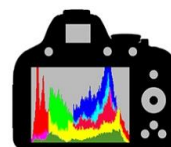


Melbourn and District Photographic Club



*Melbourn & District
Photographic
Club*

AGM Report / Minutes

2022-23 Season

18th April 2023

Members Present: Alan Linsdell, André Neves, Anne Truman, David Harper, David Reynolds, Eve Maythorne, Graham Wickens, Jenny Collier, Jo Norcross, Linda Marshall, Mo Hunt, Nigel Northwood, Pat Rowley, Paul Ravenscroft, Penny Harper, Phil Dent, Richard Schramm, Robin Southgate, Ron Byfield, Siobhan Woollard, Stephen DeHavilland

Committee present: Keith Truman (Chair & Competitions Secretary), Helen Unwin (Programme), Bill Hamilton (Treasurer), Peter North (Secretary / Webmaster), David Stocks (Projectionist), Roger Care (Summer Programme / Pairs Trophy), Pam Aynsley (New Members)

Apologies for absence: David Brock, Richard Stubbs, Theresa Penfound, Rosemary Burt, Rod Bufton, Kathryn Williams, Craig Allen, Ian Tulloch, Ian Aynsley

Please Note: This report combines the content of the recently circulated pre-AGM report (unchanged) with the minutes taken from the live AGM. The latter are reported under the AGM Minutes section on p18. The annual competitions awards list is also included on p16.

Matters Arising from 2021-2022 AGM

After much encouragement, Wi-Fi has eventually been installed throughout Foxton Village Hall. The Wi-Fi has been used when we have an external speaker and for members "Zooming in" who can't make a particular meeting.

Chairman's Report – Keith Truman

Yet another great year for the Club but tinged with great sadness for the members we have lost. In particular, Nick Wittering, Trevor Marcuson and of course David Gray.

Even though Covid has once again been around us throughout the year, we have managed to meet throughout the Season, maintaining to an extent Social Distanced seating. Throughout the pandemic I believe that there had been no cases of Covid contracted as a consequence of attending our meetings until the recent episode, reminding us of the need for continued vigilance. I hope that Members feel comfortable with the way we are managing our Covid risks.

Once again, there have been so many accomplishments by our Club:

- Attendance at Face to Face meetings generally remained good throughout the year
- Participation in competitions was reasonably high although maybe for understandable reasons, not as high as in previous years
- We have had great success in Inter-Club Competitions, in particular doing very well in EAF Championships leading to an invitation to Melbourn to represent the EAF at the National Inter-Club Championships later this year
- The Club has continued to donate to the East Anglian Childrens Hospice, donations made possible by speakers who have waived their fees to allow us to do this.

Of course, none of the above would have been possible without the help and support of the Committee who I thank enormously. All the members of the Committee have clear roles and just get on with delivering their tasks to ensure that we have a great programme and good content to meetings. I also thank those Committee members who owned Club Nights during the season which brought excellent tuition to members and I know, take significant effort to prepare. I also thank Phil Dent for running the “Getting off Auto” sessions.

Special thanks to Helen Unwin who is stepping down from the Committee as our Programme Secretary this year due to work pressures. I know that all members have enjoyed the varied programme Helen put together and the slick way it was delivered. Clubs like ours of course can only function if members are prepared to share the load and to step forwards when there is a vacancy on the Committee to take on tasks. Thanks also to Linda Marshall for offering to take on the role of Programme Secretary from Helen.

Success in Inter-Clubs and external competitions comes in large part from the diligence of the club “Selection Committee” who I thank for their work. This group comprises Pete, Roger, Ian and Keith and whilst it’s the Club members who enable us to have a great selection of strong images to choose from, this group spends a lot of time together on numerous occasions throughout the year to ensure appropriate work is selected for the internal competitions.

Many thanks on behalf of all of us to Rosemary for organising our teas and to Penny and Freda for supporting Rosemary in ensuring we always have a good stock of biscuits and know who is on tea duty each week.

And now to my own position. Having been Chairman of our Club and also the Competition Secretary (CS) for a number of years and on the Committee for 10 years (having previously been Projectionist and Programme Secretary) , I believe now is the right time to begin to identify a new Chairman and CS. I have enjoyed being Chairman and CS of the Club very much but feel strongly that Clubs evolve and grow stronger through occasional change to the leadership which can then encourage new ideas and can help to take the Club on to even higher achievements. Being Chair has been a delight but coming with that are time pressures and to that end I have decided that the next Season (2023-2024), will be my last as Chairman and as Competition Secretary. I encourage someone to step forwards to consider becoming our new Chairman and perhaps someone separate to become the new Competition Secretary for the 2024-2025 season as combining these roles is just too onerous.

