



Sevenoaks Camera Club

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting 27th May 2020

The meeting was held at 8pm on Zoom

Present : Chairman Derek Griffin, Mike Robinson, Derek Medhurst, Susan Wilkinson, Lynda Atkinson, Rob Weighill, Paul s'Jacob, Claire Thomas, Sandy Wyndham, Paul Simons

(Names sometimes abbreviated to DG, MR, DM, SuW, LA, RW, Ps'J, SaW, PS and CT)

1. **The minutes of the meeting on 16th December were approved and signed.**
2. **Club meetings were cancelled from 16th March, including a committee meeting scheduled for 16th March and all subsequent meetings including workshops, to comply with coronavirus (COVID 19) lockdown measures.**
3. **Events and Matters arising from 16th December**
 - a. Two workshops have been held since the last meeting. An outing to Whitstable happened on 30th December and 4 members attended. There was a workshop to show how to mount prints at North Frith on 25th January and 7 Members attended despite less than perfect weather.
 - b. Derek G had two more workshops planned and approved by the committee. The first was a supermoon workshop on 8th April. Members to meet on the Vine in Sevenoaks. The second was a bluebell workshop on Saturday 25th April. Both were offered to Club members but were cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions.
 - c. Thanks to Paul Simons for organising entries to two external competitions:

The first was the **Malling Battle of the Prints**, judge Steve Lawrenson, held on Tuesday 18th February at West Malling Village Hall. We won by the slimmest of margins - 12 Clubs entered, each presenting 6 prints. We achieved the same total marks as Bexleyheath, but we had a 20 and they did not. That means **we are the holders of the Cobdown Shield** until next year. Well done all!

The second was the **KCPA Diamond Jubilee** PDI competition. This was held on Saturday 22nd February at Ditton Community Centre, and judged by Leo Rich. 34 Clubs entered with 8 PDIs each. Reflex P.C. were the winners, and we came a creditable **joint ninth**.

Congratulations to our selection committee and Paul for another couple of good results.
 - d. DM and Roger Lee were due to hold a 2 man exhibition at Kaleidoscope in October 2020 but Kaleidoscope is closed for the foreseeable future.
 - e. Mike Robinson has run a **weekly online Theme** from 23rd March. We are invited to share our pictures on the Theme to keep us all in touch. There is also space online for any other interesting photos that members would like to share.

f. Mike Robinson and Peter Dillon have also started a 'Right to reply' section of the Themes website to allow members to comment on photographs, as had been planned for Peter's evening on 30th March.

g. Derek Griffin has been keeping the Facebook page frequently refreshed with new photographic suggestions, and Derek M has continued sending out information about online photographic events.

h. Some of our Themes pictures have been sent to Sevenoaks District Arts Council (SDAC) for them to use in a newsletter. All Club members approached were happy to have their images used.

Matter arising : We have collected **titles** for the Theme and Challenge competitions and they would have been voted on in **the 23rd March** meeting. Cancellation of meetings has meant that neither a Theme nor a Challenge title for next season have been decided.

It was decided that the Challenge will not be able to happen next season, but **we should decide on a theme for the third PDI competition**. It needs to be one that will be accessible for those who are having to self-isolate. **SuW will circulate the suggestion list** for a Theme for next year.

4. AGM

"It was decided that it is not critical for the club to hold an AGM in the current crisis, as long as we circulate the financials, that we allow democratic input by members by email, and that we note the situation in our records. A virtual AGM might be possible, but it was agreed that if we took these key actions we could avoid the demands of setting up and running one remotely. Whilst our Constitution says we should have an AGM, we are not a company, nor a charity, so under such unusual circumstances we do not see an absolute legal need to hold one.

The ten members of the committee all agreed to stay in post for next Season to help the Club through the covid-19 crisis.

Mike Robinson has completed the accounts for this Season and will get them audited soon.

