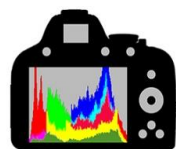


# Melbourn and District Photographic Club



*Melbourn & District  
Photographic  
Club*

## AGM Report & Minutes

**2024 - 25 Season**

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### **Committee present:**

Nigel Northwood (Chair), Peter North (Secretary / Webmaster), Keith Truman (External Competitions Secretary), André Neves (Internal Print Competitions), Linda Marshall (Programme Secretary), Pam Aynsley (New Members Secretary), Gary Yalloway (Pairs Trophy & Summer Programme)

### **Apologies for absence:**

**Committee:** Bill Hamilton (Treasurer), David Stocks (Internal PDI Competitions & Projectionist), Ian Tulloch (Mentoring Coordinator & Programme).

**Membership:** Celia Hobbs, Dave Cole, Eve Maythorne, Ian Aynsley, Lynne Cole, Richard Cassidy, Steve Trevanion, Sue Gwynne, Theresa Penfound.

**Please Note:** This report combines the content of the recently circulated pre-AGM report (updated) 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 / Actions from the 2023-24 AGM**

- Having members submit a PDI copy of their open print competition entries has had excellent compliance and has considerably expanded our pool of potential PDI entries for external competitions.
- John McDowall's proposal that we should submit images for the EAF Summer Exhibition has been popular and several members have had their images accepted (details later in this report). The exhibition will be held 3-18 May at The Apex in Bury St Edmunds
- The majority view that annual fees for both retired, non-retired and family members should be equalised at £40, has been well accepted by the membership.
- The decision to seek sponsorship from local businesses, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Astra Zeneca and Cambridge Colleges has not produced any partnerships but should continue to be explored.
- For the first time, we have shared our summer programme with the Royston Club as a means of increasing participation and there were some examples of cross-attendance. This arrangement will remain active.
- Gary Yalloway has volunteered to take on the Projectionist role from David Stocks who, in turn, has volunteered to be joint Programme Secretary with Linda Marshall.
- Ian Tulloch has volunteered to take on the Pairs Trophy from Gary. Sue McDowall has volunteered to take on managing refreshments from Rosemary.

## **Chairman's Report – Nigel Northwood**

Yet another great year for Melbourn, with the club doing very well at inter club, EAF and PAGB competitions with members achieving awards at these events. Pete for best print at the PAGB national print championship and André, John and Roger for their Judge's / Selectors awards at the PDI / Print EAF championship.

Our club has benefited from many great presentations including Justin Minns for Essex locations, Kevin Pigney with how he shoots wildlife and my favourite and, judging by the amount of feedback from you, was Gary Nichols with his steampunk talk.

In addition, we have had our in-house evenings with desert island prints by Pete, Gary and me, image critique with Keith, Ian and Pete, insight into judging by André, and editing with Keith, Pete, Roger and me.

More recently, Lynne and Dave Cole, and John and Sue McDowall gave two excellent presentations, and we had Keith's tongue in cheek look at some famous photographer's work. Thanks to all of you, this is what makes this club so special.

Ian Tulloch and I have also achieved our DPAG distinction this season and André Neves achieved two judges' awards and a highly commended at the RPS Nature Group EX 2025. This is further testament to how good this club's membership is.

I would like to thank all the committee for their dedication and hard work. In particular, Rosemary for organising refreshments over many years, David for his expert and unflappable skills as Projectionist, Gary for running the Pairs Trophy and Ian for his involvement in the Programme.

The Pairs Trophy will be handed over to Ian while Gary takes on the Projectionist role and David takes on the joint Programme Secretary role with Linda.

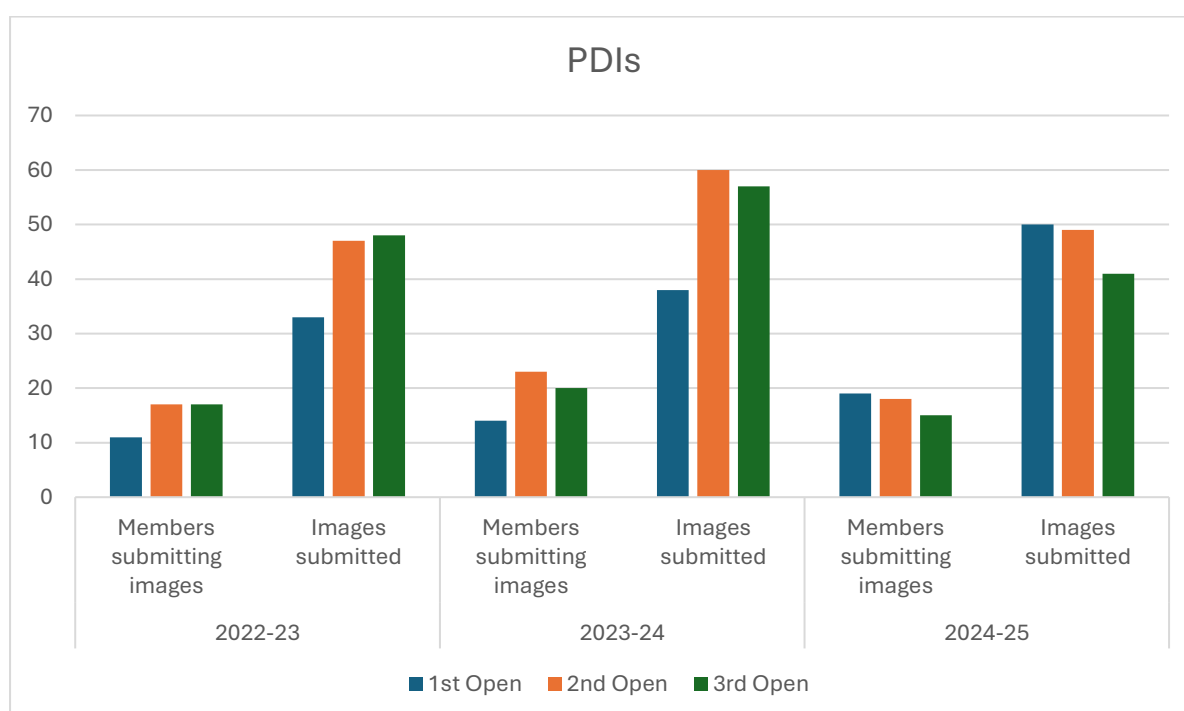
Many thanks also to everyone who helps to set up and clear away every week. I'm looking forward to being back here with all of you for another fantastic season. Thank you.

