



MINUTES – Committee Meeting 23 March 2022. 7.00pm Online

Present:-

Brian Sibley – President
Marc Human – Vice president
Nicky Cope – Secretary
Peter Wills – Treasurer
Steve Laws- Programme Secretary
Debbie Hall – Membership Secretary
Alice Kendrick – Competition Secretary
Louisa Christie – Competition Assistant
Paul Dobson – Competition Assistant
Steve Hardy – Communications Officer
Jonathan Sayer – Equipment Officer

- 1 **Apologies** – Jonathan Sayer – Equipment Officer
- 2 **Minutes** of the previous meeting were approved
- 3 **Matters Arising**
 - a. Display Boards and Advertising Flags - see [Appendix a](#). It was decided to discuss this with the new committee after the AGM
 - b. Hinchingsbrook Hospital – progress has been slow as the lady in charge has been absent with sickness. Brian is keen to use a photo of the images as displayed in the hospital for our own publicity on social media. It was hoped that the matter would soon be concluded. **Louisa and Brian**
 - c. Peter West Trophy. Marc has taken on the co-ordination of the awards and trophies. Brian has prepared a mock-up of the Peter West Plaque which is to be presented with a box so that the holder could keep it in good condition even if they did not wish to display it. Marc to arrange the main printing of the plaque as soon as possible as this can take some time, leaving just the name plate to be printed once this is known. It was decided to send out a voting slip via email as the trophy winner is voted by the club members. **Marc and Brian**
 - d. Public Liability Insurance has now been renewed and paid.
 - e. The Equipment Job Description is not yet on Dropbox. Brian has put a draft one on there, but Jonathan has still to upload his version. **Jonathan**
- 4 **President's Report** - Points discussed:
 - a. Club sponsors. Brian thanked the Interprint team and said it went well but with only 4 sponsors. It was felt necessary to approach sponsors way in advance of interprint -

Brian suggested club sponsors instead of just Interprint. As previously suggested, it was decided to have graded levels of sponsorship according to the marketing exposure we provide. Steve L suggested us taking photos for them for their own marketing. Local businesses to be approached. The main sponsor for Cambridge is John Lewis. Louisa suggested Townrow, West End and more. Alice will look at some corporate packages to compare. Brian didn't know if Tim is happy to continue with the role of sponsorship co-ordinator but it was thought that it was unlikely as he is very busy. Committee to look into this further after AGM.

- b. Committee roles. Steve Ealey has come forward as Programme Secretary and a nomination has been submitted.. Brian has spoken to a few people for the role of Vice President but without any success. He has a few more people to contact. Brian

Competition Secretary - Louisa suggested splitting the role into two - Internal and External roles. She said she would take on the Internal role if she dropped all other club commitments including Interprint and social media. Paul agreed to help with the Internal role. All agreed that this would be a good idea. Alice said on competition night it is not a single person job and you need an assistant. She said she would help on Competition night when she is available. Photoentry has made the submission of external entries much easier for both internal and external competition admin. Alice asked for a proposal for the role to be split.

External role - Nicky suggested dropping some of the external comps. Alice said the A45 and Brotherhood could easily be dropped which would make the External role easier with just 5 external competitions left. Two of these we host sometimes, but they are straightforward. Alice said the earlier ones are useful in terms of us working out which images to put into Interprint.

Interprint - Brian said he felt that Interprint should be a separate role to the competition role but does need someone with competition knowledge. Alice will do a detailed written instruction sheet for anyone taking over the role. Steve L said we should also have an Events Secretary role which could include Interprint.

Nicky to draft a communication to members about the plans to split the roles and what is required, asking for more help.

- c. Brian said that it had come to his attention that there were some members who were disillusioned with competition as they felt they were not at a level to compete. He was also aware of a new member who entered one competition and has not entered again because of the low scores received. Marc suggested being able to enter the same image more than once in order to take on board any feedback and also to get a different judge's view. Alice said that this could mean that someone scoring a 20 could re-submit the same image which would be counterproductive. Peter felt that it would not be right to put an image into the monthlies twice as that would mean that the image is entered into the same league competition more than once. Much discussion took place, and it was agreed that we should do more to mentor new members so that they are more aware of the requirements of judges. It was agreed that we should have two new members' gatherings per year, on a club night prior to the meeting. It was suggested that we could do something in the

summer to mentor anyone who felt they needed some help. Steve H suggested that we allocate a new member to a committee member so that they can email any potential competition images and discuss any rules or general photography queries as well as make them feel more accepted and comfortable. This had been discussed before but nothing had been actioned. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

- d. Riverport Bar – Although the manager of the bar had agreed a date of 21st May for our exhibits, nothing further had been arranged and he was slow in responding to emails. Ongoing. **Brian**