Finally, my thanks to you the members. We are a small Club of amateur photographers who enjoy what we do and the level at which we do it and also enjoy meeting together and long may that continue.

Competitions Secretary Report – Keith Truman

Internal Competitions

The number of submissions to PDI and Print competitions, both the numbers of images and the numbers of members submitting images has continued to drop during this Season and has even dropped compared to last year's levels and were also well below pre-pandemic levels. This is in spite of our newer members doing a great job submitting images through the year.

For PDIs in particular, not only are we seeing a steady decline in the numbers of images submitted to Open Competitions, but we are also seeing a steady decline in the number of members submitting images. For Prints, submissions and numbers of members submitting have also dropped compared to last year and are significantly down on 2 years ago.

Of course, numbers aren't everything and 1) provided our competitions remain viable in terms of numbers of images and 2) those members who chose to not submit are happy still being at the club to look at the work of others and, also 3) provided that the quality of our images remains high, maybe this isn't something we should unduly be concerned about.

PDIs	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022 - 2023	
	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted
1 st Open	26	73	24	69	23	66
2 nd Open	25	62	20	56	21	54
3 rd Open	23	68	17	50	18	51
Average	31	86	25	68	21	57

Regarding print competitions:

Prints	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022 - 2023	
	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted
1 st Open	16	46	22	62	11	33
2 nd Open	20	56	17	50	17	47
3 rd Open	16	46	16	46	17	48
Average	17	49	18	53	15	43

The quality of our work has been outstanding and continues to improve but would like to better understand whether there are any barriers we need to address to getting our numbers back up to pre-pandemic levels. One suggestion has been to eliminate the 4-year rule but the Committee do not favour this as it would make selections for Inter-Clubs even more complex.

The Committee are hopeful that as Covid is left behind us that participation in competitions will ultimately return to pre-Covid levels. This will be discussed at the AGM.

External Competitions (Inter-Clubs)

Our Inter-Club results certainly showed yet another year of great improvement and good results - we won 2 out of the 3 local Inter-Club competitions we take part in, losing the Friendly Cup for only the first time in the 5 years it has run. The pinnacle of our success however was at the EAF Championships where our work competes against the very best work of the best clubs in East Anglia.

Summary of Inter-Club Results:

Melbourn vs Royston	Melbourn = Royston =	461 435
3 Counties Cup	Melbourn = Saffron Walden = Letchworth =	336 330 326
"Friendly Cup"	Melbourn = Bottisham & Burwell = Ely =	324 330 322

We also competed in 1 other Inter-Club match with UK clubs outside of our area with great success:

Afan Nedd Cup

This is a 9-way Print Competition organised by Afan Nedd Club in South Wales and Melbourn came 3rd in the competition with Roger's print, Iceland in Winter being adjudged the best overall print of the Competition.

External Comps (Cambridge Digital, EAF prints and PDIs)

Cambridge Digital

We came an amazing 5th out of 27 clubs competing in this competition with Pete North's image, Undulating Fields scoring a 20.

EAF Digital Image Competition

We finished 9th out of 25 of the best Clubs in East Anglia, an amazing result

EAF Print Competition

We finished 4th out of 18 of the best Clubs in East Anglia. This position has meant that we will represent the EAF at the PAGB National Championships to be held in Blackburn later this year in October.

Programme Secretaries Report – Helen Unwin

The programme for the club year was completed with all meetings taking place at Foxton; the one exception being a virtual talk held over Zoom due to a Covid outbreak among members.

The club followed a full programme of events covering:

- 6 lectures;
- 10 Internal Club Competitions;
- 6 External Competitions;
- Presentations by members.

Meetings held over Zoom, with club members viewing in the hall, continued to work well. The use of Zoom has also enabled us to have access to a wider variety of speakers for the forthcoming season.

Special thanks are given to the following members:

- Keith Truman, Peter North, Roger Care, Ian Tulloch, Bill Hamilton, Andre Neves and David Stocks for running various club nights
- David Stocks for organising the digital content for the PDI competitions
- Sam Buchanan for her talk on her Photography MA
- Phil Dent for hosting a 'Getting off Auto' session

Looking forward to the next season, the programme is now filled as detailed below. We have added an additional internal Artistic Competition and have booked a wide variety of speakers across a number of photographic genres.

