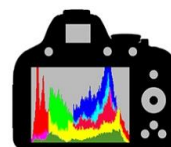


# Melbourn and District Photographic Club



*Melbourn & District  
Photographic  
Club*

## AGM Report & Minutes

**2023-24 Season**

**9<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Committee present:** Keith Truman (Chair & Competitions Secretary), Ian Tulloch & Linda Marshall (Programme Secretary), Bill Hamilton (Treasurer), Peter North (Secretary / Webmaster), David Stocks (Projectionist), Pam Aynsley (New Members Secretary), Garry Yalloway (Pairs Trophy)

**Apologies for absence:** Roger Care, Rosemary Burt, Ian Aynsley, Richard Schramm, Ron Byefield, Lanie Stoneman, Pat Rowley

**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 at the end of each relevant section. The newly elected officers and annual competitions awards are also listed towards the end of the report.

### Matters Arising from 2022-2023 AGM

- Nominations have now been received for the Chair, Internal Print Competition Sec, External Competition Sec and Summer Prog / Pairs Trophy roles.
- A new 'Creative' competition for images that would normally be unsuitable for club open competitions was run this year. Members voted to repeat this event.
- A SSL certificate was installed on the website to avoid spurious and misleading security warnings.
- Thanks go to Siobhan who donated her spare PS / LR license for use on the club laptop.
- Initial talks were held with the Royston Club about potentially sharing some Summer events. These are ongoing.
- New mentors and mentees have come forward.

## **Chairman's Report – Keith Truman**

Wow! Another great season where we have continued to be a really great small, yet successful Club – we continue to punch above our weight! There are many elements to us being successful but perhaps most satisfying is that we have continued to attract new members and that our new members have embraced taking part in Competitions and not only have they taken part, they have done really well.

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

- Attendance at Face to Face meetings remained good throughout the year
- Participation in competitions rose compared to previous years, helped I am sure by the support of our more experienced members who have continued to support our less experienced members. This is what we are about in that unless we support our less experienced members to become our most experienced members of the future, Clubs like ours just won't survive.
- We have had great success in Inter-Club Competitions, in particular doing very well in the PAGB National Print Championships
- 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. I thank them all.

In this my last year as Chairman, I am just a part of the Committee and without the graft of those members who serve on the Committee and give up significant time to keep the Club going, none of this would be possible. We actually only meet as a committee 2 or 3 times a year but the real work of the Committee goes on week in week out because those on the Committee know what they need to do and just get on with it. I thank you all for not only your support this year but also throughout all the years I have been Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Special thanks to Ian Tulloch this year. Whilst Linda Marshall, your Programme Secretary, has been diligently booking a programme for next season, Ian Tulloch stepped in to help deliver this year's programme by contacting speakers and judges to confirm their booking arrangements and then often doing the introductions in our meetings.

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 external competitions. Our task this year has been made even easier through the support of David Stocks who has developed some automated systems which have really facilitated our selections. Thank you all.

Pete has as ever done a great job as our secretary and this year has refreshed the website. Bill has kept us solvent with his attention to detail regarding our Finances,

Roger once again masterminded our Summer Programme, Gary took on the responsibility of the Pairs Competition and Ian has maintained the mentoring programme for us. Thank you!

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 thank you to all members who have helped make our teas and coffees during the breaks.

Once again our Club Night programme has gone from strength to strength, none of which would have been possible without members standing at the front and presenting. From our Opening Night presentations (me, Ian and Roger), to several Editing sessions (me, Ian, Pete, David, Bill, Andre, Roger), Know your Camera (Phil Dent), Creative Techniques (Phil and Nigel), File Management (Andre) and use of Smartphones (Pete), and talks on architectural photography from Katheryn and Craig and on her MA from Sam. All of these sessions develop our knowledge and all of these sessions require a significant preparation by the presenters so thank you to all of you.

Last but not least, as I step down, you all know that we have been seeking a new Chairman and also fill a new role of Internal Competitions Secretary for Prints which then allows me to step down and split my old role into 3. I am delighted to let you know that subject to your approval, we have filled those roles and look forwards to briefing you about this at our AGM.

Finally, my thanks to you our membership. It's you who make our club a fun place to be and also a place where we learn new skills together. I look forwards to supporting our new Chairman and continuing as External Competitions Secretary (if you elect me to that role at the AGM 😊)

## Minutes

- Keith emphasised how well the club had done in the PAGB National Championship & Plate competition.
- Keith thanked the committee members and external competition image selectors for their contributions, Gary for his contribution to the Pairs Trophy, all those involved in coordinating the refreshments and all those involved in the club nights and those giving talks to the club.

## 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 increased on previous years. For PDIs, we have seen that numbers of images submitted has increased by about 15% compared to last year with slightly more members submitting images too.

For Prints, the numbers of members submitting into the 1<sup>st</sup> print was very low, although comparable to last years number of participating members. The Committee therefore made a special effort to partner up with 7 or 8 members who needed some support to submit (be that printing help or mounting) and what has been rewarding is that effort paid off and numbers of members submitting prints is now the highest its been for 2 or 3 years. Thank you to all those who helped with that support 😊.

