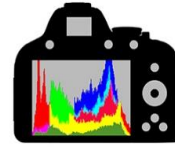


Melbourn and District Photographic Club



Melbourn & District
Photographic
Club

Pre-AGM Report August 2021

Matters Arising from 2019-20 AGM

WiFi at Foxton Village Hall – Following several discussions this is scheduled to be implemented in Sep 2021.

Chairman's Report – Keith Truman

Well. What a year! The Club has operated virtually on Zoom since March 2020 yet Keith feels we have done amazingly well at sticking together. So many achievements in such difficult circumstances:

- We completed almost all of our Club programme in both 2020 and 2021
- We have had some wonderful Club talks
- We have had great success in Inter-Club Competitions
- We managed to hold all of our Open Print Competitions – a feat not achieved by most camera clubs
- Attendances at our meetings has remained at high levels
- New relationships with Clubs all over the Country have been developed
- Summer Seasons of talks have been held in 2020 and in 2021
- The Club has made a £350 donation to the East Anglian Children's Hospice charity

But, the biggest achievement is that you, the Membership, stuck with it. What a great bunch of people you are! Hopefully we will be back in Foxton Hall before too long now with a great plan for the Season ahead.

Keith once again thanks the committee for their help over the year and for their contribution and support which has gone a long way towards the success of the Club. David's support generally has been invaluable, especially in organising the Melbourn Trophy. All of the Committee have their own jobs to do with Peter managing our web content and external publicity, Jenny doing a fab job on accounts, Alan pulling together the Programme and liaising and welcoming external guests, Roger managing the Pairs

Competition and Summer Program, Ian introducing and maintaining our mentoring programmes and Pam who has done an amazing job welcoming and supporting new Members during the Season. A special mention goes to David Stocks who has so expertly organised the Projected Image competitions and also supported the Print Competitions on Zoom – a job made much more difficult by Covid.

External recognition of members' work has continued this year with special mention of Andre's ARPS Award and his Gold Medal image achievement. Keith congratulates Paul Ravenscroft on achieving his CPAGB and Andre Neves on his ARPS AND Gold Medal. The standard of our images continues to improve and long may this be the case.

Keith concluded by thanking all involved with our Club. The spirit shown to keep our efforts going this year have been very special.

Vice Chairman's Report and Melbourn Trophy – David Gray

On behalf of the club, David gave grateful thanks to Keith for his continuing proactive response to keep the club's competitions going through the difficult times due the Covid19, using Zoom to its full potential with the involvement of judges from all over the country and involving many other clubs near & far away. One must not forget the most interesting talks we had. He was also instrumental in finding ways to keep the Print competition going.

David reported last year regarding the unexpected benefits the club found in the use of Zoom and that the Hall's management team were reluctant regarding the installation of Wi-Fi. This has changed probably due to Keith drumming up other clubs to support having Wi-Fi. after David had a discussion with Tessa Howell and he was told that the management team have the all the necessary specifications in place. However, due to the funding implications they have made it a joint project with the Foxton Parish Council, where progress stalled! The Parish council are waiting the quotes / costing from BT regarding the broadband.

The Chairman Keith having written a letter to the Parish Council had received a reply from the Foxton Parish Clerk indicating the hope that mid-September is achievable.

Melbourn Trophy Report

David reported on the 2020/2021 Melbourn Trophy. For various reasons The Cambridge critique group decided to pull out of the Trophy. We were pleased to except Royston back into the Melbourn Trophy.

Home		Away
Melbourn (418)	vs	Biggleswade (391)
Bishops Stortford (399)	vs	Swavesey (372)
Ware (440)	vs	Shillington (414)
Royston (386)	vs	Stevenage (391)

The first round was very close three of the matches were won by about 1 point per image and one match was very close by 0.2 points per image. Fortunately, the booked judge, Chrissie Hart, agreed to judge the final by Zoom. David thanked Chrissie for her excellent and perceptive judging and for being prepared to judge the images remotely.