We have just over £7000 in the Bank with nearly half being in the notional Equipment Replacement Fund, so we are cushioned against any financial problems in the coming Season, but we need to keep the financial situation under review. We do not know whether we are likely to lose members next season. MR suggests that we should keep the subscriptions the same next season but include a £3 refund to present members, to compensate for meetings that were missed this season. MR has written a financial report that should be circulated to members in the absence of an AGM.

5. The exhibition

The exhibition is most unlikely to happen. The Kaleidoscope Gallery may be opened later in the year, but if so there are many candidates who would want it, so we will not get a space offered to us later than our scheduled slot.

It was agreed that we should still have a PDI competition sent to the exhibition judge (Robin Harmsworth) if he agrees. **Sandy will approach him** to find out.

This would not need to be held at the time the exhibition was due.

Derek M will work out the time deadlines as he will be putting the competition together.

SuW will ring Pat and George to ask how they are getting on and tell them about the exhibition and other decisions. **She will also ring** anyone with no e-mail connection. *(Done 28th May).*

6. Ideas for more activity this season

- a. We could possibly have an outdoor workshop style meeting somewhere where we can be 2 metres apart. Possible places mentioned were the Sevenoaks reserve and Ashdown Forest.
- b. We could also have a virtual pub meeting on Zoom.
- c. It would be possible to run a quiz. Both Paul and Sandy have done this over lockdown and could do one for the Club. Paul Adams can provide questions for a photographic quiz.
- d. The weekly Theme run by Mike R will be **altered to a two-weekly Theme** from now, and may go to a monthly Theme over the summer.
(Done by Mike R on 28th May).
- e. It was agreed that we will wind up this season's competitions. **SuW will send the results to the Chairman** so he can send out congratulations to the winners. the competitions are the 4 PDI competitions, the 3 print competitions, the Theme competition (which was also the 3rd PDI competition,) and also the Starter cup.
(information sent 28th May).

7. The PAGB competition

This has not been cancelled at the moment. Paul S is keeping a watching brief for news. He will need the prints by August, and will need an online selection committee before then.

8. Contingency plans for next season

It seems unlikely that we will be able to open in September but we must keep flexible.

SuW will phone Athene Fenn about the Mencap Hall to find out what is happening and whether we could keep our Monday slot without having to pay if we are not using the Hall if we are still social distancing.

(Done 28th May - Athene said the Hall has been closed and has been deep cleaned. She has had no-one wanting it but would be happy to open it whenever someone requests it. She will keep the Monday evening slot for us and will not expect us to pay if we are not using it.). SuW suggested the Club might start again after Christmas. SuW will contact Athene again after our next Zoom meeting at the end of July).

It was agreed that if we held a meeting in the Hall the maximum number we could manage while remaining socially distanced would be about 16.

It was decided that we would move all four of the PDI competitions into the first half of next season, as these could probably be done online. Then the four print competitions would be in the second half.

Talks can be done on Zoom, and some Clubs like Aperture also hold club discussion meetings on Zoom.

SaW will approach judges and speakers for next season to find out whether they can work online. Judges could have PDIs posted to them if necessary. KCPA have a list of judges and speakers who can work on Zoom if our booked ones have problems.

The Tripartite competition is due in November. **Paul S will contact the clubs** and see what their feelings are about going ahead, or going ahead with a small audience.

SaW will e-mail the programme for next season out to the committee for information.

Derek G will e-mail all members, once to tidy up any issues from last season including congratulations to trophy winners. Then he will also canvas opinion on the possibility of online talks and PDI competitions, and any suggestions for next year's programme.

9. A.O.B.

1. We have put a lot of effort into encouraging printing this season, but this effort may be lost if we do entirely online activities.

Derek M suggested a circulating library of prints that would be posted to a member who could write comments and pass it on to the next member. The Leica Society do this.

We could consider this.

2. Roger Lee has been taking the photographs for a Sevenoaks 2020 project.

It was proposed that the Committee should have its next online meeting at the end of July or the beginning of August.

Signed :

Chairman

Date :