## **Internal Competitions – David Stocks and André Neves**

### **PDIs**

The number of PDIs being submitted to competitions in the current season was very slightly down on the previous season, but still up on 2022-23 – we have been maintaining a reasonably consistent level since covid. Unlike the two previous years, where the first Open PDI had noticeably fewer images, levels were more consistent across the three competitions.

PDIs	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	Members submitting images	Images submitted	Members submitting images	Images submitted	Members submitting images	Images submitted
1st Open	23	66	19	57	22	65
2nd Open	21	54	29	82	23	66
3rd Open	18	51	22	63	21	62
Average	21	57	23	67	22	64

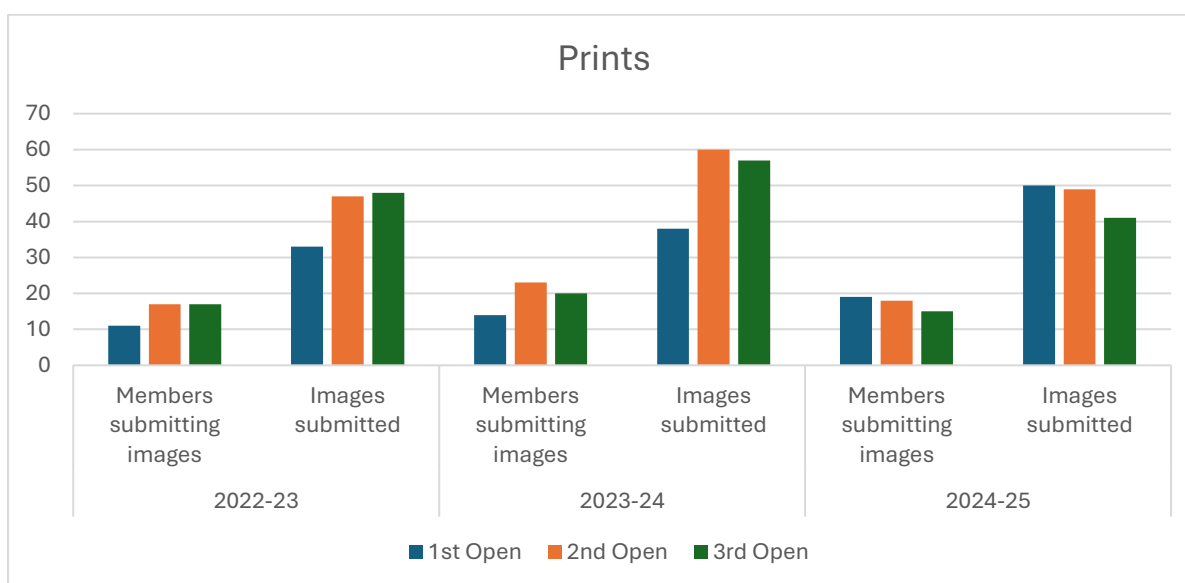


## Prints

Submissions to print competitions and the number of members submitting, was down a little this season compared to last, but still better than the year before. Next season it may be worth considering a repeat of the special effort made in 2023-24 to support print entries especially those from new members. This could take the form of targeting help including involvement in the mentoring programme.

This season, members have also been submitting PDIs of their prints via the online “success” system. This appears to have been working well, and the committee would welcome feedback from members on this.

Prints	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	Members submitting images	Images submitted	Members submitting images	Images submitted	Members submitting images	Images submitted
1st Open	11	33	14	38	19	50
2nd Open	17	47	23	60	18	49
3rd Open	17	48	20	57	15	41
Average	15	43	19	52	17	47



## Other Internal Competitions

In addition to the three open Print & PDI competitions, the Club has also organised Points of View, Panel Print, Creative PDI & Print and Monochrome PDI & Print competitions. Submission numbers to all of these competitions were good and of high quality.

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- It was confirmed that the PDI copy of any print competition image should be produced to the same quality as if being submitted to an open PDI competition.
- The membership was encouraged to ask for help when entering club competitions.