PDIs	2021-2022		2022 - 2023		2023 - 2024	
	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted
1 <sup>st</sup> Open	24	69	23	66	19	57
2 <sup>nd</sup> Open	20	56	21	54	29	82
3 <sup>rd</sup> Open	17	50	18	51	22	63
Average	25	68	21	57	23	67

Regarding print competitions:

Prints	2021-2022		2022 - 2023		2023 - 2024	
	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted	Members submitting images	Images Submitted
1 <sup>st</sup> Open	22	62	11	33	14	38
2 <sup>nd</sup> Open	17	50	17	47	23	60
3 <sup>rd</sup> Open	16	46	17	48	20	57
Average	18	53	15	43	19	52

Question for members – Would it be a big burden if we submitted PDIs of all prints being submitted for a Print Competition into the Competition Entry system? If we routinely did this it would ease both the pre- and post-competition burden for the Competition Secretary.

## External Competitions (Inter-Clubs)

The highlight of our achievements in External Competitions has undoubtedly been in the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain Print National Championships after we had secured our place at last years EAF Print Championships.

Amazingly, we were joint winners of the Plate Competitions. This was just an incredible performance by our little club. Thanks go to Roger Care and to Naomi Saul who helped Roger on the day in Blackburn.



As a winner of the Plate Competition, we have automatically qualified for the 2024 National Print Championships in Blackburn in Oct 24

Our Inter-Club results have once again this year been spectacular. We won all 3 of the local Inter-Clubs we took part in and also continued to do well in EAF Print especially. Summary of Inter-Club Results:

Melbourn vs Royston	Melbourn =	425
	Royston =	421
3 Counties Cup	Melbourn =	324
	Saffron Walden =	302
	Letchworth =	280
"Friendly Cup"	Melbourn =	323
	Bottisham & Burwell =	305
	Ely =	319

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 out of 11 participating clubs. This exhibition would be enhanced, from the Melbourn perspective, if we could see the competitor images. I will look into the options to achieve this.

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

### Cambridge Digital

We came 11th out of 28 clubs competing in this competition with Pete North's image, Last Leaves being judged the best image in the competition and being awarded the Roy Pitman Trophy..

### EAF Digital Image Competition

We finished 11th out of 28 of the best Clubs in East Anglia, missing out by just 1 point in getting through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

### EAF Print Competition

We finished 4th out of 19 of the best Clubs in East Anglia. In fact, we were the top-ranked club with no professional club members which is an amazing result for our small club. As a reminder, we will again represent the EAF at the PAGB National Championships to be held in Blackburn later this year in October as a consequence of us coming Joint 1<sup>st</sup> in last years' Plate Championship.

## **Minutes**

- Keith commented that we need to do better with the PDI submissions to external competitions and that having a PDI copy of each print would increase the selection pool.
- The membership agreed that in future all open print competition entries will be accompanied by a PDI version.
- Keith reminded the membership that we are in the PAGB National competition to be held in Blackburn next season.
- The quality of our images, and the judgement of our image selectors, meant that we won all external club battles this season.
- Keith proposed that next year, for the first time, we should submit images to be considered for the EAF Summer Exhibition (usually at Wingfield, Suffolk).
- This is done by individual photographers submitting images through the club to then be assessed by the EAF Exhibition selection panel.

## Programme Secretaries Report – Ian Tulloch & Linda Marshall

For this season, Ian had taken on responsibility for making the arrangements for external speakers and competition judges, while Linda worked to build the Programme for the next season.

This is Linda's first year as Programme Secretary and, although it has been a steep learning curve, next season's programme is almost finished. There are still two judges to find and the process isn't helped by a frustrating lack of responses (recently only 1 Judge responded out of 3 invites sent).

The current programme comprises of:

- 7 Lectures – 6 via Zoom and 1 at Foxton;
- 11 Internal Cub competitions, including for the first time an Artistic Competition, which was well received by members;
- 6 External Competitions;
- 6 Internal Club Evenings which were organised and delivered by Members

Lectures presented over Zoom had been well attended at Foxton and this format will be continued next season, enabling access to a wider variety of excellent speakers across a range of genres.

