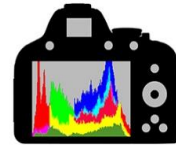


Melbourn and District Photographic Club



*Melbourn & District
Photographic
Club*

Minutes of the Club AGM 2021

Held via Zoom Video Meeting

Tue 24 Aug 2021

Members Present: André Neves, Anne Truman, Bill Hamilton, Bob Smith, David Harper, Gary Baker, Ian Aynsley, John Ellis, Ken Crane, Paul Ravenscroft, Penny Harper, Phil Dent, Richard, Schramm, Rosemary Burt, Sam Buchanan, Tony Garrick

Committee present: Keith Truman (Chair & Competitions Secretary), David Gray (Vice Chair / Melbourn Trophy), Helen Unwin (Programme), Jenny Collier (Treasurer), Peter North (Secretary / Webmaster), David Stocks (Projectionist), Ian Tulloch (Mentoring), Roger Care (Summer Programme / Pairs Trophy), Pam Aynsley (New Members)

Apologies for absence: Debbie Saunders, Eve Maythorne, Ron Byfield, Pat Rowley, Alan Linsdell, David Brock, Nigel Northwood, Richard Stubbs.

Please Note: These minutes are intended to record the comments and discussion made at the meeting in response to the committee's pre-circulated AGM report. They do not include the content of that report.

Keith Truman – Chair

Keith commented that, despite the most challenging year to date, the club successfully completed everything it intended to do including all internal and external competitions and a full lecture programme. This was against a background of many other clubs running a minimal programme or folding completely due to lack of member engagement.

Keith observed that the standard of photography within the club continued to improve and noted that Paul Ravenscroft and André Neves were recent recipients of CPAGB and ARPS / Gold Medal awards respectively.

Keith thanked the membership and committee for supporting the club so well during the pandemic and there was a unanimous view from the membership that Keith had demonstrated outstanding leadership and direction during a very challenging period.

David Gray – Vice Chair & Melbourn Trophy

David added his thanks to Keith and the committee before updating the membership on the current status of Wi-Fi installation at Foxton Village Hall.

Despite the Hall's management being initially cool to the idea, the decision was escalated to the Parish Council who have now agreed to the installation pending further inquiries into financing options and vendors. The current shortage of ICs and other electronic components may be an issue and it was noted that it was sometimes difficult to contact vendors to initiate installation. It was generally felt, however, that these issues were distractions and should not deflect us from our direction of travel.

Keith called on all members, who may be more vulnerable to the consequences of Covid, to send him a personalised statement so that these can be used to underline the case for Wi-Fi installation.

David observed that everything was now in place for the Melbourn Trophy 2022 include all 8 participating clubs, the competition draw, and a date / venue / judge for the final.

Keith Truman – Competitions

Keith reiterated that, not only did we have a full programme of internal / external competitions, but we did particularly well in the external events.

Alan Linsdell & Helen Unwin – Programme

Helen commented that, not only did we run a full programme last season, but the use of Zoom had considerably increased both the range and quality of external speakers. This benefit is considered so strong that the use of Zoom (Wi-Fi allowing) should continue even after all pandemic restrictions are eased.

Helen noted that we now have a full programme in place for the 2021–22 season with about 95% of the content now fixed and just a few club evening spaces to be filled (meeting pending).

It was noted that, when the club programme indicates that a meeting is a Zoom meeting, it is still the intention to hold this meeting in the Village Hall (Wi-Fi allowing) with the option of seeing the presentation as a group in the hall or optionally at home.

Keith fleshed out the nature of the first two club evenings. The first will consist of an exhibition of all last season's high-scoring prints (with background info from some of the authors) and the second, a critique evening of selected member's images using the same format as last season.

Jenny Collier – Finance & Accounts

Jenny noted that the club had donated a total of £350 to the EACH charity last season via fees waived by our guest speakers.

Although the club had a surplus of £360 at the end of the season, the prospect for the next season was less optimistic. This pessimism is based on the potential loss of revenue from the £1 'attendance fee' if fewer members attend live meetings because of pandemic health concerns.

There was considerable debate about the health hazards and bank-closure induced inconvenience around handling cash, although Jenny noted that this had been a convenient way of collecting the cash required for paying visiting judge's travel expenses.

The proposal for ending the attendance fee and recouping this deficit via an increased membership fee (easily paid via BACS) was discussed at length and there were several members in support of this move. There was recognition, however, that this could be unfair to those members that attend infrequently.

Peter North – Secretary / Webmaster

Peter noted that, despite the lack of face-to-face meetings in the hall last season, we had 9 enquiries about the club with 4 being converted to full membership. Interest in

the club remains strong with 66% of our current membership having joined the club over the last 4 seasons. In this respect, the monthly / bi-monthly local magazine advertising continues to be effective (at zero cost) in that 7 of the 9 original enquiries were via this medium.

The website continues to grow with over 1700 member images in 120 galleries. Many of these galleries are archives of past competition winners and it was agreed that these could now be pruned. The website may also need a major redesign because some of the original page theme coding is becoming incompatible with new releases of PHP, WordPress and its associated plugins.