## External Competitions (Inter-Clubs) – Keith Truman

Having won the PAGB Print National Championships Plate Competition in 2023, we competed in the National Print Championships once again in November 2024. There were 37 clubs represented, and all Clubs took part in Round 1 which comprised 12 prints.

After the 1st Round, we were in 17th position. Only the Top 9 clubs go through to the Final, the remaining 28 going into the Plate competition where Melbourn finished in tied 7<sup>th</sup> place, an excellent result.

The icing on the cake was Peter North winning the Rod Whelan Trophy for the best colour print of the PAGB Championships with his Last Leaves print being judged Best Print of the competition out of the 600 prints judged on the day was an amazing result.

Our Inter-Club results have once again this year been spectacular. We won all 3 of the local Inter-Clubs we took part in. Summary of Inter-Club Results:

Melbourn vs Royston	Melbourn = Royston =	454 439
3 Counties Cup	Melbourn = Saffron Walden = Letchworth =	322 313 302
“Friendly Cup”	Melbourn = Bottisham & Burwell = Ely =	318 307 306

## External Comps (Cambridge Digital, EAF prints and PDIs) – Keith Truman

### Cambridge Digital

In the Cambridge Digital Competition held in January 2025, we had our best ever result, coming 3rd out of 29 clubs competing competition.

### EAF Digital Image Competition

We had our best ever showing in the EAF PDI Championships, competing against 23 of the best clubs in East Anglia, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall which means that incredibly, Melbourn will be representing the EAF in the PAGB National Championships in Warwick in July, something we have never achieved before. In addition to this, congratulations also go to André for his individual Judge’s award success.

## EAF Print Competition

We finished 6th out of 17 of the best Clubs in East Anglia, having led the competition for the first 8 (out of 15) rounds. In addition, congratulations must go to John McDowall and Roger Care for their individual Judge's / Selector's award success.

Keith thanked the other members of the selection Committee for their hard work in selecting images for external competitions, namely Peter North, Ian Tulloch and Roger Care. Keith also thanked David Stocks for his work in building and supporting the database used to assist our selections.

## **Minutes**

Following on from the recent EAF Summer Exhibition selection panel's judging, Keith was able to update the membership about the outcome.

After what he had thought was a mediocre success rate to gain acceptance for our prints (where we had 15 out of 48 print acceptance) it turns out that this was a pretty good acceptance rate of 31% (compared to say Colchester's acceptance rate of 28%). For our PDIs we did even better with 19 out of 28 acceptances (68%).

Several images were given awards and commendations too:

- Linda Marshall      Capturing the moment won the Ralph Dukett Award
- Keith Truman      Cool Dude was Highly Commended
- Roger Care      Stars above the Mist was Highly Commended
- Linda Marshall      Viking Magic was Highly Commended
- Keith Truman      Glencoe in Winter was Commended

Keith urged members to go to The Apex Centre in Bury St Edmunds, 3-18 May, to see the Exhibition

## **Pairs Trophy – Gary Yalloway**

The pairs competition is where club members are randomly paired, usually an experienced member with a more junior member to go out a few times over the course of a few months take photos and learn from each other. It's a great chance to have 1:1 time with a fellow photographer and talk ideas through, try out different techniques such as Street photography, Night photography, ICM, Spots photography etc.

Afterwards the pairs will process the photos together and each pair submit 6 photos, 3 from each pair for the competition Pairs travelled to different locations locally and as far as London and a wide variety of different subjects were photographed.

This year we had 6 pairs submit photos, and we had ironically a pair of winners, joint first were Keith Turman and Freda Taylor & Bill Hamilton and Gary Yalloway. Well done to everyone who entered.

The committee agreed that the Pairs Competition should start earlier in the year, with the suggestion to put pairs together in September, in order to give pairs more time to go out together.

The committee also agreed that the Pairs Trophy would be a good way for new club members to gain confidence and experience and make them feel more comfortable entering other club competitions.

### **Programme Secretaries Report – Ian Tulloch & Linda Marshall**

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

The 2024-25 Programme of events had been delivered successfully with just a few minor changes to the timing of a couple of events. Members were informed that Ian would be stepping down from this role at the end of this season and that Nigel had agreed to work with Linda to deliver next season's programme.

Linda expressed her thanks to Ian for helping her with the Programme Secretarial duties over the past two seasons, and to David Stocks for volunteering to replace Ian next season.

The 2024-25 Programme included:

- 8 Lectures – 7 at Foxton and 1 via Zoom. These comprised a diverse range of genres, encompassing landscape (2), macro (1), Venice travelogue (1), creative and artistic (3), and post-processing (1), all of which were well-attended.
- 11 Internal Club competitions,
- 6 External Competitions (Royston, Friendly Cup vs Ely/Burwell & Bottisham, 3 Counties Cup vs Letchworth and Saffron Walden, Cambridge Digital, and EAF PDI and Print Championships.
- 6 Internal Club Evenings which were organised and presented by Members.