The 2020-21 Melbourn Trophy was won by Ware

Ware (**214**), Stevenage (**206**), Bishops Stortford (**195**), Melbourn (**191**). Only 1.9 points per image top to last. The best overall image was won by Mark Sims, Ware, Passing Storm – Hayden Valley

The Trophy for this year is progressing with the Final being held on the 12th of March 2022 the Judge is Dave Stewart from Deeping camera club.

Competitions Secretary Report – Keith Truman

Internal Competitions

Keith said the number of submissions to PDI and Print competitions, both the numbers of images and the numbers of members submitting images had for understandable reasons dropped during this Season although the numbers of images and members submitting images was only around 20% down on previous years so considering the fact we weren't meeting, this was pretty good.

PDIs	2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021	
	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted
1 st Open	28	92	29	82	26	73
2 nd Open	29	82	32	88	25	62
3 rd Open	32	95	31	61 (89)	23	68
Average	30	86	31	86	25	68

Regarding print competitions:

Prints	2017-2018		2019-2020		2020-2021	
	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted
1 st Open	23	66	23	68	16	46
2 nd Open	19	57	25	74	20	56
3 rd Open	18	53	22	63	16	46
Average	20	59	23	68	17	49

Keith stressed that the quality of our work has been outstanding and continues to improve.

External Competitions

Keith said that our Inter-Club results certainly showed yet another year of great improvement and good results - we won all 3 local Inter-Club competitions. Melbourn continues to have much greater strength in depth, as remarked upon by many of the Judges who see our work.

Summary of Battle Results:

Melbourn vs Royston	Melbourn =	453
	Royston =	428
3 Counties Cup	Melbourn =	314
	Saffron Walden =	296
	Letchworth =	286
Melbourn vs Bottisham vs Ely	Melbourn =	310
	B&B =	286
	Ely =	302

This year in the Melbourn Trophy 1st Round we convincingly beat Biggleswade (418 vs 391) but were however equally convincingly beaten into 4th place in the Finals.

External Comps (Cambridge Digital, EAF prints)

This years' External Competitions were significantly impacted by Covid with the Cambridge Digital, the EAF Print, the EAF Projected Image all being cancelled.

Afan Nedd Cup

This is an 11-way Competition organised by Afan Nedd Club in South Wales and Melbourn won the competition with our 6 images scoring three 20s, one 19 and two 18s.

Programme Secretaries Report – Alan Linsdell & Helen Unwin

Due to the Covid pandemic the programme for the club year was completed over Zoom as virtual meetings.

The club followed a full programme of events covering –

- Lectures from guest speakers,
- Club and Inter-club competitions.
- Presentations by members.

The remote arrangement of using Zoom enabled the club to invite speakers and judges who the club would not 'normally' have access to. This provided a varied programme of lectures and different styles from judges who would not be able to attend the meetings at Foxton.

Looking forward to the next club year some lectures and digital competitions will continue to be held over Zoom.

During the course of the year the committee decided to stop post competition surveys of judges. This decision was taken as we had not circulated the responses of our surveys to our judges.

The club thanked all of the judges and speakers who waived their fee and gave their time to enable the club to make a donation of approx. £350 to the East Anglia Children's Hospice group (EACH).

This series of donations was initiated at the request of Maggie & Ron Tear, sadly Maggie died during the year. The club gave our condolences to Ron.

Of particular note, the club would like to thank the following members:

- Peter North for his presentation on photographic composition.
- David Stocks for his presentation on light & lighting. Also, for organising all of the digital content for the competitions held over Zoom.
- Keith Truman for organising & leading the critique events. Also, for hosting the virtual meetings over Zoom and to arrange additional lectures.
- Those members who took and collected the prints to our judges for the Print Competitions.

Helen Unwin has kindly offered to help to run the programme for the club.