Special thanks are given to the following members:

- Keith Truman, Peter North, Roger Care, Nigel Northwood, David Stocks, Bill Hamilton, Paul Ravenscroft, Andre Neves and Ian Tulloch for organising and running our successful Club Nights.
- David Stocks for organising the digital content of all the PDI Competitions
- Sam Buchanan for her talk on her photography MA dissertation
- Nigel Northwood for his presentation on long exposure techniques
- Phil Dent for hosting a 'Know Your Camera' session
- Peter North for his talk on 'Getting the most from your Smartphone'
- Craig and Kathryn for their talk on Architecture

Looking forward to the next season, the provisional Programme is now detailed as below:

10/09/2024	Club Evening	Welcome back - Members talk	x	
17/09/2024	Club Comp 1	1st Open PDI	?	
24/09/2024	Lecture 1	Lecture 1	Ruth Grindrod	Colour, Tones and Textures
01/10/2024	Club Evening		x	
08/10/2024	Club Comp 2	1st Open Print	?	
15/10/2024	Lecture 2		Gary Nichols	TBC
22/10/2024	Club Evening		x	

29/10/2024	Club Comp 3	2nd Open PDI	Carmen Norman	
05/11/2024	Lecture 3		Kevin Pigney	How I process my wildlife images
12/11/2024	Club Comp 4	2nd Open Print	Naomi Saul	
19/11/2024	Lecture 4		David Jordan	Joan & Dave do Venice.
26/11/2024	Club Evening		x	
03/12/2024	Club Comp 5	Mono PDI & Print	Tony Bramley	
04/12/2024	Friendly Cup at Ely			
10/12/2024	Club Evening		x	
17/12/2024	Xmas Recess			
	Club Xmas Meal			
07/01/2025	Lecture 5		Carmen Norman	TBC
14/01/2025	Club Comp 6	3rd Open PDI	Nicholas Bowman	
21/01/2025	Lecture 6		Justin Minns	Essex Locations
28/01/2025	Club Evening		x	
04/02/2025	Club Comp 7	Panel Print Comp - Pairs PDI Trophy	Clive Harward	
11/02/2025	Lecture 7		Jonathan Vaines	Me,Myself & Eye
18/02/2025	InterClub	Royston InterClub		
25/02/2025	Club Comp 8	3rd Open Print	Ben Pike	
04/03/2025	Lecture 8		Darron Matthews	How I do my Macro
11/03/2025	Club Evening		x	
18/03/2025	Club Comp 9	Art Competition	Jonathan Vaines	
25/03/2025	Club Comp 10	PDI of the Year	Jonathan Vaines	
01/04/2025	Club Comp 11	Print of the Year	Naomi Saul	

## Minutes

- Linda and Ian had split the role this season.
- Linda is waiting on 2 judges before completing the programme.
- Zoom meetings allowed us to engage good external speakers nationally with the only downside being a lack of spontaneous Q&A
- Zoom could also open us up to international speakers (time zones permitting)
- Recording external speakers for later viewing would probably not be acceptable to most speakers who wish to retain control of their content.
- We could consider recording internally run training events (e.g. print mounting demo).



## **Treasurer's Report – Bill Hamilton**

A set of accounts to 14 April 2024 is provided below notes. I would like to express my thanks to Penny and David Harper for stepping in when I was away.

### **Membership and Income**

The current year membership is 58 (22/23; 58) composed of 53 paid up members and 5 Honorary Members. There were 7 new members at the start of the season with an additional 4 joining halfway through, and a prospective 5 new members joining next season. Membership fee income stood at £1,214 (22/23; £1,210) and the weekly subs at £866 (22/23; £761). Income from visitors was £29 (22/23; £38) and income from mountboard sales to members of £391.50, a decrease back from 22/23 close to 21/22 levels.

### **Expenditure**

A total of 28 of 29 meetings were held at Foxton Village Hall and the total hire cost of £437 was essentially the same as last year (22/23; £453). The combined Lecture and Judging fees showed a small increase (9%) on last year and EAF membership combined with our competition fees was down (22%).

Our insurance renewal with Hive, as recommended by EAF, was up by 13%. Equipment costs increased by ~£183 to a total cost £233 compared to last year, resulting from the purchase of a new projection screen and mic.

The 22/23 sundries increased to £170 and included the cost of Award card frames and flowers for Naomi Saul (by way of 'thank you' for her help at the PAGB Championships) and engraving costs. Regarding the Award certificates, the paper and ink has been generously provided by our Secretary.

The cost of refreshments was up 26% compared to 22/23.

IT expenditure almost doubled to £221 due to the additional purchase of a 2yr SSL certificate for the website in addition to the hosting charges. Our Zoom subscription cost has been generously covered by our Chairman.

The other large difference between this year and last relates to the purchase and sale of mount boards. The quantity purchased in the year was down 20%, representing a difference of £109 to last year. We have an existing stock value of £37 and all mount boards will be sold to members at a cost price of £1.60.

## **Creditors**

The accounts include a provision (accrual) of £32.40 for the Foxton Village Hall hire costs incurred in the period, but not yet invoiced.

## **Cash Position**

Cash on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 24 was £1,755 (22/23; £ 2,127)

## **Summary**

Overall, the Club had a deficit of £444, a significant increase over last year (22-23; £94) with the net assets of the MDPC decreasing by 20% this year to £1,760 (22-23; £2,204). This is primarily due to the costs of the new projection screen and SSL certificates for the website. However, the Club is making a loss year on year at present.

One of the biggest risks to the Club going forward is a failure of the projector and/or laptop. The Club therefore needs to maintain a minimum level of funds in case the worst happens, and the Committee agree that this should be in the order of £2,500. Our current net assets are now considerably below this level.