12/09/2023	Club evening	Welcome Back - member talks		Foxton	
19/09/2023	Lecture 1	Confessions of a Landscape Photographer	Paul Mitchell	Foxton Zoom	-
26/09/2023	Club Comp 1	1st Open PDI	Jackie Gillman	Foxton	
03/10/2023	Club Evening			Foxton	
10/10/2023	Club comp 2	1st Open Print	David Steel	Foxton	
17/10/2023	Lecture 2	Photographing the Night Sky	Nik Szymanek	Foxton Zoom	-
24/10/2023	Club Evening			Foxton	
		Points of View photography - November			
31/10/2023	Club Comp 3	2nd Open PDI	Penny Reeves	Foxton	
07/11/2023	Lecture 3	A Passion for Wildlife	Kevin Pigney	Foxton	
14/11/2023	Club Comp 4	2nd Open Print	Colin Strong	Foxton	
21/11/2023	Lecture 4	OI Pejeta Conservancy	Glyn Edmunds	Foxton Zoom	-
28/11/2023		Interclub – Bottisham & Burwell / Ely / Melbourn	tbc	B&B	
05/12/2023	Club Comp5	Mono PDI or Print	Tony Bramley	Foxton	
12/12/2023	Club Evening	Points of View judging (first half)		Foxton	
19/12/2023		Christmas recess			
		Club Xmas meal - TBC			
09/01/2024	Lecture 5	Simply Black and White	Chris Upton	Foxton Zoom	-

16/01/2024	Club Comp 6	3rd Open PDI	Jonathan Vaines	Foxton	
23/01/2024	Lecture 6	Photography on the dark side	Peter Benson	Foxton Zoom	-
30/01/2024	Club evening			Foxton	
06/02/2024	Club Comp 7	Panel Print Comp - Pairs PDI Trophy	Clive Harward	Foxton	
13/02/2024	Lecture 7	Topic to be confirmed	Glenys Garnett	Foxton Zoom	-
20/02/2024	Club Comp 8	Artistic Competition	Jonathan Vaines	Foxton	
27/02/2024	Club Comp 9	3rd Open Print	Ben Pike	Foxton	
05/03/2024	Lecture 8	Art of Macro	Tony North	Foxton Zoom	-
12/03/2024	Club Evening			Foxton	
19/03/2024	Club Evening			Foxton	
26/03/2024	Club Comp 10	PDI of the year	Naomi Saul	Foxton	
02/04/2024	Club Comp 11	Print of the year	Vic Hainsworth	Foxton	
09/04/2024	Club evening	AGM			

Treasurer's Report – Bill Hamilton

A set of accounts to 13th April 2023 is provided below, together with notes.

Membership and Income

The current year membership is 58 (21/22; 60) composed of 53 paid up members and 5 (21/22; nil) Honorary Members. Despite the small decrease in overall membership numbers, it is encouraging that 9 new members joined in the year. Membership fee income stood at £1,210 (21/22; £1,400) and the weekly subs at £761 (21/22; £510).

Income from visitors was down by £10 (20%) from last year. In addition, there was no income from the Melbourn Trophy Competition which ceased in 21/22. Finally, income from mountboard sales to members increased (see below).

Expenditure

Due to the lessening impact of COVID, 28 of 29 meetings were held at Foxton Village Hall and the total spent on hall hire increased by 33% to £453 (21/22; £340.20). Lecture and judging fees increased slightly on last year (6.4%); EAF membership (with competition attendance) combined with our competition fees were up (35%) mainly due to an increase in the competition fees with our entries to EAF print and Cambridge Digital PDI, in addition to Cambridge Digital print competitions.

Our move to new insurers (Hive), as recommended by EAF, did not significantly change the cost from 21/22. Equipment costs increased from £14 to £50 due to

the battery replacement for the PA system and an upgrade to the projection software.

The 21/22 sundries included the engraving cost for the Melbourn Trophy which has not been continued (see above) resulting a significant decrease in expenditure in this category. The cost of refreshments was up (24%) on 21/22. IT expenditure is down by 33%. Although website domain and hosting costs have increased, the Zoom subscription cost has been generously covered by our Chairman.

The quantity of mountboards purchased in the year was almost double that of 21/22 and together with a 13% increase in unit cost, the overall expenditure was £570 (21/22; £265). As members purchase at cost, this overall increase in demand seems positive, as it suggests members are printing more.

Creditors

The accounts include a provision (accrual) of £48.60 for costs incurred in the period, but not yet invoiced.

