



Sevenoaks Camera Club

Affiliated to
The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through The Kent County Photographic Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Monday 18th March 2019 : 8.00pm

Chairman's House

1. a. **Present : Derek Griffin** acting as chairman, **Brian Tabor, Derek Medhurst, Mike Robinson, Lynda Atkinson, Susan Wilkinson, Paul Simons, Sandy Wyndham, Peter Dillon**

(Names sometimes abbreviated to **BT, DM, DG, MR, SuW, PS, LA, SaW, PD**, in these minutes)

2. Minutes

The minutes from 21st January were approved by those present and signed by Brian Tabor.

Information and Progress to Report from the last meeting :

- a. **Trevor Coley**, our previous chairman **died on 9th February** : Eight members of the Club attended the funeral on 8th March. The Club gave a donation in his name to Hospice in the Weald.
- b. Derek Medhurst and Roger Lee are doing an Exhibition of photographs of the Restoration of Bat and Ball Station, which will take place on 29th and 30th June. DM will therefore not be able to take the lead in organising publicity for the SCC Annual Exhibition, though he will still arrange the PDIs for display on his TV.
- c. Three Club members, DM, SuW and Alison Brett-Hopper photographed the Rotary Knole 10k run and Fun Run on Sunday 17th March.
- d. Following DG's successful outing to Minnis Bay on 27th December, he has arranged a new photography opportunity for members to photograph bluebells at North Frith Farm on 27th April (see A.O.B. - 8c).
- e. The title for the Challenge next season will be **DECAY**.
By 18th March, 14 members were signed up.
- f. The title for the Theme competition, which will be the 3rd PDI competition on 27th January 2020 is **NIGHT TIME**.
- g. Following suggestions that the Club should be more environmentally friendly, SuW has been washing the recyclable plastic cups and re-using them.
- h. We had several guest visitors for the talk by Gavin Hoey on 4th February. They were invited to make a donation if they wished.

3. AGM on 29th April

SuW sent a message to members on 23rd February, asking for any nominations for people who would like to become members or officers of the committee.

Mark Charrington and Peter Dillon have withdrawn from the Selection Committee and no new nominations have been received so far for the main Committee or the Selection committee.

The Chairman will read his report as usual but the other reports will all be attached to the agenda and not read out unless requested. The agenda should be sent out at least a week before the meeting so **SuW would like the reports to be submitted to her as soon as possible**. She suggested that they should be kept short - the minutes of the last AGM



can be consulted by new committee members.

The Chairman will report on the various changes the Committee has introduced to the programme. This season the combining of the 3rd PDI with the Theme competition, and also not having a judge for the Exhibition, partly due to the short time available between the print final and the start of the exhibition. The combination of the Theme with the 3rd PDI did not lead to a drop in the number of entries, which were 63 and 50 respectively for the 3rd and 4th PDIs.

Next season the abolition of the print and PDI finals will be trialled.

All these changes were in response to various comments, particularly about the heavy weighting of competitions towards the end of the season when entries for the exhibition and for the KCPA exhibition were also due. The success of these innovations will depend in large part on what they are replaced with, and the committee would appreciate comments from members to help inform future decisions.

We will need new Print and PDI Secretaries in the reasonably near future. **BT will speak to possible candidates** to see whether they would be willing to consider this.

The only matter arising from last year's AGM that needed to be raised at this year's AGM was the result of committee discussion of the scoring system at competitions in the light of comments from Roger Force. This was discussed but the committee were unanimous that the system proposed by Roger Force was inappropriate for our Club, and would lead to many members feeling excluded from any possibility of success, and with no way to evaluate any progress. Since other methods of scoring or no scoring were discussed in 2016 it was decided to keep scoring the same while several other things are being changed this season and next.

Claire Thomas is willing to join the committee next season.

Club members sometimes ask for help with their photography. Giving each a mentor has been suggested previously. It was decided that many new members actually want help with post-processing and for this the most effective method is to pair them up with a member who uses the same software.

New members should be encouraged to use the help box for this.

Outings such as the Minnis Bay or Bluebell outings are the best way to help with camera settings etc. DG is making himself available to members at the bluebell day on 27th April. There is a lot of help available on line.

4. Panel Competitions

Clive Tanner judged the team Challenge panel competition and used the second half of the evening to display some of his own panels. These were very varied in format and not six prints in two rows of three. It was suggested that we could use a wider definition of what constitutes a panel of in either or both of our two panel competitions next season.

The committee decided to **keep the six print format for the Challenge** competition, though this has been moved to later in the season and will be judged within the Club. Internal judging of the Individual Panel competition was a success when a judge was unable to come and was replaced by Peter Dillon and Robin Daly. The committee congratulated them on their judging skills which were much appreciated. The winner was David Barker with 'Journeys in the Kingdom of Bhutan.'