The Committee have therefore discussed the current membership cost which has not been raised since 2019. If inflation is taken into account, the membership fees would be ~20% higher than they are currently. It is clear that we need to raise the membership fees.

An informal on-line survey of 15 other local clubs revealed that all have annual fees greater than ours, some have weekly fees greater than ours and all but one did not offer discounted annual fees to those of retirement age.

We have carried out a detail analysis on a full range of options (increasing membership fees and/or weekly subs) based on the current membership the attendance percentages with the concept that we wish to raise our fund base to £2,500 in 2-3 years.

Several options were discussed at the AGM and the membership indicated a strong preference to increase the Membership fees rather than the weekly subs. Consequently the 24/25 Membership fee will be £40 for all (with the exception of Students), with the weekly subs remaining at £1 for each meeting and £2 for visitors.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	2023-24		2022-23
INCOME	£	Notes	£
Yearly Membership	1,214.00		1,210.00
Weekly subs	866.00		761.00
Visitors	29.00		38.00
Mountboard	391.50		539.70
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	2,500.50		2,548.70
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Hall Hire	(437.40)		(453.60)
Lecturers	(570.00)		(470.00)
Judges	(391.32)	(1)	(408.50)
EAF membership	(141.20)	(2)	(181.40)
Competition fees	(35.00)	(3)	(115.50)
Insurance	(130.63)	(4)	(115.99)
Equipment	(232.96)	(5)	(49.91)
Sundries	(168.99)	(6)	(33.75)
Refreshments	(179.86)		(143.03)
Mountboard	(436.75)	(7)	(545.97)
Website & Zoom	(220.55)	(8)	(124.56)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	(2,944.66)		(2,642.21)
<b>DEFICIT</b>	(444.16)		(93.51)
<b>BALANCE SHEET (as at 14th Apr 2024)</b>	<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
<b>CASH</b>	1,755.16		2,126.77
<b>CREDITORS (accrual)</b>	(32.40)	(9)	(48.60)
<b>BOARD STOCK</b>	36.80		125.55
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	1,759.56		2,203.72
<b>CASH BALANCE</b>			
Barclays Account	1,746.56		2,126.77
Petty Cash	8.60		0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,755.16		2,126.77
<b>Board Stock</b>			
Mountboards	23		93
Cost per board	1.60		1.35
Value of stock held	36.80		125.55
<b>Membership</b>			
Membership (paid & hon)	58		58
Attendance (average)	32 or 58%		27 or 47%

## Notes to the accounts

- (1) Includes a donation to EACH in lieu of Glenys Garnett's lecture fee.
- (2) EAF Federation subscription.
- (3) Cambridge Digital and PAGB Championship tickets.
- (4) Insurers continue to be HIVE, as recommended by EAF.
- (5) New projector screen and mic.
- (6) Naomi Saul help with PAGB competition, Award card frame purchases and engraving costs.
- (7) Includes adjustment for panel mountboards free to members.
- (8) Includes domain name, web hosting/SSL certificates.
- (9) Hall hire for April 24 (£32.40) not paid as at the date of these accounts.

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- Bill thanked Penny and David for standing in for him when he was a way from the front desk.
- The financial entries in this final post-AGM report will differ slightly from those presented in the pre-AGM report.
- The club made a loss of £444 and has a reserve of £1755.
- The main physical assets are the laptop, projector, screen, cordless microphone and sound amplifier.
- The club needs a persistent reserve of £2500 to cover the replacement of these items.
- Compared to 15 other local clubs, we have the lowest annual fees, one of the lowest weekly fees and have not raised fees since 2019.
- Compared to 14 other local clubs, we are the only club to offer an annual fee discount to retired members.
- The club needs to review fees and an initial proposal was to increase weekly fees to £2 next season.
- However, there was a majority view from the membership that, instead of raising weekly fees, the annual fees for both retired, non-retired and family members should be equalised at £40.
- There was some debate around whether the club should seek sponsorship from local businesses with the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Astra Zeneca and Cambridge colleges were highlighted as possible partners.

## **New Member's Secretary Report – Pam Aynsley**

Pam reports that this year we have had our highest intake of new members joining Melbourn Photo Club so far.

Ten new members joined, of whom, five found us through our club website, three via our current active members, one was suggested by an ex-member, and one through the village magazines in which we advertise our club activities.

This season it has been noted what a great feeling of communal camaraderie is enjoyed amongst Melbourn members which has been commented on by judges, members and visitors, all helping to boost our great successes this season.

### **Minutes**

- Pam noted that our ten new members represented the highest annual intake to date.
- These members had become aware of our club via many different means.
- The membership acknowledged Pam's efforts in following-up potential new members with such a personal touch that they quickly become engaged and integrated in club activities.