Proposed 2021 - 22 Programme

The proposed programme is tabulated below. This may be modified / evolve before the season begins:

Date - Tuesday club nights	Date - Other events	Event/Lecture/Competition 2021 / 2022	Judge	On Site / On Zoom	Lecture
14/09/2021	Club evening	Welcome evening - 2 Members stories 30mins each- Prints Display			
21/09/2021	Club evening	Critique evening - Keith			
28/09/2021	Club evening				
05/10/2021	Club Comp 1 Print	1st Open Print Competition	Vic Hainsworth	OS	
12/10/2021	Lecture 1	Art & Photography (www.stormphotography.co.uk)		Zoom or OS	Tony Bramley
		Points of View photography - STREET - Keith			
19/10/2021	Club Comp 2 PDI	1st Open PDI Competition	Sue Dobson	Zoom	
26/10/2021	Lecture 2	Panels Evening - Andre Neves - ARPS/LRPS panels - PDI - Zoom or Foxton		OS	Andre Neves
02/11/2021	Club evening and Studio Photography - Steve - Alan				
09/11/2021	Lecture 3	Mono Processing - Lr-Ps-NIK		OS	Jonathan Vaines
11/11/2021	Thursday at Royston	Melb Trophy 1st round- Royston v Melbourn			
16/11/2021	Club evening	Points of View Judging by members / or alternative			
23/11/2021	Club Comp 3 Print	2nd Open Print Image Competition	David Steel	OS	
24/11/2021	Wednesday at Ely	Inter-Club Print-Bottisham & Burwell vs Melbourn vs Ely- 18 prints, max 4pp			
30/11/2021	Lecture 4 -	The OI Pejeta Conservancy - Kenja		Zoom	Glyn Edmunds
07/12/2021	Club Comp 4 PDI / Print	<i>Mono' Comp - PDI &/or Print</i>	Jonathan Vaines	OS	
08/12/2021		Afan Nedd - Interclub Comp		Zoom	
14/12/2021	Club evening	Points of View Judging by members / or alternative			
21&28/12/2021		Christmas recess			
04/01/2122		<i>Club Xmas meal - To be confirmed</i>			
11/01/2122	Club evening				
18/01/2122	Lecture 5	Highlands & Islands		Zoom	Carol & Tony Dilger
25/01/2122	Club evening and Studio Photography - Steve - Alan				
27/01/2122	Thursday at Royston	Inter-club Battle with & at Royston			
01/02/2022	Club Comp 5 PDI	2nd Open Projected Image Competition (PDI)		Zoom or OS	TBC

08/02/2122	Lecture 6	New talk - 'Interesting Stuff'		OS	Justin Minns
09/02/2122	Wednesday	Interclub Comp with Wilmslow & another club		Zoom	
15/02/2122	Club evening				
22/02/2122	Club Comp 6 Print	3rd Open Print Image Competition	Naomi Saul	OS	
01/03/2122	Lecture 7				TBC
03/03/2122	Thurs at Letchworth	Three Counties Cup: Saff Walden / Melb / Letchworth -			
08/03/2122	Club Comp 7 Print & PDI	Panel Print Competition - Pairs PDI Trophy	Chrissie Hart ARPS DPAGB BPE		
12/03/2122	Saturday	Melbourn Trophy final at Foxton	David Gray		
15/03/2122	Club Evening - Review Studio sessions & Best of the Year comp images/prints				
22/03/2122	Club Comp 8 PDI	3rd Open Projected Image Competition (PDI)	Alison Jenkins	OS	
29/03/2122	Club Comp 9 Print	Print of the year	Vic Hainsworth	OS	
05/04/2122	Club Comp 10 PDI	PDI of the year	Naomi Saul	OS	
12/04/2022	Club evening	AGM			
	Number of Judges - 10 for club comp + 1 for Melb Trophy		11		
	Number of Lectures				7-8
	Number of Club Evenings. Incl AGM				9 -10
		Total of other competitions	6		

Treasurer's Report - Jenny Collier

It's been an unusual year for the club as we have been unable to meet face to face. This has had obviously had an impact on our finances, in both positive and negative ways

Financially the Club remains healthy, and our excess income over expenditure this year is £361.30. The bank balance at 31st May stood at £2,275.59. We have had no hall costs or expenditure on refreshments this year, but neither have we collected the weekly subs.