Cash Position

Cash on the 13th of April 23 was £2,126.77 (21/22; £2,195.23)

Summary

Overall, the Club had a deficit of £93.51, very similar to last year (21-22; £80.36) with the net assets of the MDPC decreasing by 4% this year to £2,203.73 (21-22; £2195.23). This does not give rise to any immediate sustainability issues, nor the need to review subscription rates.

Notes to the accounts table

- (1) Includes a donation to EACH in lieu of Glenys Garnett's lecture fee.
- (2) Includes EAF membership and tickets to the EAF PDI and Print competitions.
- (3) EAF Print and Cambridge Digital competitions.
- (4) Insurers are now HIVE, as recommended by EAF.
- (5) Replacement battery and software update.
- (6) Donation to Arthur Rank Hospice (£30 + online giving platform fees) in memory of past member Trevor Marcuson.
- (7) Includes a cost of sales adjustment of £23.55, as this year the board stock is correctly recognised on the balance sheet.
- (8) Includes domain name, web hosting and zoom subscription.
- (9) Hall hire for April, (£48.60).

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	2022-23		2021-22
INCOME	£	Notes	£
Yearly Membership	1,210.00		1,400.00
Weekly subs	761.00		510.00
Visitors	38.00		48.00
Melbourn Trophy Income	0.00		105.00
Mountboard	539.70		330.50
TOTAL INCOME	2,548.70		2,393.50
EXPENDITURE			
Hall Hire	(453.60)		(340.20)
Lecturers	(470.00)		(545.00)
Judges	(406.50)	(1)	(280.90)
EAF membership	(181.40)	(2)	(190.60)
Competition fees	(115.50)	(3)	(30.00)
Insurance	(115.99)	(4)	(112.04)
Equipment	(49.91)	(5)	(13.98)
Sundries	(33.75)	(6)	(235.99)
Studio Model fees	0.00		(160.00)
Refreshments	(143.03)		(115.19)
Mountboard	(545.97)	(7)	(264.60)
Website & Zoom	(124.56)	(8)	(185.36)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(2,642.21)		(2,473.86)
DEFICIT	(93.51)		(80.36)
BALANCE SHEET (as at 12th Apr 23)	£		£
CASH	2,126.77		2,195.23
CREDITORS (accrual)	(48.60)	(9)	
BOARD STOCK	125.55		102.00
NET ASSETS	2,203.72		2,297.23
CASH BALANCE			
Barclays Account	2,126.77		2,195.23
Petty Cash	0.00		0.00
TOTAL	2,126.77		2,195.23
Board Stock			
Mountboards	93		85
Cost per board	1.35		1.20
Value of stock held	125.55		102.00
Membership			
Membership (paid & hon)	58		60
Attendance (average)	27 or 47%		28 or 46%

Secretary / Webmaster's Report - Peter North

Analysis of New Member profiles

As reported in Pam's New Member's Secretary report, the club has attracted 9 new members over the last year. The new members have been added to the club's databases and distribution lists and the following analysis undertaken.

Of the 9 new members:

- Eight are under 65 and one over.
- Seven are new to club photography and two are not.
- One self-identifies as a beginner, four as intermediate and four as experienced.
- They live in Melbourn, Orwell, Duxford, Bishops Stortford, Foxton or Fowlmere.
- Two use Canon cameras, two use Sony and one each use Fuji, Olympus, Nikon and Samsung.
- Five joined following a member's recommendation, three via our website, and one via local a magazine advert.

To recruit 9 new members is impressive and may signal that keen photographers are willing to join communal activities again after the very restrictive pandemic years. Key to this success is Pam's efforts in following-up potential new members so effectively and with such a personal touch.

Season	New Members joined
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2022-23	9
2021-22	6
2020-21	4
2019-20	11
2018-19	12
2017-18	11
2016-17	2
2015-16	6
2014-15	6

It is encouraging that the club continues to refresh its membership, with 48% of our members having joined the Club over the last 4 seasons.

Attendance Trends (members only, not including guests)

- The club currently has 58 registered members (that have paid the subs fee, plus honorary members).
- The average weekly attendance was 27 members or 47% of membership. This includes both Zoom and face-to- face meetings.

- The highest attendance of 38 was for both The Three Coasts (a lecture by Harry Wheeler-Brand) and the Mono Print / PDI competition. The lowest of 15 was for the Print of the Year competition.
- The range of a single individual's attendance varied between 0 in 27 meetings to 26 in 27 meetings with an average of 11 in 27 meetings.

With respect to longer-term trends, it is noteworthy that club membership continues to be stable over the last 9 seasons at around 60 members +/- 10% (see table).