Special thanks were given to the following members for their contributions to the Programme.:

- Keith Truman, Peter North, Roger Care, Nigel Northwood, David Stocks, Bill Hamilton, André Neves and Ian Tulloch for organising and running our successful Club Nights

- David Stocks for organising the digital content of all the PDI Competitions.
- Phil Dent for hosting a 'Know Your Camera' session.
- Lynne & Dave Cole for their entertaining Indian travelogue talk.
- Sue & John McDowall for an excellent retrospective of prints illustrating their personal photographic journeys.

Looking forward to next season, the Programme is nearing completion and outlined below. Judges and lecturers have confirmed these dates.

The content of club evenings will be decided by the Committee in a pre-season meeting over the summer break

Date	Event Type	Description	Judge/Lecturer	Location
<b>2025</b>				
09/09/2025	Club Evening	Welcome Back Talk	x	
16/09/2025	Club Comp 1	Mono PDI/Prin	Tony Bramley	Foxton
23/09/2025	Lecture 1	Lecture 1	Dave Jordan	Zoom
30/09/2025	Club Evening	Trypologies	Glenys Garnett	Zoom
07/10/2025	Club Comp 2	1st Open Print Comp	Ken Payne	Foxton
14/10/2025	Lecture 2	Lecture 2	Daniel Bridge	Foxton
21/10/2025	Club Evening		x	
29/10/2025	Club Comp 3	1st Open PDI comp	Jonathan Vaines	Foxton
04/11/2025	Lecture 3	Lecture 3	Chris Shepherd	Foxton
11/11/2025	Club Evening		x	
18/11/2025	Club Comp	2nd Open PDI comp	Naomi Saul	Foxton
25/11/2025	Lecture 4	Lecture 4	Steve Williams	Foxton
02/12/2025	Club Evening	Friendly Cup with Ely, B&B	Jonathan Vaines	Foxton
09/12/2025	Club Comp	2nd Open Print comp	Penny Reeves	Foxton
16/12/2025	Lecture 5	Lecture 5	Charles Hall	Foxton
23/12/2025	Christmas Break			
30/12/2025	Christmas Break			
<b>2026</b>				
06/01/2026	Club Evening		x	
13/01/2026	Club Comp	3rd Open Print comp	Clive Harward	Foxton
20/01/2026	Club Lecture 6	Lecture 6	Naomi Saul	Foxton
27/01/2026	Club Evening		x	
03/02/2026	Club Comp	3rd Open PDI comp	Thomas Peck	Foxton
10/02/2026	Club Lecture 7	Lecture 7	Colin Westgate	Zoom
17/02/2026	Club Evening		x	

24/02/2026	Club Comp	PDI of the year	Penny Reeves	Foxton
03/03/2026	Club Lecture 8		Tony North	Zoom
10/03/2026	Club Evening	3 Counties Club Comp	Jonathan Vaines ?	
17/03/2026	Club Comp	Print of the Year	Naomi Saul	Foxton
24/03/2026	Club Lecture 9		Ann Miles	Foxton
31/03/2026	Club Evening		x	
07/04/2026	Club Evening	AGM and Awards	x	

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- The membership agreed that the PDI & Print Creative Competition, judged by Jonathan Vaines, should now be a regular fixture.
- It was suggested that we should invite a sports photographer to give us a lecture.

## Treasurer's Report – Bill Hamilton

I would like to express my thanks to Penny and David Harper for stepping in and managing the register and to Pete North for key management duties when I was away.

### Membership and Income

Although the current year's membership was down 9 to 49 compared to last year (23/24; 58), but with the increase in club membership cost this year, income from yearly membership and weekly subs was up by £500 (24/25; £2,580, 23/24; £2,080). Income from visitors was down to £10 (23/24; £29) and from mountboard sales to members also down to £319.60 (23/24; £391.50).

### Expenditure

A total of 27 of 28 meetings were held at Foxton Village Hall (excluding the AGM) with total hire costs of £529 (23/24; £437) following the increase in Hall hire in Oct 24.

EAF Membership, Competition fees, Insurance, Sundries, Refreshments, Equipment and IT costs were all down representing a saving of 30% (£266) compared to last year (accum. 24/25; £610, 23/24; £876). Also, minimal costs associated with equipment were incurred this year (24/25; £14, 23/24; £233). Conversely, the Club purchased two batches of mountboards costing £648, an additional £211 compared to last year (23/24; £437).

However, the largest increase in expenditure was the cost of Lecture and Judging fees, an increase of 23% (£286) to £1,248 on last year (23/24; £961).

## **Creditors**

The accounts include a provision (accrual) of £40 for the Foxton Village Hall hire costs incurred in April, but not yet invoiced

## **Cash Position**

Overall, the Club made a deficit of £138 compared to that of £444 last year. The current cash position is £1,584 (23/24; £1,755) but including accruals and mountboard stock the net assets of the Club are £1,915 (23/24; £ 1,760).

## **Summary**

The Club still made a deficit this year, but not as much as last year. If one includes the mountboard stock, the club effectively broke even, which is a step in the right direction to achieving the objective of increasing the Club's reserves by another £1,000 over the next 2-3 years.

However, it is very likely that the Club will have to purchase a new projector or repair and/or source a new laptop in 2025/26 or the following year.

In this context, the committee is proposing that the fee is increased to £45 for the 2025/26 period and be increased incrementally hereafter in order keep pace with the prevailing CPI.