Our membership has declined and now stands at 58. We have several members who did renew but who have not attended any Zoom meetings. I hope that once we can meet in reality the numbers will pick up again, but it is impossible to predict.

Membership fees were paid electronically for the first time & this was very successful and I suggest that this continues next year. Membership fees will remain the same.

Visitors & Donations: There were plenty of virtual visitors during the year as several other clubs were invited to join our planned lectures. This was usually on a reciprocal basis, but we did receive a payment from the Isle of Man which has been included under donations.

Lecturers: The amount spent on lecturers remained broadly the same as the previous year.

Judges: At the start of the season judges were 'paid' for their time with gifts of flowers or chocolates in lieu of travelling expenses as judging was all being done online. The Committee then decided to give a donation to charity instead & the East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH) was chosen.

EAF membership: This year the EAF waived the 'per member' payment and only charged clubs a basic subscription fee of £10.

Insurance: The insurance premium used to be paid as part of our EAF membership, but this changed last year (£143 membership; £58.51 insurance). This year, as well as the public liability cover it was decided to include management liability cover, which has increased our premium and will be an ongoing cost.

Sundries: This has fallen considerably as several events have not taken place.

Refreshments: No costs this year.

Summer Programme: £54 paid to North Norfolk for a talk by Mark Pain.

Looking Forward: While we hope to be meeting in person during the 2021-22 season, there is still a level of uncertainty surrounding everything at the time of writing. Hopefully the Club is in a strong enough financial position to cope with whatever comes our way in the next twelve months.

Once again, our thanks are due to Bruce Huett who has examined the accounts for the year and is satisfied that they are a true account of our income and expenditure. Bruce sends his best wishes to those who remember him as a member.

Detailed Accounts 2020 – 2021

	2020-21		2019-20
INCOME			
Yearly Membership	£1,365.00		£1,570.00
Weekly subs	£0.00		£897.00
Visitors	£0.00		£204.00
Melbourn Trophy Income	£105.00	Entry fees	£105.00
Mountboard	£258.00		£328.80
Donation	£201.00	Donation from IOM for zoom talks	£0.20
Summer Programme	£54.00	Reimbursement from members for Mark Paine talk	
Misc			£40.00
TOTAL	£1,983.00		£3,145.00
EXPENDITURE			
Hall Hire	£0.00		£425.00
Lecturers	£610.40	includes £54 for Mark Paine talk	£655.00
Judges	£404.90	Includes £350 donations to EACH	£300.00
Membership refund	£20.00	Accidentally paid twice	
EAF membership	£10.00		£201.51
Insurance	£112.24		
Competition fees	£26.00		£30.00
Sundries	£70.00	Trophy, Cambridge tickets, EAF tickets, frames etc	£325.25
Refreshments	£0.00		£39.70
Mount Board	£220.80		£408.48
Melbourn Trophy Expenditure	£0.00	Judge included in EACH donation	£55.00
Website	£93.36		£91.06
Summer Programme	£54.00		
TOTAL	£1,621.70		£2,531.00
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£361.30		£614.00
OPENING BALANCE	£1,914.29		£1,330.29
CLOSING BALANCE	£2,275.59		£1,914.29
BANK BALANCES			
Barclays	£2,275.59		
TOTAL	£2,275.59		
Membership	58		67
Attendance	36 or 59%		39 or 58%
Board Stock	134		161
Price per Board	£1.10		
Value	£147.00		£177.00

Secretary / Webmaster's Report - Peter North

Membership Statistics

Peter reported that we had nine prospective new members enquire about the club in 2020-21. Of these nine, four have now joined and two are being actively followed-up by Pam having only recently enquired.