Unfortunately, although pre-pandemic attendance was in the range of 55-61% per meeting, it declined to 46% last season and 47% this season. There is no doubt that the uncertainties, risks, and lack of photo / travel opportunities associated with the pandemic still influences attendance 2 years on.

Season	Members	Average Meeting Attendance (including Zoom)	Average Meeting Attendance as % of Membership	Average No of Meetings Attended per Member
2022-23	58	27	47	11
2021-22	60	28	46	12
2020-21	62	35	57	16
2019-20	67	39	58	13
2018-19	63	35	56	15
2017-18	63	35	56	16
2016-17	57	33	58	NA
2015-16	65	36	55	NA
2014-15	54	33	61	NA

Publicity

A monthly / bi-monthly summary of the club's programme, ethos and contact details, together with a member's recent image, is regularly compiled and published in the following four local village magazines:

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

One of our 9 new members were attracted to the club via this publicity.

Club Website

Prior to this season, the website theme (appearance) was 15 years old and was beginning to become incompatible with the latest versions of WordPress (editing software) and its associated, third-party software plugins.

This meant that crucial webhosting and security software could not be updated effectively and made the site prone to instability and hacking.

Additionally, the website rendered very poorly on both Android and Apple smartphones / tablets and did not respond to changes in handheld device orientation.

Accordingly, over the summer recess, the website was completely re-designed and re-built over a two-week period. The following changes were made:

- A new, uncluttered, contemporary design with a more logical menu layout
- A new home page featuring a full width, slideshow comprising of one representative, randomised image per member - this means every member has an equal chance their image will feature first when the website is launched.
- The member galleries were retired because they occupied a lot of disc space and were time-consuming to update.
- These have been replaced by a 'Member's Galleries and Sites' page that has hot-links to member's own self-generated sites (Websites, Flickr, Instagram etc) - this means that members are in control of their own content linked to the club website.
- This page also features galleries of member's PAGB / RPS distinctions and competition successes.
- A much tidier open competition results page which is image rich, with larger thumbnails and minimal distracting text.
- The website now renders well on smartphones and tablets and changes in response to a change in orientation to retain easy access to menus and images.
- The design now uses leading-brand software that is guaranteed to remain compatible with future WordPress releases.
- The Website has 70 discrete pages.
- It has >2000 images in 168 galleries
- The cost of webhosting and our domain name has increased to £124.56 pa (from £93.36 pa).
- All maintenance / updating is done cost-free in-house.

Other Club Secretary Activities

The following regular activities were performed as required:

- Annual club programme formatted and published on the website in both live and printable format.
- Highest scoring competition images compiled and published on the website.
- Committee meeting agendas and minutes recorded, distributed and archived.
- AGM contributions and reports compiled, distributed and archived.

- Club databases and distribution lists updated dynamically.
- The Club's constitution, and Data Protection policy updated and published in order to qualify as a member of the PAGB and associated insurance policy.
- Training materials & member's lectures collated and published on the website.
- 34 winner's certificates compiled, printed and framed for AGM awards.

Projectionist's Report – David Stocks

This year's programme has been full in-person in the hall, with need for a projector at about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the evenings. Fortunately, this year I have been able to attend every evening that needed me bar one. Deputy projectionist Ian was able to support the club evening that I was not able to attend.

The images produced by the club projector are still looking good. It has not been calibrated this season but has not shown any sign that it has drifted out of calibration. We should probably do a new calibration at the start of next season. The club laptop is still functioning fine.

This year we switched to the slightly newer version of the FFP "Film-Free Projection" software. This has for the most part been stable, although there were some last-minute wobbles before the first battle. In the last competitions I have found a way to show multiple images at the same time for judging holdbacks, and at the same time entering their scores.

For some club evenings we use the club laptop to demonstrate editing techniques in Lightroom and Photoshop – this year we did this for four club evenings. In recent years the laptop has been using my Adobe Creative Cloud licence (as on one of the two machines that the licence allows). However, I am now using the second half of my licence for my daughter and have removed it from the club laptop. For next year we may need to use or borrow licences from other members or fund a licence for the club. Access to the software on the laptop is generally needed just on the specific nights and for a few days before for preparation.

We have continued to use the online image submission system this year. This currently remains free and saves me considerable effort. I hear very few reports of issues and intend to continue to use it. As well as accepting the images and confirming their receipt, the system also allows me to get all of the competitions set up at the start of the season and thereby ensures you can still all submit your images even if I get distracted by life during the season.