## **Minutes**

- The current club laptop struggles with live PS editing and the projector generates artifacts on the screen.
- Ian Tulloch has generously offered his laptop for use until the club gets a viable replacement and the projector is now with Cannon (Germany) for a repair estimate. If this is not viable, we will seek to replace it.
- The membership supported an increase in membership fee to £45 and agreed that this should be increased regularly (annually or biannually to avoid trivial increases) to keep pace with CPI.
- It was proposed that the weekly subs could be increased to £1.50 or £2 but it was agreed that any increase would be deferred or possibly introduced temporarily in future years to alleviate any serious budget deficit.
- It was also agreed that the club should endeavour to always keep a robust surplus in future years to meet the predictable costs of expensive items e.g. laptop / projector etc.

INCOME	2024-25 (£)	2023-24 (£)
Yearly Membership	1800.00	1,214.00
Weekly subs	780.00	866.00
Visitors	10.00	29.00
Mountboard	319.60	391.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	2,909.60	2,500.50
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Hall Hire	(528.60)	(437.40)
Lecturers	(820.00)	(570.00)
Judges	(427.80)	(391.32)
EAF membership	(139.65)	(141.20)
Competition fees	(25.00)	(35.00)
Insurance	(99.44)	(130.63)
Equipment	(13.63)	(232.96)
Sundries	(105.00)	(168.99)
Refreshments	(114.40)	(179.86)
Mountboard	(648.00)	(436.75)
Website & Zoom	(126.28)	(220.55)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	(3,047.80)	(2,944.66)
<b>DEFICIT</b>	(138.20)	(444.16)
<b>BALANCE SHEET (as at 16th Apr 2025)</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>CASH</b>	1,584.56	1,755.16
<b>CREDITORS (accrual)</b>	(40.00)	(32.40)
<b>BOARD STOCK</b>	370.60	36.80
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	1,915.16	1,759.56
<b>CASH BALANCE</b>		
Barclays Account	1,577.96	1,746.56
Petty Cash	6.60	8.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,584.56	1,755.16
<b>Board Stock</b>		
Mountboards	218	23
Cost per board	1.70	1.60
Value of stock held	370.60	36.80
<b>Membership</b>		
Membership (paid & hon)	49	58
Attendance (average)	30 or 61.5%	32 or 58%

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

Pam is very happy to report that nine new members joined us this season to boost our numbers.

One joined following a member's recommendation, two via our website, two via a local magazine advert, two are re-joiners and two joined from another club.

Pam welcomes them and is so glad to have them join our friendly club. She hopes they feel at home with us and encourages them to ask if there is anything we can do to help them.

Pam noted that a lack of confidence was holding back most newcomers from entering open competitions. The committee felt that ad hoc help (with e.g. printing / mounting) could improve this situation.

In addition, targeting mentoring at newcomers and encouraging them to enter the Pairs Trophy should also help increase their engagement significantly.

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

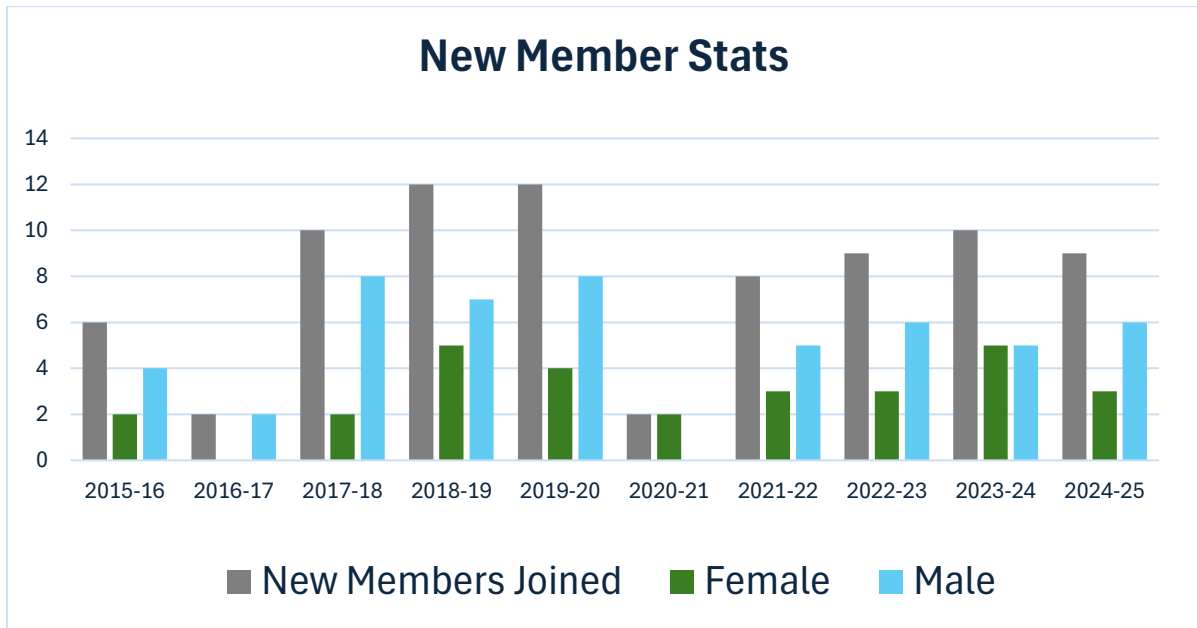
As reported in Pam's New Member's Secretary report, the club attracted 9 new members over the last year.