## **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 10 new members over the last year and the following analysis has been undertaken:

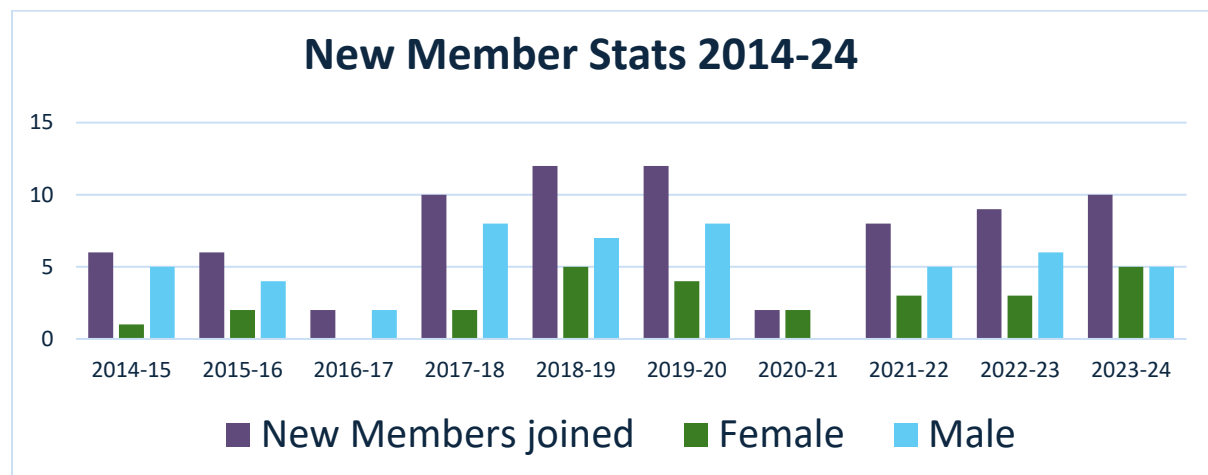
Of the 10 new members:

- Eight are under 65 and two are over (our youngest intake ever)
- Five are female and five are male (our most balanced ratio ever)
- Eight are new to club photography and two are not
- Two self-identify as a beginner, four as intermediate and four as experienced
- They live in Melbourn, Cambridge, Bassingbourn, Meldreth, Foxton, Barrington or Chatteris
- Four use Nikon cameras, four use Canon, one each uses Sony and Olympus
- Four joined following a member's recommendation, five via our website, and one via local a magazine advert.

To recruit 10 new members is impressive and is in line with the two previous post-pandemic years. Key to this success is Pam's efforts in following-up potential new members so effectively, and with such a personal touch, that they quickly become engaged and integrated.

With sufficient data to now look at trends over the last 10 years (see graph) it's interesting to note that we have had between 6-12 new members every year apart from 2016-17 and the pandemic years of 2020-21 (only 2 new members).

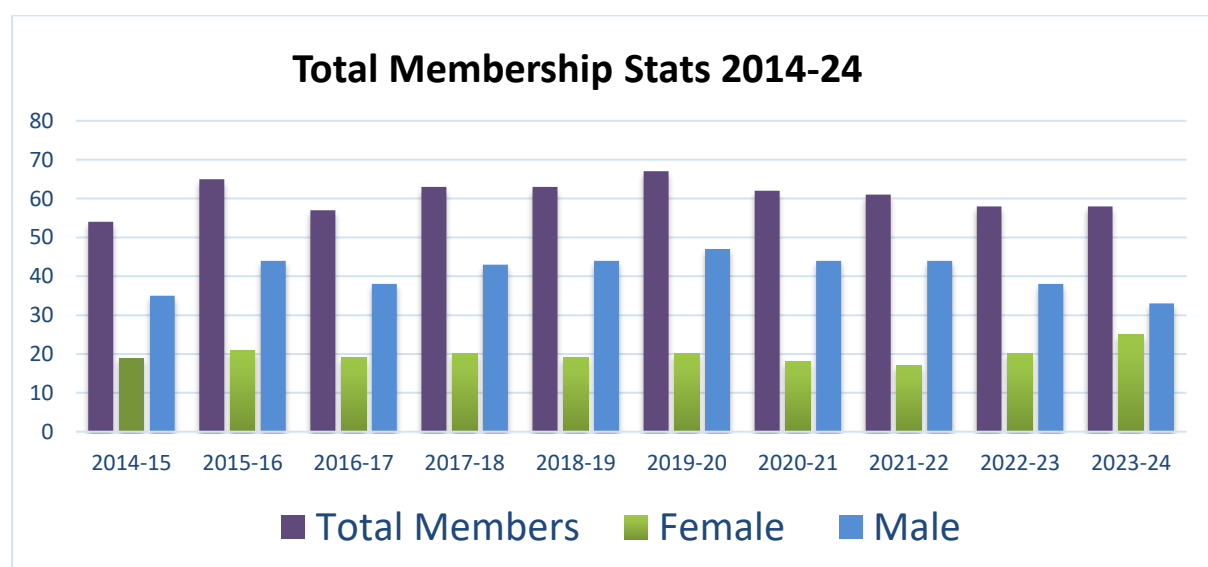
It's also encouraging to note that in this current 2023-24 season we have attracted equal numbers of female (5) and male (5) joiners for the first time ever.