The number of images submitted this year to each competition have not been as high as they were four years ago and we have not had to limit the numbers by excluding the reserve images.

This year we have had several remote presenters and judges. The laptop and sound system setup has worked pretty well for this – as good as I could have expected – and those evening have been successful. I do not think any adjustments are needed to this setup for next year.

For some in-person speakers using the lapel microphone the audio has cut out occasionally and had some interference. It may be worth a quick look at this over the summer to see if we get any improvement.

Summer Programme / Pairs Trophy Report – Roger Care

Summer Programme

In 2022 we held 8 events, which was below the minimum target of 12 but in line with the number of events in 2021. Under the post-Covid circumstances, this was a positive result. Events included the regular trips for butterfly, dragonfly and coastal photography and trips to Snetterton Circuit for motorsports photography along with a photo/social event. There were no specifically photographic, externally organised and paid for events this year which had been happening on an increasing basis and is something which Members may wish to consider again.

Yet again, a significant number of images from the Summer Programme found their way into club competitions with many scoring highly. Experienced, new and “improver” Members have all benefited from attending these events.

With the summer recess around the corner, it is requested that Members put forward suggestions and ideas to Roger for events for the forthcoming summer. One thing to discuss at the AGM is the potential to share some of the Summer Programme events with Royston.

Finally, Roger wishes members to know that he intends to do one more Season on the Committee before standing down at the end of the 2024 season.

Pairs Trophy 2023

Number of Pairs	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021/22	2023
Entering	16	16	15	15	12	10	9
Submitting	?	11	15	9	9	6	8

The Committee believes that the Pairs Trophy remains a valuable competition for the Club. Because of the high fall-out rate in recent years shown by those entering and those submitting, the draw was moved from the usual May date to the end of October in the prior year. Although this gives less warm weather time, the shorter lead time has less opportunity for things to go wrong. Although 8 pairs, 16 individuals, submitting

seems a low number, the average number submitting images for the dpi competitions is not much more than this. Many thanks go to the participants for making the competition a success.

New Member's Secretary Report – Pam Aynsley

We have had a very good season for attracting new members. We welcomed nine new members to the Club, six of whom are successfully entering club competitions with some of their images being selected to represent us in inter-club competitions, and one being chosen for the EAF Print Championship in which we came fourth.

Of the nine new members, three found us through our website, one came via Keith, four through the recommendation of existing members and one from our advertising in the Laurentian.

These new members have commented how friendly they found our club, and Pam thanks everyone for helping to create a warm atmosphere by welcoming new faces.

Mentoring Coordinator's Report – Ian Tulloch

This season our club evenings have had a strong focus on providing new and recently joined members with sessions on image processing in LR and PS, getting off auto, image preparation for PDI and print competitions, and print mounting. Several members have also received help to set up home printing. This has enabled recently joined members to gain the necessary skills to participate and do well in both PDI and print competitions.

The mentoring programme has continued throughout the season and, in addition, a few of our experienced members have also continued to act as informal mentors and provide help as requested. Ian thanked all mentors for providing support and sharing their wide expertise across different genres and also in post-processing techniques - this is an important factor in helping to raise the standard of photography for all our members.

While it is apparent that over the course of this season the overall participation in both PDI and print competitions has been lower than in recent seasons, it is encouraging that new members have been notably active in submitting good quality images. This is a positive sign that new members are receiving the help and support they need to engage fully in club photography. An ongoing challenge is to increase the level of participation by more experienced members in club competitions and this will be discussed further at the AGM.

Annual Club Awards

Keith presented the annual club awards as follows:

Chairman's Trophy

(Highest overall print + PDI competition score)

1 st	Roger Care (329)
Joint 2 nd	Keith Truman & Peter North (323)
3 rd	Ian Tulloch (316)

Ken Clifford Trophy

(PDI – highest cumulative score)

1 st	Roger Care (168)
2 nd	Keith Truman (164)
3 rd	Peter North (163)

J&J Cox Trophy

(Print – highest cumulative score)

1 st	André Neves (164)
2 nd	Nigel Northwood (162)
3 rd	Roger Care (161)

Projected Image of the Year

1 st	Ian Tulloch for Common Darter Roosting
2 nd	Peter North for Fishing at Dawn
3 rd	Keith Truman for River Coe Torrent

Print of the Year

1 st	Nigel Northwood for The Curve
2 nd	Paul Ravenscroft for Font Reflections, Salisbury Cathedral
3 rd	André Neves for Meadow Plant Bug Pair