5 Finance Review

- a. Renewal of EAF membership now complete.
- b. Public Liability Insurance – now renewed see Matters Arising.
- c. Setting up of PayPal account no longer necessary. Peter is arranging a payment account with Lloyds which will have limited funds to enable on-line payments and possibly direct debits for day-to-day expenses. Two signatures will still be required on the main savings account in which we have the main club funds. **Peter**
- d. Audit of accounts for AGM. Louisa's dad is a retired Accountant so she will ask him if he would be prepared to audit the accounts for us. If not, she has another person in mind. Marc will ask Kim as a backup but there were concerns whether Kim should be the Auditor as Marc is a signatory on the accounts. Whilst people were not at all concerned about this, it was agreed that it was probably correct to pursue other avenues first. **Louisa and Marc**

6 Programme Report – Steve L

- a. How to create more EventBrite sales. Alice uses Linktree which she said is easy to set up and gives a link directly to the event so that people can book their place. 10 free links are allowed per annum before a charge is made. Steve said that not many people are buying tickets for our talks, but Alice felt that an easier link to book might help.
- b. How to pay for paid events. It was agreed that payment for events is easier in cash if possible as EventBrite charge a considerable commission if money is collected in this way.
- c. Can we afford the proposed programme with less Interprint sponsorship? £2000 per annum is generated from membership. Although the club has other expenditure such as hall hire and trophies, it was agreed that the finances are healthy and the club can easily afford the programme for this year.
- d. Steve raised the question about minimum numbers for paid events, and whether the club should pick up any shortfall in revenues collected. It was agreed that the club should fund any small shortfall but the event should be cancelled if numbers are very low.

Summer Programme

Steve now has a full summer programme in place albeit that he has not had a response to the electric boat trip. He will try making contact again. Nicky may have another contact who would do a boat trip if Steve can't arrange this. **Steve**

Alice needs the key access to Holt Island arranged but will happily run the trip. **Alice**

It was agreed not to organise the trips to Bottisham at War or Little Gransden Air and car show, but to publicise them on the newsletter so that members can make their own arrangements.

Louisa will be in Surrey at the time of the Wisley trip and is happy to run it for anyone who felt they would like a longer trip or weekend break. It was agreed to publicise it and to see what interest there is. The event would start at around 10.30 to allow time for travel.

It was agreed that a per person fee of £3 would probably be enough to cover the cost of the Cambridge treasure hunt run by Louisa. Steve to investigate the cost of Shuttleworth

Winter Programme – now complete.

7 Communications Report

Steve H said that the members' section had been re-done. He felt that this could be further developed to include tips and photography ideas etc, and any other items of interest to members.

It was agreed that Alice will set up a PhotoEntry for the Member's Gallery – one image allowed per person. Members can submit one image they are particularly proud of. This can be updated twice a year in order to keep the website Gallery images up to date.

8 Competitions Report

We had not received much feedback on Interprint. However, it was generally felt that the on-line Interprint went well. Alice felt that in future 6 entries instead of 8 were more manageable and would work better with new boards without worrying about sizing too much. Alice advised that she is away for both of the Annual competitions but is happy for the judges to contact her by email if necessary. Brian is also happy to be contacted. Paul is also away for the Monochrome and Print competition on 19th April, but Alice felt that this is not usually too much work and she will talk Louisa through the process.

Alice advised that we didn't enter the EAF print competition because of a lack of suitable prints. We will be entering the A45 and Brotherhood externals this year. Alice is still waiting for the exact entry requirements for the A45.

9 AGM proposals and nominations - [see Appendix b](#). Alice will second Steve H's proposal.

10 End of Season Dinner and Awards 6th May. This is all in place. Access available from 6pm. It was agreed that a start time of 6.30 for 7.00 would be ideal to leave enough time for the presentations. Deposits of £10 payable – cash preferred. Peter has left a £100 deposit. The cost of 3 courses is £32 and 2 courses are £26. Marc is organising this.

- 11 **Equipment Report** not received– Jonathan
- 12 **Membership Report.** We 64 members including 2 new members and one e-member.
- 13 **Any other business**
a It was agreed to run zoom coverage of our events and competitions until the end of the season and then to go back to in-person meetings, except when distant speakers have been booked for on-line talks. In these cases if we cancelled our church bookings we could save money. It was thought that retaining some on-line talks kept a balance with some more exciting talks being available on-line.
b In view of rising costs everywhere, it was agreed to keep our fees at £35 per annum. We would continue asking members to bring their own refreshments for the time being but tea and coffee could be provided later in the year if thought appropriate. This does not add much expense.
- 14 **Date of next meeting** to be arranged after the AGM.

Appendixes and Reports on following pages

Presidents Report

As we near the end of another Winter season I'd like to thank you all for your help and assistance in making the club what it is.

I have become aware of a few members (some new and some more established) who are a little disillusioned with competitions and their perceived inability to compete at the highest level - can we all try to encourage and help these members please.

Guests

Thank you to Nicky for offering to ensure guests have water and a snack.

Can I ask that everyone looks after our guest speakers and judges please when in the Church - we need to ensure they feel welcome and enjoy their evening with us to encourage future visits.

Amateur Photographer Club Profile

Some of you will be aware that I have responded to a request from AP magazine to promote local photo clubs in their regular "Join the Club" feature. I have now replied with information about the club and a selection of images by our members - hopefully this will appear in a September issue, but may be sooner as some other clubs have apparently dropped out.