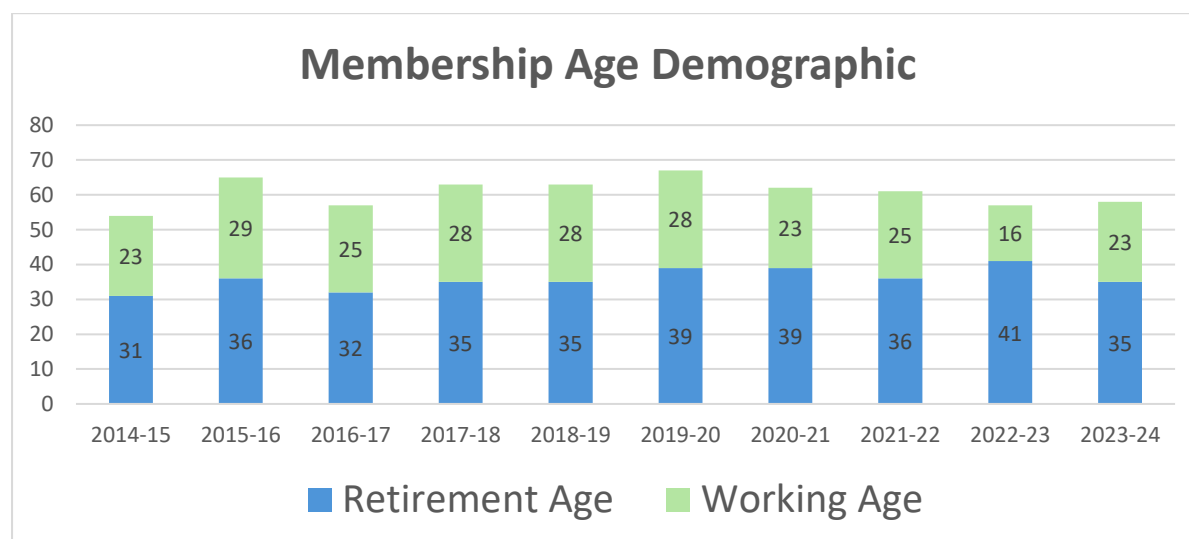
## Analysis of Total Membership Trends

Looking at membership trends over the last decade (see graph), total membership has been remarkably consistent at between 54 and 67 each season with the current season having the most even gender distribution with 43% female and 57% male. The gender distribution 10 years ago was 35% female and 65% male.

Also encouraging is the refresh rate of the core membership with 46% of our members having joined the Club over the last 5 seasons.



Although the age demographic has been very consistent over the last decade (see graph) the current distribution of 60% of retirement age and 40% under is a good balance compared to other local EAF clubs.



### Attendance Trends (members only, not including guests)

- The average weekly attendance was 32 members or 56% of membership. This includes both Zoom and face-to-face meetings (see table)
- This is much higher than the previous two seasons (46-47%) and is now similar to the average attendance achieved prior to the pandemic
- The range of a single individual's attendance varied between 5 in 27 meetings to 26 in 27 meetings with an average of 13 in 27 meetings.

Season	Members	Average Meeting Attendance (including Zoom)	Average Meeting Attendance as % of Membership	Average No of Meetings Attended per Member
2023-24	58	32	56	13
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
- The Listing (ad hoc)

One of our 10 new members were attracted to the club via this publicity.

## **Club Website**

The newly designed website has now been active for over a year and has remained stable and free of malware. It continues to render well on the Mac, PC and a variety of Android / Apple handheld devices both in landscape and portrait orientation.

- It has 61 pages
- It has >2500 images in 184 galleries
- The cost of webhosting / domain name has remained the same at £124.56 pa
- The cost of purchasing, installing and maintaining a SSL encryption certificate (see below) is £48 pa
- All maintenance / updating is done in-house by Peter using WordPress.

In February 2024 the site was converted from the legacy, uncertified site (<http://>) into a certified site (<https://>) in which traffic to and from the server is encrypted. Because the legacy site was never used for financial transactions, nor exchange of sensitive personal information, member's data was never at risk on the old site. However, many search engines and web browsers are now routinely flagging-up uncertified sites as potentially insecure.

At best this introduces tedious, extra security steps before members can access the site and at worst will scare-off potential new members / casual viewers from accessing the site at all. The new site does not flag-up security issues and effectively allays this problem. Accordingly, five new members joined our club after using a search engine to find a local club.

## **Other Club Secretary Activities**

The following background, but regular, activities were performed as required and within deadlines:



- All new member's details added to master database and mail distribution lists
- Annual club programme published on the website in both live & 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.
- 40 club competition certificates compiled, printed & framed for AGM awards.

## **Minutes**

- Peter highlighted that this year's new members were the youngest (80% under 65) and most gender-balanced (50% female) cohort ever.
- 80% of the new members were new to club photography.
- We now have the highest ever level of female members (around 40%) and this is reflected in their successes in both internal and external competitions.
- The total membership has been remarkably stable at between 54-67 members over the last 10 years.
- Average weekly attendance has now returned to pre-pandemic levels of around 56% (10% higher than pandemic levels).
- Our website is now certified as SSL compliant and will no longer be flagged-up as potentially insecure.