Mono PDI Competition

1 st	Linda Marshall for Walking Silhouettes
2 nd	Ian Tulloch for Storm Approaching Porth Nanven
3 rd	Keith Truman for 3 Up, 2 Down

Mono Print Competition

1 st	Keith Truman for Osea Huts
2 nd	André Neves for Horse Chestnut Bonsai
3 rd	Bill Hamilton for Closing the Gap at Nelson's Corner

Points of View

Winner	Richard Cassidy
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Panel Print Competition

1 st	Kathryn Williams for Moderate or Good, Occasionally Poor
2 nd	Keith Truman for Spittal Rocks
Joint 3 rd	Jenny Collier for Sprouts
Joint 3 rd	Roger Care for Sea Stacks & Surf

Pairs Trophy

1 st	Keith Taylor & Keith Truman
2 nd	David Brock & David Stocks
3 rd	Ashley Griffiths & Stephen DeHavilland

Rookie of the Year

Winner	Kathryn Williams
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AGM Minutes - capturing comments from the committee & the wider membership at the AGM

Matters Arising

- With Wi-Fi now available at Foxton Village Hall, Zoom meetings featuring remote speakers works well and has been well supported by members.
- Simultaneous Zoom (for members at home) plus live hall meetings present several technical problems, including audio-visual delay issues, and will not be pursued.

Chairman's Report – Keith Truman

- Keith noted the sad passing of David Gray, Nick Wittering and Trevor Marcuson.
- The membership is comfortable with post-pandemic hall attendance procedures. The consequential use of disposable cups also precludes time-consuming washing-up.
- Club attendance is still down on previous years and the membership felt that photo opportunities did not seem to have resumed to pre-pandemic levels.
- Our external competition results have been very good this season including our inclusion in the PAGB National Championships. Keith thanked the external competitions selection committee comprising of Keith, Ian, Roger and Peter.
- Keith thanked the Club Committee and in particular, Helen for her time and contribution as Programme secretary. Linda was welcomed as her replacement.
- Keith also thanked Rosemary, Frieda, Penny and David for their reliable provision of refreshments throughout the season.
- The programme for the 2023-24 season was in a very good state.
- Keith noted that, after 12 years with the club and 10 years covering several roles on the committee, he will be standing down as Chairman after the 2023-24 season.
- Although the current committee membership is stable and intact, churn should be encouraged to generate fresh new ideas. Members are encouraged to show an interest in vacant positions as they arise.

Competition Secretary's Report – Keith Truman

- Although the club membership is about the same as in previous years, competition entries are down relative to pre-pandemic levels and there were

several comments from the membership about why this might be and how it could be addressed.

- It was noted that most member's best pre-pandemic images had now been used and the lack of photo opportunities during the pandemic was the main reason behind a reduction in competition submissions.
- It was suggested that the 4-year rule should be relaxed because an incremental improvement in most member's editing skills could give older images a new lease of life.
- It was noted that this would make selecting for external competitions much harder (4-year rule still applies) and might discourage members taking new images.
- It was also suggested that having heard many years of judge's comments, many members are now much more self-critical of their images and are reluctant to enter images that they feel are not exceptional.
- This means that some members will not submit the max of 3 images per competition or may not submit any images at all.
- It was noted that some clubs (e.g., Royston) have instigated events where a visiting judge would critique an image but not score it. This approach may be less intimidating and discouraging to new members.
- As a result of this discussion, it was suggested that the new 'Creative Photography Competition' should have no image age limit and that, as a prelude, the judge, Jonathan Vaines, could run a summer event around creative photography.
- On reflection of this debate, it was felt that image quality (definitely improving by all measures) was more important than absolute numbers.

Programme Report – Helen Unwin

- Helen noted that during the post-pandemic 2022-23 season, all but one event was conducted live at Foxton.
- There was only one judge swap which was done seamlessly at short notice.
- The Wi-Fi enabled Zoom meeting format has opened up the choice of presenter considerably and can now include any remote speaker.
- The 2023-24 season's programme is now in place, and the Club Night placeholders will be filled during a committee meeting to be held in the summer.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Hamilton

- Bill noted that both the deficit of £93 and the cash balance of £2127 were very similar to last year (£80 & £2195 respectively).