Next season the individual panel competition will be the first meeting after the Christmas break, and it was decided that the rules will be changed to allow any number of prints from 3 to 9. There can be more than one print per mount, but mounts for a single image must still be a maximum of 40 x 50cm. The judge will be made aware of this change beforehand.



5. Having the widest possible choice of Images for External Competition

Paul Simons made it known that he would find selection of images for external competition much easier if he could see them on his computer at home, and choose which to put before the selection committee without too much reliance on judge's marking. He said it was difficult to make notes during the competition, especially since this was in the dark.

DG and PS have arranged sharing of information with the selection committee.

DG has had to send images to a PDI judge once this season and this required the removal of names from the files. DM can give DG a programme to do this if he needs to in future.

6. The Exhibition - 5th to 15th June, with setup on 4th and take down on 17th

BT is in charge of the Exhibition and **will contact the library** about the possibility of an evening event. Cutbacks at the library have put this in doubt.

(Done 20th March by BT - reply from Sue that evening private view can probably go ahead on 6th June.)

DM will be doing press releases to the freebies about the Exhibition at Bat and Ball, so will send out ones for the Club Exhibition at the same time. SaW is happy to assist with publicity as she did last year.

DG will design and print the leaflet. Lynda cannot distribute these this year as she will be away, but SuW and SaW said they would help. The leaflets can be given to volunteers at the End of Season Social, but preferably before this or a few people may end up with far too many.

We are likely to use the frames as normal - Peter needs them in time to do any repairs - BT has the Club staple gun. It was suggested that the expensive sticky strips could be used without frames for the panels so they can be stuck close together giving a true panel effect. This would probably mean that backing boards would have to be removed to fasten the prints securely to the wall. The Team Challenge Panel and the Individual Panel should be labelled to explain what they are. Whether we display one panel or two will depend on the numbers of entries. The Team Challenge will be given preference.

DG's display boards are available to give extra space - they must be robust, so a square configuration is possibly the best. They could go in the centre of the Exhibition space. It was suggested that if they could go in the main body of the library it might lead more visitors to see the Exhibition space. We would need to approach Ros about this. If we used this, prints could be tacked on more casually with velcro.

The entrance fees will remain at £2 per print and £1.50 per PDI. This usually gives a small profit which is needed to replace frames.

7. Next Season's programme - Sandy Wyndham

Many Camera Clubs have been losing members - conversations with PS at external competitions indicate that the number of members of many clubs is down to near 35. So far our membership is reasonable, though there was a drop over two years from 76 to 60. This was because of several couples leaving for a variety of reasons. Sevenoaks always has numbers of people moving for their work.

We must remain sensitive to what members want from a club. This may change as cameras become easier to use and there is lots of advice on-line. We must try to keep up with 'the Camera Club of the Future'. With that in mind we have been making changes, quite gradually, and would welcome feedback from members.

Sandy has nearly completed next season's programme.

There will be no evening with Pat next season.

SaW is considering booking Ady Kerry again. He was well received in 2017 and has another talk called 'Thought Processes' in which he goes through the whole process of taking a photograph from the idea, the taking and the post-processing.



One member wants to give a short talk - PD suggested a full evening from him would be interesting. It could start the season as before and then have a longer social chat with cake! **SaW will ask.** Various members were mentioned as possible speakers.

We have the Small Print competition which will be internally judged.

PD is doing a 'right of reply night' as he did before.

We might try another hands on workshop night. The one we did before was poorly attended but very popular with those who came. MR can do bubbles this time.

8. A.O.B

- a. Mike Robinson is finalising the accounts for the end of the tax year and the AGM. We have had a more profitable year than expected with about £700 profit despite a lower membership. Denise has done the Raffle once a month giving a profit of around £100. The committee thanks her for her hard work.
Coffee and tea made less than £100.
Savings have been made by not including all the third Mondays in the programme, and because two judges cancelled at the last minute and were ably substituted from within the Club.

Mike suggested **no increase in subscriptions** next season, and a season's holiday from Coffee and Tea charges. He also said that Sandy could spend a bit more on speakers. He is adding to the equipment replacement reserve, and the most likely thing to need replacement is the laptop. **These suggestions were agreed.**

- b. SuW suggested that members be allowed to bring their own mugs to meetings. This would allow them to continue drinking during the second half.
- c. Derek Griffin has told members that the bluebell photography meeting at North Frith Farm will be on 27th April (Saturday after Easter). He will be available to help members with their photography. **This has been agreed in committee.** DG will send out an e-mail telling members about arrangements for the day. (*done 19th March*). Other possible outings would be to Elmley Marshes, taking traffic trails in town, or a pub meeting.
- d. The trophies need to be returned to SuW for engraving in time for presentations at the end of season social. We will not be awarding the four Exhibition trophies this year, but there are nine other trophies that need to come back. **BT will ask for them next meeting, 25th March.**
- e. There are 39 prints entered for the 4th print competition.

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm

No next meeting was arranged, but it was agreed that meetings next season will be held at North Frith Farm

Signed :

Date :