### **Ken Clifford Trophy (PDI - highest cumulative score / average score)**

1st	Ian Tulloch	(171 / 19)
2nd	Peter North	(165 / 18.3)
3rd	Keith Truman	(159 / 17.7)

### **J&J Cox Trophy (Print - highest cumulative score / average score)**

1st	Peter North	(171 / 19)
2nd	Keith Truman	(156 / 17.3)
Joint 3rd	Roger Care	(154 / 17.1)
Joint 3rd	Bob Dennis	(154 / 17.1)

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

1st	Ray Hewett for 'Cheetah Cubs Playing'
2nd	Peter North for 'Shadows on the Walkway'
3rd	Raj Munglani for 'Crocus on Black'

### **Print of the Year**

1st	Peter North for 'Winter Dusk'
2nd	Ian Jeffries for 'Moth Catcher'
3rd	Alan Linsdell for 'Gannets'

### **Points of View**

Winner        Keith Truman

### **Panel Print Competition**

1st	Ian Jeffries for 'In the Shadows'
Joint 2nd	Roger Care for 'Copse of Trees'
Joint 2nd	Penny Harper for 'Wall Art'

## **Pairs Trophy**

1st Graham Martin & Ian Tulloch  
2nd Karen Butler-Clark & David Stocks  
3rd Bob Dennis & Bern Lanzrein

## **Rookie of the Year**

Winner Graham Martin

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

The following Officers were re-elected after a unanimous vote by members.

Chair	David Gray
Vice Chair & Competition / Prog Secretary	Keith Truman
Treasurer	Jenny Collier
Secretary / Webmaster	Peter North
Projectionist	David Stocks
Summer Prog / Pairs Trophy	Ian Tulloch
Summer Prog / Pairs Trophy	Roger Care

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

Tue 11 Sept 2018.

## **15. AOB**

Following a discussion at a previous Committee meeting, Keith raised the idea of introducing mentoring within the Club membership. Keith subsequently emailed the membership, post meeting, explaining the scope of the proposal and inviting volunteers to be mentors and mentees.

Peter ask for, and obtained, membership approval to modify the Club's constitution to encompass upcoming changes to data-protection legislation.

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

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**Peter North**

**Club Secretary / Webmaster**

**18 April 2018**