Of the 9 new members:

- 5 are under 65 and 4 are over
- 3 are female and 6 are male
- 3 are new to club photography and 6 are not
- 4 identify as intermediate and 5 as experienced
- They live in Hauxton, Foxton, Standon, Swavesey or Fowlmere
- 2 use Nikon cameras, 4 use Canon, 2 use Sony and 1 Fuji
- 1 joined following a member's recommendation, 2 via our website, 2 via a local magazine advert, 2 are re-joiners and 2 joined from another club

To recruit 9 new members is impressive and is in line with the three 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.

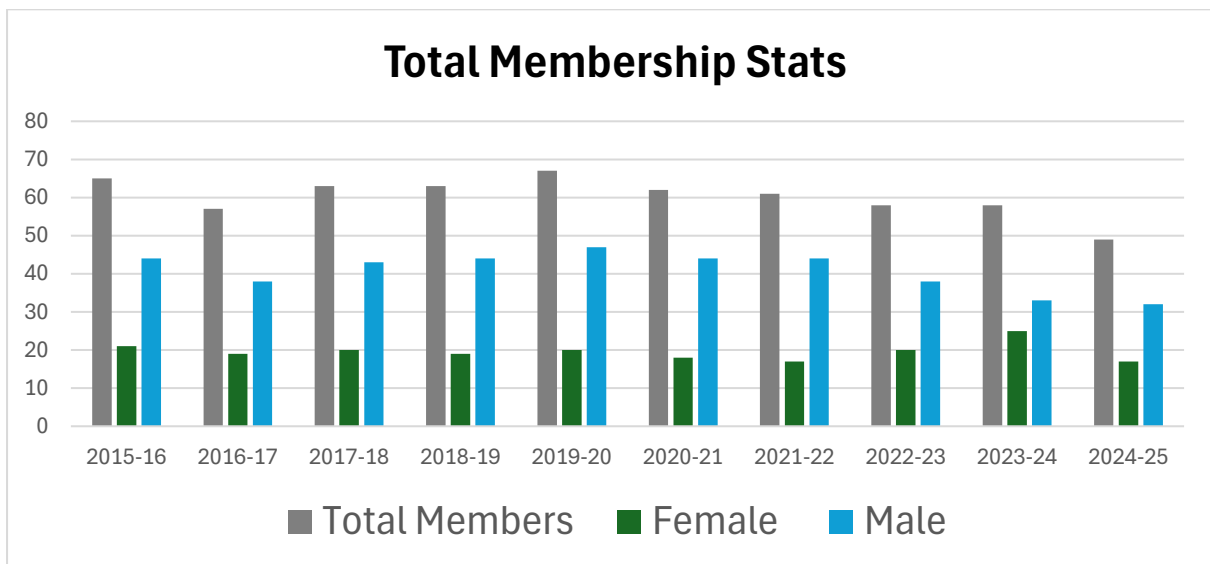
With sufficient data to now look at trends over the last 10 years (see graph) it's interesting to note that we have had between 6-12 new members every year apart from 2016-17 and the pandemic years of 2020-21 (only 2 new members).



### Analysis of Total Membership Trends

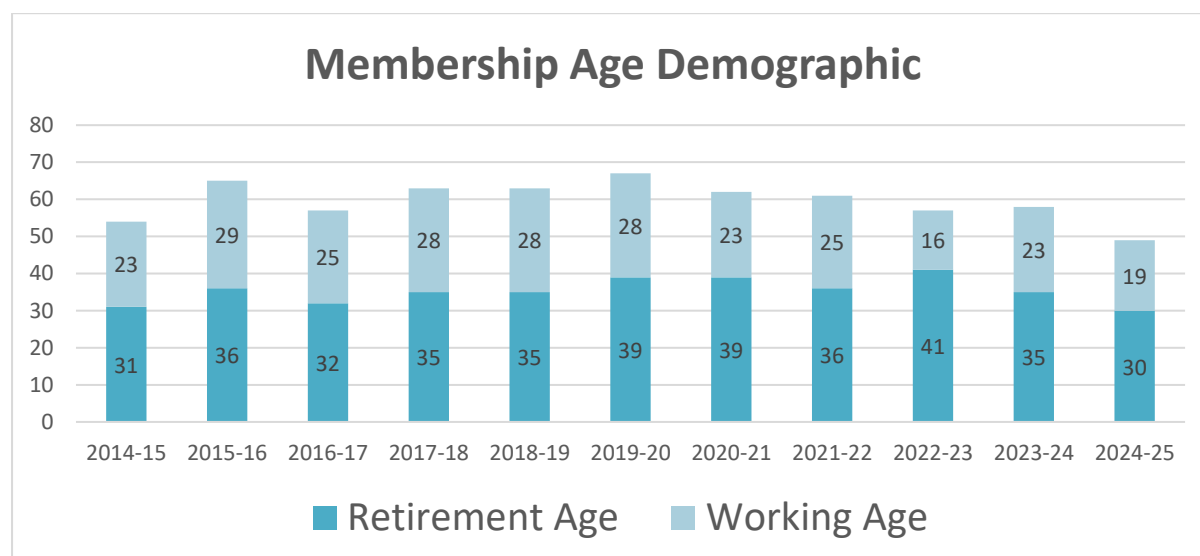
Looking at membership trends (see graph), total membership was remarkably consistent at between 54 and 67 over previous years but fell below 50 to 49 this season.

