



Sevenoaks Camera Club

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Monday 21st November 2022 : 8.00pm on Zoom

Present : Derek Griffin, Herbert Inglin, Susan Wilkinson, Derek Medhurst, Tom Briody,
Anne Roberts, Rob Weighill
Apologies : Sandy Wyndham

1. The amended minutes of the previous meeting on 25th July were approved.
2. Events
 - a. Photographing the Fireworks and Torchlight Parade on 5th November for the Round Table : Sue McMahon did this with Susan Wilkinson assisting.
 - b. The Club exhibition was held successfully with Helen Taylor as judge.
The print competition was won by Derek Griffin, print imagination by Susan Wilkinson. The PDI competition was won by Milt Ives, PDI imagination by Mike Robinson.
The public vote was won jointly by Colleen Costick and Joselyne Horne.
 - c. Derek G arranged a Fungus Foray and Autumn Colour event at North Frith on 12th November - 5 members attended.
 - d. The Tripartite competition will be held on 24th November by Tandridge Photographic Society, between themselves, Old Coulsdon and Sevenoaks, at St Mary's Primary School, Oxted. (*Old Coulsdon won, with Sevenoaks second.*)
3. Financial Matters : Tom Briody (TB) and Derek Medhurst (DM)
 - a. We have 45 members for this season to date.
 - b. Current financial position. We are in line with our previous budget forecast - and have an expected deficit for this year of about £200. We have sufficient balance to replace the projector and laptop if necessary. This year we had the extra expense of the Platinum Jubilee Yearbook which will not be repeated, but we saved on judges and speakers. With only 45 members there will be a deficit next year if our programme remains similar. Inflationary pressures are an unknown factor, though TB expects to advise an increase in subscription rates for next season, possibly to £55.

The easiest and most effective way to avoid possible budget deficits is to increase membership. Various suggestions for this were made :

- We should take any opportunity to find out how other clubs are faring.
- Handing out flyers at the station on a Monday night. (3 volunteers, SWi, TB, DG)
- TB will find out whether there is any possibility of exhibiting some pictures at the station. He has contacts through Samaritans but a new station manager is expected.
- **Derek Griffin will send out e-mails** to members asking them to sound out friends as possible members. He will also contact members who have not rejoined this

year. (*e-mail sent to members on 22nd Nov*)

- We could encourage people to join even if they take their photos with the mobile phone. We could consider having a mobile phone photo presentation at the Club Night on March 6th. Many members already use their mobile phones to take competition entries.

DM could put a page on the website to illustrate images taken with mobile phones. A feature on this could be productive since many people now use the mobile phone as their main or only camera.

c. Replacing the laptop :

Derek Griffin and Rob Weighill have a very old laptop which is becoming unsatisfactory, and a laptop which is only three years old with a broken screen. Replacing the screen was discussed but felt to be risky, since none of us have done it before. Buying an external screen to plug into the USB port cost a similar amount and was the most attractive alternative. **Rob will investigate this.**

d. Tom is looking into arranging two more people to authorise electronic bank payments. Susan Wilkinson agrees and should be straightforward to organise as she is a cheque signatory already. Derek Medhurst will also be included to give flexibility if it is reasonably straightforward. **TB will investigate with Barclays.**

4. Next season : A possible candidate for Chairman or perhaps vice-chairman was suggested and will be approached.

Derek Griffin has been recording the PDI competitions. Last time's attendance was down to only 5, so we should note the attendance for the 4th PDI competition. The triptych competition is PDI and on Zoom anyway, and Derek intends to continue doing the recordings for the print competitions this season. If the numbers attending drop hugely he might discontinue this, but otherwise we will evaluate whether recording should continue nearer the end of the season.

Derek has had appreciative comments from at least three members.

E-membership at a reduced subscription rate was discussed. On balance we decided against this for now as we are not convinced that the positive benefit outweighs possible impact on physical meetings. At the moment we have one distance member and two members who are shielding or occasionally away who are happy with our online offering.

The dates of Aug 15th to Aug 26th have been offered for our **Exhibition**, and the **Committee approved** acceptance of these. DM and Roger Lee will be doing the exhibition immediately before this. **DG will e-mail to Sue and Ros to accept.** (*DG accepted the dates 22nd Nov.*)

Giving a course on using your DSLR camera or even your mobile phone was suggested, and this could possibly be done at the exhibition. We might need experts on both Canon and Nikon separately to advise.

5. Susan Wilkinson will be away from January to March in New Zealand. She might be able to Zoom if needed.
A member has volunteered to take over the coffee, tea and biscuits for meetings in the Hall while Susan is away. Anne Roberts also volunteered to help.
6. Updates from Derek Medhurst on the Darent Valley project :
Derek has spoken to Iona, the Council's Heritage Engagement officer. She is enthusiastic about the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership photography project and suggests we can have an exhibition at Bat and Ball Station. A possible time scale is for it to happen in May. We now have over 200 photographs in Dropbox.

Town Council had suggested dementia or memory loss talks, but Ed Thompson was suggested by Derek Medhurst as a better source of memories of old Sevenoaks. The council is setting up a warm room at Bat and Ball Station until the end of March and there may also be talks needed there. Roger Lee and Derek Medhurst have volunteered, as well as David Barker, and Susan Wilkinson if anything was needed after March.

7. AOB. There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm

Signed :