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

This year's programme has required the projector at every evening except for the four print competitions. Fortunately, I have been able to make almost all of those and, when not, other members have been able to stand in.

The projector has continued to work well and the calibration still appears good.

The club laptop is still functioning fine for most of its uses, although it is starting to get a bit slow for doing Photoshop editing demonstrations. We can assume that the editing tools will continue to demand increased processing capabilities and may have to look to upgrade the laptop in a couple of years.

For doing the live demonstrations of photo edits, we have been this year using Siobhan's Adobe licence – thank you Siobhan – and has worked without problem.

We have had many remote lecturers this year, bringing us a greater breadth of topics than could have been provided in the flesh. The Zoom setup has worked well for this for both picture and audio quality, although I feel a few of the lecturers could do with having better microphones at their end.

At the in-person competitions, both PDI and prints, the sound quality from our own lapel microphone has not been so good. We need to determine if this was just that it needed a fresh battery or if we need to provide a replacement radio microphone for next season.

This year we continued to use the “success” online image submission system, which is still generously provided by Adrian Lines and his company free of charge. This saves me massive amounts of time in collating and preparing the images for our competitions and appears to work well for those submitting. To my knowledge, I lost one image in a competition where the software had done something unexpected due to the use of punctuation characters in the image name. I do now check more carefully that the number of images I have put into the competition match the number that the online system thinks it has received, which should catch such issues.

I have continued to use the FFPx software for running the competitions. It is a bit quirky, but it works well enough for our needs. You may have spotted that I had a couple of tricky moments this year:

- One was in the Points of View competition, where it refused to project the images although it happily showed the competition title. This competition can take a little more effort to set up because of the different categories of image have to be grouped together. This year I’d set up the competition using a slightly different method to make it easier but got caught out! I now know what to do to avoid that problem another time.
- The other “bump” what in the Artistic competition where Jonathan Vaines wanted to award many Commended and Highly Commended images, but the scoring scheme limited the number of awards in each category. This was a lesson learned, and there’s a simple work around for this for next time.

I’ve now been the club projectionist since September 2016 – doesn’t time fly when you’re having fun. I’m happy to do it again for 2024-25 season, but I will be looking next season to help get another member, or two members, up to speed with the role to be ready to take over from September 2025.

## **Minutes**

- A mainly uneventful year with all systems working well.
- The on-line submissions system works very well at no cost to the club.
- Most images are submitted correctly sized and named.
- David is pleased to stand as projectionist for another year after which he will step down.
- Members with a technical bias are invited to nominate themselves.

## **Summer Programme Report – Roger Care**

Roger was pleased to report that the 2023 Summer Programme was very successful with 13 events being organised between early May and October which was above target. There were the much-loved trips for macro, motorsports, and London photography, together with many new and interesting events. There was one externally organised and paid for event with Jonathan Vaines on creative photography. Roger commented that occasional externally organised events have become increasingly popular over the last few years.

Roger reported that, in common with prior years, many of the images taken at the Summer Programme events are seen in Club competitions with many achieving high scores from judges. Beginners and experienced Members alike report learning something new from their Summer Programme experiences.

As reported at last year's AGM, Roger will be standing down from organising the Summer Programme at the end of the 2023/2024 season and he thanked the many sponsors of summer events over the last 8 years.

However, with the summer recess around the corner and his replacement not yet formally in place he requested that Members initially put forward suggestions and ideas to him for events for the forthcoming summer to be handed over to the incoming incumbent.

An item for discussion at the AGM is the potential to share some of the Summer Programme events with Royston Photographic Society.

## **Pairs Trophy 2023-24 – Roger Care / Garry Yalloway**

<b>Number of Pairs</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Entering	16	16	15	15	12	10	9	11
Submitting	?	11	15	9	9	6	8	8

The Committee believes that the Pairs Trophy remains a valuable competition for the Club by supplementing the mentoring programme and allowing the transfer of experience and skills through both practical and post-processing activities. Although the dropout rate of 3 pairs was typical this year, we saw 8 of the 11 participating pairs completing the competition and submitting a total of 48 images.

In future years, more contact will be made with the allocated pairs so that any willing halves of a dropout pair can be reallocated. It might, for instance, be possible to re-match individuals from dropout pairs into new pairs.

## **Minutes**

- Roger was thanked by the membership for running the Summer programme and Pairs Trophy so successfully for several years.
- To be a continued success, the Summer Programme needs volunteers, and all ideas should be suggested to Gary.
- The ideas can involve small numbers of people and should not be complicated to sponsor / set up.
- Keith has been in contact with the Royston Club with a view to share some events in order to bolster numbers. Royston have shown an interest in doing this.
- Before initiating a new event, the actual Melbourn members showing an interest will be assessed and Royston will be invited only if the final numbers are manageable.
- The ideal number of participants is highly dependent on the activity and the space / facilities at the venue.
- Melbourn members will always get priority at Melbourn initiated events.
- After some debate, it was decided that the beginning of Sep was the best time for the Pairs Trophy pairings to be made.
- Having a single judge for the Pairs Trophy and Panel Print on the same evening is still considered to be effective because both competitions tend to attract fewer submissions than all other open competitions.