Of the four new members:

- All are under 65.
- All are new to club photography.
- Two self-identify as beginners and two as intermediate.
- Two are from Melbourn and one each from Sawston and Fowlmere.
- Two use Canon, and the other two use Panasonic and Sony cameras respectively.
- Of the nine initial enquirers, seven heard about us from our local magazine adverts and two following a member recommendation.

Inevitably, because of health fears around Covid-19 and our inability to completely engage new members in the full face-to-face experience at Foxtan Hall, both prospective enquiries and new members are down relative to last season (see table below).

Notwithstanding this, to recruit 4-6 new members under such difficult circumstances is quite an achievement and is a real credit to Pam's efforts in following-up potential new members so effectively and with such a personal touch.

Season	New Members joined
2020-21	4
2019-20	11
2018-19	12
2017-18	11
2016-17	2
2015-16	6
2014-15	6

It is noteworthy that 66% of our current membership have joined the Club over the last 4 seasons.

To minimise admin and potential errors, new members will only be given a formal application form (from which details will be entered into our databases) after paying the subscription fee. However, potential members will be added to the distribution list so they are aware of club activities.

Attendance Stats (members only, not including guests)

- The Club currently has 58 registered members (have paid the subs fee).

- The average weekly (virtual) attendance was 36 members (range 30-40) or 59% of membership.
- The highest attendance of 40 was for the 2nd open PDI competition.
- The lowest was for the inter-club battle with Ely / Bottisham & Burwell with 30 attending.
- All open competitions have attracted a consistently high attendance (35-40).
- The range of a single individual's attendance varied between 0 in 29 (0%) meetings to 29 in 29 (100%) meetings with an average of 17 in 29 meetings (58%).

Publicity

Peter continues to publish our club's programme in four, local monthly / bi-monthly magazines:

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

Seven out of nine new enquirers and three out of four new members were attracted to the club via this publicity.

Website Stats

- The Website has 80 discrete pages.
- It has >1700 member images in 120 galleries
- It has 20 dedicated member galleries (34% of membership)
- It has been free of malware for the sixth consecutive year despite an average of 5 attempted hacking attempts / day. These are prevented by specific firewall software.
- The cost of webhosting and our domain name is £93.36 pa.

Projectionist's Report – David Stocks

David reported that the role of projectionist had been very different in 2021 in light of all activities being online and that the projector had not been used for the whole year.

This year all images for the projected images had been submitted via the online system and this appeared to be bedded in now. David said that this reduces the workload for the projectionist and helps ensure that image format, title and author name are correct. We will continue to do this next season.

Since all print competitions have also been held virtually, corresponding image files were also submitted by entrants so that they could be shown during the competitions.

For all projected image competitions this year, the images were sent to the judge in advance to allow them to preview them at full quality. David explained that the images for the judge had to be anonymised: author metadata removed, and files renamed to only contain the run order and the image title. David had written a computer script to simplify this process, although one of the last judges of the year noted that some metadata remained, such as copyright. David hopes that this will no longer be needed next season, but if we have to do it again, he will ensure that all metadata is removed.

The online judging process appears to have worked well and judges have been able to adapt to this way of working. The images as seen in Zoom sometimes showed some artifacts that were not in the original image, so it was important that the judges were assessing the original image.

David reported that this year it had not been necessary to limit the number of images to two per person.

David said that we are still using the 2012 version of “Film Free Projection” software. Care had to be taken when using it with Zoom, as it was not written to be used when other programs are running. In a competition early in the season, David said he had pressed “space” to unmute in Zoom and had instead inadvertently held back several images in FFP! There had been an issue seen in a couple of competitions where FFP locked up when attempting to enter scores. This appeared to be a subtle interaction between FFP and Zoom. Tests with the newer version of FFP showed that it also had the same problem and so we had persevered with the old version. With everyone online, having someone else capture the scores was not a problem.