The gender distribution has also seen a decrease in female membership with 39% female and 61% male (last season 43%, female 57% male).



The refresh rate of the core membership is also healthy, with 55% of our members having joined the Club over the last 5 seasons.

Because membership fees have now been equalised between working age and retirement age members, we can no longer capture a current snapshot of age distribution. However, using data taken at the time of members joining, about 38% of the membership are of working age and 62% of retirement age.



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

- The average weekly attendance was 30 members or 62% of membership. This includes both Zoom and face-to-face meetings (see table)
- This is the highest percentage attendance recorded albeit from the smallest number of members.
- The range of a single individual's attendance varied between 0 to 24 out of 26 meetings (so far) with an average of 10 in 26 meetings. This is at the lower end of historical data.

Season	Members	Average Meeting Attendance (including Zoom)	Average Meeting Attendance as % of Membership	Average No of Meetings Attended per Member
<b>2024-25</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>10</b>
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

## **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 five local village magazines:

- Meldreth Matters
- Fowlmere & Thriplow News
- Foxton Laurentian
- Sawston Scene
- The Listing (ad hoc)

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

## **Club Website**

The website 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 65 pages
- It has >2500 images in 190 galleries
- The cost of webhosting / domain name has increased slightly to £127 pa
- The cost of purchasing, installing and maintaining an SSL encryption certificate is £48 pa (paid every 2 years)
- All maintenance / updating is done in-house by Peter using WordPress.

Two new members were attracted to join the club having seen the website.

## **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 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 to qualify as a member of the PAGB and associated insurance policy.
- Training materials & member's lectures collated and published on the website.
- 37 club competition award certificates compiled, printed and framed for AGM awards.

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

As with previous years, this year's programme has required the projector at most evenings. Members have been available to bring the projector to the evenings that I was unable to attend.

We have not changed equipment or software tools this year. Software remains "good enough", but the hardware is starting to get a little flaky.

In the last weeks, we have seen a couple of defects in the images from the projector that are visible in very dark images or smooth bright images. We will need to investigate options to address this, including do nothing, repair and replacement.

The club laptop is now getting too slow for Photoshop editing demonstrations. It remains adequate for running competitions and lectures, which are much less demanding. Windows 10 will go out of support in October 2025 and the laptop processor is not compatible with Windows 11. It will continue to work but will no longer get security enhancements.

There has been no change to the use of the "success" online image submission system, other than that we are also now using it to collect images for print competitions. The system is still generously provided by Adrian Lines and his company free of charge.

We've also made no change to the use of the FFPx software for running the competitions. It is still a bit quirky, but it works well enough for our needs. Having bought the licence a few years ago, there is no ongoing cost.

I'm very pleased that Gary Yalloway has generously stepped up to be Projectionist from the next season and has already been training up in the role and run his first competition!

## **Summer Program – Gary Yalloway**

Gary is pleased to report that the 2024 Summer Program was very successful. Approximately 14 events were planned for members. Highlights included two workshops held by Justin Minns focusing on the Suffolk Coast and Norfolk, Other successful outings included a trip to Snetterton Race Circuit, a Workshop with Glenys Garnett in Leeds, Keiths Coastal Workshop, Bumps on the River Cam as well, Ramsey, Morris Dancing, Duxford, Ian's, Butterfly and Fungi workshops and two lovely afternoons Pam's house. Some workshops such as the butterflies were affected by weather which was challenge in organizing. Big thanks to all the workshop organisers and everyone who attended.

These workshops are helpful for club members as they are held by professional photographers and club members whose particular workshop is their specialty area, and it is an amazing learning experience. Lots of the photos for club competitions are taken on these trips.

For the first time as well, we paired up with Royston Camera Club for a joint Summer Program. I had a few calls with Peter Andrew, president from Royston, about this joint partnership and it was agreed for outings that preference would be given to the host clubs members. The Summer Program lists were sent out to both clubs and there were some examples of cross attendance. This is something we can build on this coming summer.

As well as taking on the role of Projectionist from David, Gary is happy to continue with the Summer Programme role.

## **Minutes**

- The summer prog is not finalised and tends to evolve over the recess as new ideas emerge.
- Gary strongly encouraged members to volunteer to organise an event as the summer programme depends on membership engagement to survive.
- It was suggested that a deadline for suggestions may prompt firm ideas or placeholders for evolving ideas.

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

Ian reported that the club's mentor / mentee database had been updated early in the season. This year four members had expressed an interest in some form of mentoring, and quite a few of our more experienced members had offered to act as mentors covering specific aspects of photography e.g. basic camera skills and post-processing.

Ian commented that this annual update is a useful exercise in that it identifies the main areas where less experienced members need help, mainly post-processing, basic camera skills including getting off auto, and printing / mounting. Feedback from mentees had been largely positive: three of the four mentees had interacted with their assigned mentors and received the support requested, but one pairing had found it difficult to find a suitable time to meet.