- It was felt that the balance was neither excessive nor inadequate as it would cover the worst scenario of both a laptop and projector needing replacement.
- It was confirmed that, as written in our constitution, if the club was to fold, any excess funds would be distributed to the fee-paying membership.
- It was also confirmed that there was no need to increase subs for the 2023-24 season.
- Bill noted that the current payment by BACS (for annual membership fee) and cash (for £1 weekly attendance) was working well and that, ideally, the club should be cashless in 3 years' time.
- The idea of adding weekly subs to the annual fee was discussed but was deemed unfair because actual attendance was very variable and this could not be reflected in a fixed annual supplement at the start of the year.
- The possibility of gaining sponsorship from the new Cambridge Wex store was suggested. Keith has explored this and the request was declined.

Club Secretary / Webmaster's Report – Peter North

- Peter highlighted the reasoning behind some of the changes to the new website which was launched over the summer recess.
- The majority of personal galleries featured in the old website were either from members who were no longer with the club or from current members who had their own websites or Flickr / Instagram sites.
- Because of this, together with the large amount of disc space used by these galleries and the limited pool of images available, it was decided to retire these legacy galleries and link to member-generated sites instead.
- Accordingly, the website currently has links to 12 member sites (7 Flickr, 4 websites and 1 Instagram) the content and management of which is entirely under the control of the authors.
- Peter requested that members should alert him to any additional personal galleries that they generate so that he can add a link via website.
- The new website also features galleries of members successes in the wider photographic community outside the club.
- These include 13 galleries from different members who have gained RPS or PAGB distinctions. These serve to showcase the ability of the club to improve the photographic skills of its members which, in turn, could attract new members. They also help existing members who are considering applying for an RPS / PAGB distinction.
- Peter requested that members send him any RPS / PAGB distinction galleries not included or any other external successes such as national competitions or publications.

- It was noted that the list of member links to external sites did not render clearly on Android phones when held in the portrait orientation. Peter has now fixed this issue.
- It was suggested that Peter should enquire about expanding publicity to include an advertisement in the, widely distributed, The Listing magazine.

Projectionist's Report – David Stocks

- David noted that the projector is still working well and is perfectly calibrated to project PDI competition images accurately.
- The latest version of the competition software works well although it does not project the image score as it is entered.
- Although the club-owned laptop is used for demos / club nights, David has used his spare Photoshop & Lightroom licence (one of two) to authenticate them on this device.
- David will need to re-allocate these licenses for family use and has requested that any member not using their spare PS / LR license to consider donating this for club use.
- The online PDI submission programme continues to work well with good member compliance. It was noted that members should ensure that all images are saved with the sRGB colour space to ensure accurate colour rendition.

Pairs Trophy & Summer Programme – Roger Care

- Roger noted that although the previous Pairs Trophy member pairings in May gave pairs more time in the summer months to collaborate, it also seemed to give more time for things to go wrong and for engagement to dwindle. Switching back to Oct / Nov seemed to be beneficial, caused less chaos and produced some good quality images. These timings should be repeated next season.
- The current summer (& autumn) programme is taking shape and will be completed and confirmed soon.
- It was agreed that those events that were workshop in nature (offering tuition as well as a venue) should be flagged up or emphasised so that members would know what to expect.
- The possibility of partnering with the Royston club for summer events was discussed. This would need to be reciprocal and Melbourn members should always get priority for Melbourn events if numbers are too high. This collaboration could be tried for the 2024-25 season.
- Roger asked members to submit more ideas for summer events noting that all it involved was having the idea, checking that photography is permitted, working

out the best parking options and the best date and time. He would also like to know what puts people off sponsoring summer events.

- Roger noted that he will be standing down from the committee next year and invited members to come forward to replace him.

New Members Secretary Report – Pam Aynsley

- Pam noted that it had been a good year with 9 new members joining.
- Six new members had been entering images into open competitions with one successfully being selected for the EAF championship.
- Pam noted that new members found the club friendly and encouraged all existing members to engage / chat with them to make them feel included.

Mentoring Coordinators Report – Keith Truman for Ian Tulloch

- The mentoring programme continues to thrive as a mixture of both informal ad hoc and more formal recurring sessions.
- Anyone interested in mentoring or being mentored should let Ian know.
- This can be a one-off interaction / multiple one-off interactions with different mentors for a specific skill or long-term, recurring sessions with a single mentor covering many topics.

Election of Officers - All

The following Officers were unanimously re-elected by the membership:

Chair / Competitions Secretary	Keith Truman
Treasurer	Bill Hamilton
Secretary / Webmaster	Peter North
Programme Secretary	Linda Marshall
Projectionist	David Stocks
Summer Prog / Pairs Trophy	Roger Care
New Member's Secretary	Pam Aynsley
Mentoring Coordinator	Ian Tulloch

The Club Committee

April 2023