## **Mentoring Coordinator's Report – Ian Tulloch**

Ian reported that the club's mentor / mentee database had been updated in the early part of the season. This had been helpful in identifying the priority areas where help was needed, mainly image processing, basic camera skills including getting off auto, and printing / mounting. To a large extent these needs have been met by ongoing mentor – mentee interactions, club evenings focusing on editing and camera skills, and also by participation in the Pairs competition.

It is very encouraging that quite a few of our new and less experienced club members have entered good quality images in our competitions, both print and PDI, and gained valuable feedback from judges' detailed critiquing.

Ian again took the opportunity to thank members who had volunteered to be mentors and for sharing their expertise in the many different aspects of club photography. This is viewed as being a key component in ensuring a high standard of photography is maintained, and also for contributing to the friendly and collaborative ethos that prevails within the club.

It is proposed to continue the Mentoring programme in future as a means both to help new members integrate effectively into the club and to encourage ongoing positive interaction among members.

## **Minutes**

- There was good feedback from the membership on the effectiveness of the mentoring programme.
- There was a generally good matching of mentors with mentees.
- Mentors tend to prefer offering 'one-off' advice on a particular issue rather than longer term open-ended support.
- It was considered worthwhile to check progress mid-season.
- It was suggested that an open forum be created so that problems could be posted for mentors to respond to.
- It was noted that the Club's WhatsApp group could serve this function although this did not cover the entire membership as some members wish to minimise their overall involvement in social media interactions.

## **Election of Officers - All**

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

Treasurer	Bill Hamilton
Secretary / Webmaster	Peter North
Programme Secretary	Linda Marshall / Ian Tulloch
Projectionist	David Stocks
New Member's Secretary	Pam Aynsley
Mentoring Coordinator	Ian Tulloch

The following new nominations were proposed and elected unanimously by the membership:

Chair	Nigel Northwood
Internal Print Competition Sec	Andre Neves
External Competition Sec	Keith Truman
Summer Prog / Pairs Trophy Sec	Gary Yalloway

## **MELBOURN AWARDS 2023-2024**

Keith presented the annual competition awards as follows:

### **Chairman's Trophy for highest cumulative score for prints & PDI**

1st	Peter North (329)
2nd	Keith Truman (322)
3rd	Ian Tulloch (319)

### **Ken Clifford Trophy for highest cumulative score for PDIs**

1st	Peter North (171)
2nd	Keith Truman (169)
Joint 3rd	Bill Hamilton (165) & Ian Tulloch (165)

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

1st	Nigel Northwood (163)
2nd	Peter North (158)
3rd	Theresa Penfound (157)

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

1st	A Mothers Love	Annette Willacy
2nd	Last Leaves	Peter North
3rd	Mellow Yellow	Theresa Penfound

### **Print of the Year**

1st	Vipers Bugloss	John McDowall
2nd	Alaskan Sunrise	Peter North
3rd	Old and young Chalkhill Blues	Andre Neves

### **Points of View**

Joint winners: Richard Cassidy & Beiyuan Fu

### **Mono PDI Competition**

1st	Autumn Leaves	Peter North
2nd	Glacial Lake	Roger Care
3rd	Into the storm	Andre Neves

### **Mono Print Competition**

1st	Companions	Linda Marshall
2nd	I Spy	Jo Norcross
3rd	A friendly wave	Theresa Penfound

### **Panel Competition**

1st	We will remember them	Theresa Penfound
2nd	The Model	Penny Harper
3rd	Fall	Jenny Collier

### **Artistic Competition (PDI)**

1st	We don't need no thought control	Another kid in the wall	Sue Gwynne
2nd	The Altruistic Council		Jenny Collier
3rd	London Inverted		Paul Ravenscroft

### **Artistic Competition (Print)**

1st	Blue	Jenny Collier
2nd	Sky, Sea, Sand, Sea, Street	Peter North
3rd	High Key Staircase	Peter North

### **Pairs Trophy**

1st	Marc Carmel & Keith Truman (111)
2nd	Sue Gwynne & Bill Hamilton (109)
3rd	Keith Taylor & Jenny Collier (105)

### **David Gray Trophy for the Rookie of the Year**

Winner:        Annette Willacy

## **AOB – All**

The membership thanked Keith for being such an outstanding Chair and leader of our club over the last 5 years. He has lifted our small club's standing within both the EAF and national photographic community, and has led the club with characteristic professionalism, energy, enthusiasm and humour.

Although standing down as Chair, he will play a key role as External Competition Secretary and, as an active club member, will continue to inspire us with his outstanding images.

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## **The Club Committee**

**April 2024**

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