



Sevenoaks Camera Club

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

Minutes Committee Meeting Monday 19th February 2024 : 7.45pm for 8pm on Zoom

Attendance : Derek Griffin, Susan Wilkinson, Sandy Wyndham, Derek Medhurst, Tom Briody, Jean-Pierre Darque, Anne Roberts, Ann White, Rob Weighill
(DG, SuW, SaW, DM, TB, J-P, AR, AW, RW)

Apologies : Peter Dillon (PD)

1. Review of activities :

DG led an outing to Broadwater Warren on Wednesday 15th November which two people attended. He also led an outing to Folkestone on 29th January which four club members attended.

A new laptop arrived and is guaranteed from 1st September. It is working well.

The Tripartite competition was hosted by Sevenoaks on 20th November, between Sevenoaks, Tandridge and Old Coulsdon. Old Coulsdon won, Sevenoaks came second

The Mencap Hall Cupboard was cleared by 4 members on 30th November.

A questionnaire was sent out to all members early in December and replies were returned from 15 members, 30% of the membership.

The Club entered the Malling Battle of the Prints which took place on 13th February, hosted at West Malling Village Hall. Eleven Clubs were competing with 5 prints each. Sevenoaks came sixth equal. It was won by Gravesend Camera Club.

The KCPA Diamond Jubilee Competition (PDIs) took place on Saturday 17th February. Milt Ives got our highest mark with his 'Brown Hare at Sunrise'. We came 33rd out of 34 clubs.

Kentish Opera's Dress Rehearsal of Aida at the Stag on 17th April - photographers have been invited. Brian Tabor is organising this.

2. Tom Briody : Treasurer

This season we have roughly the same amount in the bank as we had last season even after buying a new laptop, so we are doing better than breaking even. Our membership is up from 47 to 50. It is too early to decide, but it looks as if we will be able to ask for no increase in subscriptions at the AGM.

The budget for next year need not be constrained, so we can afford a couple of more expensive speakers.

So far Tom has only had DG who can authorise his payments with Barclays Bank, so he is arranging to add SuW and DM as people entitled to approve payments. This would give us more flexibility should anyone be unwell.

3. Derek Medhurst (DM) and Sandy Wyndham (SaW) : the questionnaire. :

Both DM and SaW have analysed the responses to the questionnaire and their implications. Any large changes to our programme take more than a year to implement because they have to be approved by the AGM, but the programme for the following season has to be finalised before the AGM.

It was agreed by the committee that **SaW should arrange next year's programme on the same lines as this year's.**

It was decided that **DM and SaW will collaborate on a summary** to send out to members to inform them about the responses and the committee's responses to this. (Done 25th Feb).

The questionnaire responses were very positive about DG's outings and PD's style of member's evening in which members contribute. They were also positive about having the Zoom meetings in the winter.

There were conflicting issues about competitions. Action on this will have to be gradual but this will be considered for a proposal at the AGM as stated under Section 5.

Several members requested different types of individual help.

The committee was against setting up evenings focussing on help in computer skills. It is possible to teach oneself techniques using You Tube and other on-line resources, but it was recognised that some people do not respond well to on-line tuition, so we need to find individuals who will help with individual problems on a one-to one basis.

It was decided that **forms to request help with a box** to post them in would be re-instated at the back of the Hall. Members would also be informed they could **e-mail to SuW on swilkin799@aol.com** with their problems and she would try to find a contact who could provide individual help.

The point was made that the Challenge was one of the best ways to improve people's skills.

AW made the excellent point that members helping themselves might be more productive than having to come through the committee every time.

It was suggested that Club What's App might be useful, but this tends to produce multitudes of pings at all hours. J-P made the point that many members have interest in particular types of photography so we could encourage small project groups to communicate by What's App on a particular focus. (This might arise from the type of evening where people demonstrate different techniques.). Any focus groups could report back on club nights, and keep the committee informed so that people can be put in touch if they share a particular interest.

We used to have a Google Discussion Group, which stopped being used after a couple of years, so was discontinued. **DM has volunteered to investigate the possibility of starting a Google discussion group again** as a forum for member discussion. (This has been done - the new group has 14 members but no discussion yet.)

Third Mondays could be used to address people's problems if there were enough demand.

J-P could help people on doing Blurb Books as could SuW.

SaW could set up more demo evenings if wanted.

4. **The Annual Exhibition and next year's programme : Sandy Wyndham.**

We now have dates for the exhibition in the library which are **14th to 24th August with set-up on 13th.**

Last Autumn it was suggested to not use the picture frames, but to put prints up using command strips . SaW will coordinate any action and will approach 4-5 members who have helped in the past to form an action group.

We have the offer of display frames on the Mezzanine in the library, and could also have display frames in the centre of the exhibition room. We need to decide what we should put on the Mezzanine, as we should release this reasonably soon for someone else too use if we don't want to use it.

SaW will discuss this with DM. We need to know how many images we would need on the frames on the Mezzanine.

The committee decided that **SaW should book a judge for the exhibition** as usual.

SaW will arrange a Welcome Back evening as the first of next season and also have a Club Night before the first competition. We might have a few demos of useful things on this night, including surface mounting prints. New members need to have how to enter competitions explained to them.

5. **AGM : Susan Wilkinson General Secretary**

The AGM is scheduled for May 20th, the last meeting of the season.

Committee members will need to produce reports which the General Secretary will circulate for members to read before the AGM. The reports will need to be in to SuW by mid-April.

Roger Lee has been researching what other clubs do in competitions, so it was suggested that he and SuW should get together a proposal on scoring to put to the membership for voting at the AGM. Any proposal would need to be approved by the committee and finalised for sending to members by mid-April. **SuW will approach Roger Lee to discuss this.**

Members also need to be given the chance to stand for committee positions. There is one volunteer to stand for the committee.

6. **AOB**

RW has been showing Mick Dudley how to use the projector and DiCentra so that he can take over when RW is away for the next print competition. DG will take charge of the projector for next week.

RW would like a dedicated e-mail account for collecting competition entries. DG and DM will try to find a good method. There is dedicated software for the job, for example PhotoEntry. This costs £1.50 per member per annum and other alternatives also cost an appreciable amount.

DG thanked AR and DM for their work in entering external competitions.

DG has been given a light that members could use for portrait photography.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 pm

Signed :

19th February 2024