It was highlighted that members who had volunteered to act as mentors outnumbered mentees so there is potentially plenty of help available within the club. Ian emphasised that, in addition to the mentoring programme, there are many other opportunities for new members to improve their skill level e.g. club evenings focusing on editing and

camera skills, and participation in the Pairs competition and Summer Programme outings.

Ian again took the opportunity to thank members who had volunteered to be mentors. This helps to facilitate sharing of expertise, which is important in raising the standard of photography more broadly across the club membership, and in facilitating interaction between members which contributes to the welcoming and supportive ethos that is a hallmark of the club.

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

## **Minutes**

- In response to Ian's request for feedback on the mentoring programme, it was agreed that mentoring could be more actively targeted at new members' needs once these had been defined.
- These needs could be defined as soon as they have joined.
- There was a suggestion that the names of mentors, and their respective areas of expertise, should be more visible (email / website) so that mentees knew what was on offer and who they could approach.

## **Election of Officers - All**

There were no proposals from the membership at the AGM, but the following nominations had been previously received for the following roles:

Projectionist / Internal PDI competitions	Gary Yalloway
Joint Programme Secretary	David Stocks
Pairs Trophy	Ian Tulloch
Refreshments	Sue McDowall

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

Chair	Nigel Northwood
External Competitions	Keith Truman
Internal Print Competitions	André Neves
Projectionist / Internal PDI Comps	Gary Yalloway
Treasurer	Bill Hamilton
Secretary / Webmaster	Peter North
Programme Secretary	Linda Marshall / David Stocks
Summer Prog	Gary Yalloway
Pairs Trophy	Ian Tulloch
New Member's Secretary	Pam Aynsley
Mentoring Coordinator	Ian Tulloch

## **MELBOURN COMPETITION AWARDS 2024-2025**

Nigel presented the annual competition awards as follows:

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

1st	Linda Marshall (335)
2nd	Peter North (333)
3rd	Ian Tulloch (324)

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

1st	Peter North (167)
2nd	Linda Marshall (164)
3rd	Ian Tulloch (162)

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

1st	Linda Marshall (171)
Joint 2nd	Peter North (166)
Joint 2nd	John McDowall (166)
Joint 3rd	Keith Truman (164)
Joint 3rd	Bill Hamilton (164)

### **Print of the Year**

1st	Jo Norcross	Self Concept
2nd	André Neves	Marbled White Pair
3rd	Roger Care	Soft Breeze on Dawn Lake

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

1st	Linda Marshal	Capturing the Moment
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Linda Marshall	First Light
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ian Tulloch	Four Spotted Chaser with Dew

### **Artistic Competition (Prints)**

1st	Jenny Collier	Growth
2nd	Peter North	Doors of Lisbon
3rd	Peter North	Low Season

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

1st	Jenny Collier	Then the Wind Blew
2nd	Peter North	Manhattan
3rd	Jenny Collier	City of Two Colours

### **Mono PDI Competition**

1st	Peter North	Vestrahorn
2nd	Bill Hamilton	Food for the Young
3rd	Roger Care	Break in the Clouds

### **Mono Print Competition**

1st	Jenny Collier	Magma
2nd	Peter North	Dawn Run
3rd	Linda Marshall	The Magic of Odin

### **Panel Print Competition**

1st	Keith Truman	Mondrian Coal Drop Yard
2nd	Bill Hamilton	The Takeaway
3rd	Jenny Collier	A walk around the Auditorio de Tenerife

### **Pairs Trophy**

Joint Winners	Gary Yalloway & Bill Hamilton
Joint Winners	Keith Truman & Freda Taylor
Runners Up	Richard Cassidy and Celia Hobbs

### **Points of View**

Joint Winner	Bill Hamilton
Joint Winner	Richard Cassidy

## **AOB - All**

**Roger Care** – Roger proposed a vote of thanks for the all the hard work the committee does in support of the Club.

**David & Lynne Cole** – Would the club consider ending the four years or less age requirement for all internal open competitions that currently require it. Other EAF clubs are dropping this requirement, and several PAGB / EAF / external competitions do not require it.

## **Minutes**

- There was much debate on the image age rule and three main reasons for retaining the rule emerged.
- Firstly, having this rule encourages members to take new photos. This keeps their camera techniques current and their compositional / editing creativity constantly evolving.
- Secondly, having a rolling database of high-scoring images, wherein those older than 4 years are automatically excluded, keeps the number of images manageable (without this rule numbers would expand indefinitely).
- Lastly, all our external battles require this rule and selecting / distinguishing images from a database that may or may not have images that qualify would be difficult to manage. However, it was accepted that, with mutual consent from competing clubs, the four-year rule could be dropped, and this was not seen as the most compelling reason to retain the rule.
- It was noted that few other clubs retain this rule and that a lack of mobility in advancing years could hinder older members from taking new photos.
- It was also noted that our annual creative PDI & Print Competitions did not require this rule thus providing an opportunity to submit older images.
- It was proposed, and widely supported, that the Club could run an annual competition, or half a club evening event, wherein all images must be greater than 4 years old.
- The membership unanimously voted (one abstention) on keeping the rule.

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## **The Club Committee**

**April 2025**

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