In December, we had had the club evening in which we judged the Points of View Competition. David explained that as the competition had to be online this year, we tried a new idea to count the votes via Zoom chat, as the normal means of counting raised hands was going to be difficult online. In practice there were several challenges to do this on the night and David doubted that we would want to do it this way again.

David said that when we are able to return to the hall in September, we will recalibrate the projector as it will not have been out of the box for 18 months.

For the new season there are a few evenings planned with remote lecturers and judges. These will require a new setup in the hall, in particular for the audio. We need to hear the lecturer or judge and they need to at least hear the introductions and titles of the images being read out. We’ll be working on this in the coming weeks.

Summer Programme / Pairs Trophy – Roger Care

Summer Programme

Roger reported that the usual Summer Programme of Members getting together could not take place due to COVID 19. However, an online contingency programme was organised by Keith.

With COVID restrictions easing, several events have already been proposed for the forthcoming summer, including sessions of Butterfly Photography with Ian at Church Hill, Cambridge Botanic Gardens with Pam, East Anglian Coast with Keith, Sharpenhoe Clappers with Andre and the two Damian Demolder Street Photography Workshops carried over from last year.

As life hopefully returns closer to normal, Roger requested that Members continued to put forward suggestions for events.

Pairs Trophy 2021

Number of Pairs	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021/22
Entering	16	16	15	15	12	10
Submitting	?	11	15	9	9	

Roger reported that the 2021 trophy had been extended to 2022 with the original pairings and that the number of images per participant had been increased from 2 to 3. The Committee believes it is a valuable competition for the Club and is optimistic that all the current pairs will be submitting their images for the competition in early 2022.

New Member's Secretary – Pam Aynsley

Pam reported that there had been 9 applicants who approached our club via the Secretary during the 2020/2021 season, less than half last year's number.

Pam found that it had been very difficult connecting with potential new members due to Covid restrictions, as often a face-to-face meeting hadn't been possible, so communication was conducted by email. Newcomers were invited to join two free Zoom meetings instead of the warm welcome they usually enjoyed pre Covid in Foxton Village Hall, therefore they couldn't connect with us properly and she presumed that was why some were reluctant to sign up. She said that we had gained 3 new members, with another recent applicant who had been very keen to join.

One of the new members to whom Pam had given numerous editing sessions was doing very well and had entered competitions this season.

A problem Pam had come across was that members who had sedentary computer jobs were less likely to want to receive editing sessions via Zoom in the evenings as this involved more sitting down screen work. She felt there was nothing like a face-to-face meeting to get them connected and enthused.

On reflection Pam observed that generally, the prospective new members she had met in person were the ones who had joined.

In conclusion, Pam hoped that coming out of lockdown would increase the numbers of new members in the coming season.

Pam thanked her fellow committee members for their hard work, keeping the club viable under very restricted and difficult circumstances this season.

Mentoring – Ian Tulloch

Ian reported that a small number of informal and formal mentoring partnerships had continued through the 2020-21 season though of course opportunities for personal interaction as well as establishing new partnerships had been curtailed during lockdown.

The What's App group set up by Keith early in the first lockdown has been a notable success in keeping members engaged with the club's activities and also for getting informal feedback on images as well as advice on photographic and post-processing techniques. It is hoped this group will continue in the coming season as an ongoing resource for members.

The plan to set up a database to facilitate mentor/mentee partnering had been delayed but the intention is to have this available next season when we hopefully will be able to hold club meetings again at Foxton.

Annual Awards – Keith Truman

The club competition awards will be deferred until we can meet in person.

Election of Officers - All

The following Officers are prepared to be re-elected by the membership:

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

Keith thanked Steve DeHavilland for his valuable contribution as joint Programme Secretary during the season.

AOB

The nature of future meetings as we emerge from the pandemic - Keith

Other topics from the membership - All

The Club Committee

August 2021