David Stocks – Projectionist

David noted that the new online image submission system had been very successful with all members, after some initial help, now using the system seamlessly. David thanked the members for their patience and perseverance in using the system as it now automates many tasks that were previously done manually.

David predicted that when we return to the hall, the need to accommodate remote speakers / members via Zoom (via Wi-Fi) will mean additional technical challenges. Specifically, the speaker will need to be seen and heard by both the hall attendees and be streamed to those members attending remotely via Zoom.

It was agreed that none of these challenges were unsurmountable although there may be some trial-and-error tweaking at the start of the season.

Keith thanked David for his expertise around the hardware and software implementation over the season and, in particular, for the extra work needed to broadcast the print competitions in the absence of a physical print visible to members in the hall.

Roger Care – Summer Programme / Pairs Trophy

Roger observed that, like the formal programme, the summer programme had relied heavily on Zoom to connect the membership with a host of quality external speakers.

He also noted that, despite pandemic restrictions, there had still been 6 compliant external events and he thanked those members that had sponsored and organised them for the benefit of attendees.

Although the pandemic precluded the Pairs Trophy from running this season, all 10 interested pairs will be rolled over to the new season with 3 images being required per individual.

There was some debate about how it might be beneficial to fast-track new members into this particular competition as they would probably derive the most benefit, especially if they were new to (club) photography. Pam agreed to make newcomers aware of the competition and to explain what is entailed.

Pam Aynsley – New Members Induction

Pam reflected that it had been a very good year for new members, despite the pandemic, and that we were still seen as an attractive destination for those wishing to experience club photography.

She thanked all the new members that had joined, and those currently learning about the club. There was general recognition from the membership that, not only was the role of New Members Secretary invaluable, but also how Pam really did engage at both a professional and personal level to ease new members into a situation which many might find intimidating without her guidance.

Ian Tulloch – Mentoring

Ian commented that the membership currently has a lot of expertise across all aspects of image capture and post-processing and across all genres of photography. The opportunity to pass this expertise on to other members was available either as a long-term mentoring partnership or a one-off demonstration or anything in between.

During the next season, Ian will update the list of potential mentors and their skills sets as a means of making productive connections within the club.

Ian also reminded the membership of the club WhatsApp group that can offer advice and critique in a more spontaneous social media setting.

Keith Truman – Club Awards

These awards will be presented at an upcoming face-to-face meeting early in the season.

All – Election of Officers

The following Officers were re-elected after a majority vote by members:

Chair / Competitions Secretary

Keith Truman

Vice Chair / Melbourn Trophy	David Gray
Treasurer	Jenny Collier
Secretary / Webmaster	Peter North
Programme Secretaries	Alan Linsdell / Helen Unwin
Projectionist	David Stocks
Summer Prog / Pairs Trophy	Roger Care
Mentoring Coordinator	Ian Tulloch
New Members Secretary	Pam Aynsley

AOB

Keith announced that, after much discussion, Foxton Village Hall have issued the following protocol to all groups wishing to use the facility during the pandemic:

MELBOURN & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC COVID SAFETY IN FOXTON VILLAGE HALL

The Club appreciates that all of us will have differing views on meeting Face to Face at Foxton Village Hall or continuing to meet by Zoom. On balance and with appropriate controls in place, we believe we can create a safe environment for members in the Village Hall and the club intends to start Face to Face meetings again for the start of the new season on Tuesday 14th September.

To keep us safe, the following protocol will be in place:

- Members must not attend any meetings if they or anyone in their household or anyone else they have knowingly come into contact with has exhibited any Covid symptoms in the previous 48 hours
 - Any members developing Covid within 10 days of attending a meeting must notify Keith Truman
 - The Secretary will maintain a register of attendees at all meetings
- The number of attendees should not exceed 35 at any meeting in the Village Hall
- Hand sanitiser will be available by the entrance door and in each main room – members must sanitise their hands as they enter the premises and preferably also during the meeting

- On entering the Village Hall, all attendees must wear a face mask until they are seated (unless they are in an exempt category). Once seated, Members may *if they wish* remove their masks.
 - Masks should then be worn if Members get up to walk around the Hall
 - A one way system into and out of the hall will be in place
 - Wipes will be available to wipe down door handles, switches, window catches, toilet handles, basins and all surfaces likely to be touched during the meeting (including in the toilet) and before members arrive
 - Seats will be spaced out around the Hall to allow for Social Distancing.
 - The Fire Exit and all windows will be opened to provide maximum ventilation
 - Only 2 people can be in the Kitchen at any one time and in the kitchen, as a confined space, masks must be worn
 - Recyclable, disposable cups will be used for tea and coffee
 - Speakers should be more than 2m from the front row and speak sideways if possible, and should use a microphone
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There was much debate around the practical details of this protocol including the £1 attendance fee collection, refreshments dispensing, mask wearing and seat stacking.

There was a consensus view that the actual logistics of these activities will be worked-out within the first few meetings.

Date of Next Formal Club Meeting

The next season will start on 14 Sep 2021.

Peter North

Club Secretary / Webmaster

25 August 2021