Riverport Bar Exhibition

Ron (the manager) hadn't responded again - finally now back in touch after a few prompts.

May 21st is good for him – I will be arranging to visit and plan the number of prints, material requirements, promotion, etc.

Interprint

Thanks to the Interprint Team for all the hard work that went into making a very successful online event, after a late switch from the planned in-person event. We've had many positive responses from the clubs that entered. I'm sure Alice will give more detail in her report.

Discussion Point

Very few sponsors this year - how do we encourage/approach organisations to sponsor us (Potentially as a club sponsor, not necessarily Interprint)?

Committee Roles

Please could you let me know who in the club may be suitable (and willing) to fill the following roles:

- Programme Secretary
- Competition Secretary
- Vice President

Discussion Point

We need to fill these committee roles urgently with the right people! Who do you suggest?

Programme Report

Winter Programme 2021-2022 Season

There was one change to due to the church not being available on the 8th of March which has meant moving Malcom's talk to next season.

Item for discussion: How to create more EventBrite sales especially for James Bunn lecture?

Summer Programme 2021-2022 Season

Still have some gaps to try and fill and I will try asking people directly to lead walks as email approach isn't working. Status is here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0a38vv0p4egIntr/SIPC%202021-2022%20Summer%20Programme.pdf?dl=0>

Item for discussion: How to pay for paid events?

Winter Programme 2022-2023 Season

Now fully booked for next season. See details here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/yq6h2an6n5566hm/SIPC%202022-2023%20Winter%20Programme%20v0.3.pdf?dl=0>

Item for discussion: With less Interprint sponsorship can we afford the proposed programme as is for 2022-2023?

Communications Report

- Successful Interprint Campaign - some technical challenges but resolved with Steve L support
- SIPCChallenge continues (week 6) - averaging 2-3 entries per week
- Members section on the website updated - happy to have more content contributions
- Members Gallery - we can update sliders, how should we request members images, any other topic/group of images

Membership Report - Nothing to report

Competition Report – None Received

Equipment Report - None Received

Appendixes

a Nicky has sourced some possible boards.

Please view on this link [Panel Display Boards | Discount Displays](#)

Each panel will take two landscape mounts 400 x 500, or one portrait mount. These are lightweight and can have feet options if we do not want them staggered. They will take Velcro fixings.

b **Nominations and Proposals**

Nomination

In accordance with the Constitution of the 'St Ives Photographic Club' see Clause 9.3, I wish to put forward the following for consideration at the AGM on 26th April 2022

Nomination of **Stephen Eeley** for the position of **Programme Secretary**

Proposed by: Ian Montgomery

Seconded by: Graham Shirra

Proposals

1 George Dellar – Change of wording in order to clarify the rules

The current rules of the George Dellar Trophy are as follows:-

- Held annually
- Image to be taken within a 10 mile radius of the Free Church, St Ives
- Images should feature one, or a combination of, a Landscape, Building or Landmark, People or St Ives events within this area
- The features must be easily identifiable
- DPI images only, not previously entered in any internal competition • Maximum of 2 entries

Rationale

Reason behind the proposal. This year there were a few entries which did not meet with my understanding of the rules, and I concluded that the rules must be open to different interpretation. I therefore feel that the bullet point "the features must be easily identifiable" needs clarifying to ensure that everyone is following the same criteria for entry.

Recommendation

My proposed change of wording is as follows: Instead of "The features must be easily identifiable" –

The location of capture must be easily identifiable from the landmarks / features apparent within the image. An image that could possibly have been taken outside the defined local area is not an admissible entry. For example, a boat on a river cannot be assumed to be on The River Great Ouse unless a bridge or other landmark is also apparent in the image to identify the location of capture.

The Competition Secretary will be the final arbiter as to whether an image meets the criteria above.

Proposed by: Nicky Cope

Seconded by: Louisa Christie

2 Time limit for images entered in competitions

Images submitted across all club competitions must have been taken in the last five years of the competition closing date.

Rationale

To encourage all members to strive and seek new material to enter the club's competitions. It would give newer members more of a level playing field as they possibly don't have large back catalogues of images to fall back on when wanting to compete in competitions.

New material encourages creativity, which in turn 'rubs' off on members to try new techniques & styles. In turn this could have a wider impact on the club being more successful in external competitions.

Recommendation

A simple rule, as detailed above.

Proposed by: Louisa Christie

Seconded by: Debbie Hall

3 Quartet Competition - Change to DPI only

Rationale

The number of print entries we receive for the quartet competition is always low (this last year we only had 6 entries). Print entries need to be judged in person, but local judges are hard to book as there are not many and some are unwilling to travel on dark winter nights. As a consequence, we are having to use some judges more than once across the season. In addition, the amount of work to administer the print section can be more than with other competitions as entrants can submit 4 prints in a single entry. Additionally, it is harder to use quartet images again meaning that the print will only be in competition once and thus putting some members off as prints are more expensive to produce. They are also rarely if ever selected for external competitions so losing them would be unlikely to affect this aspect of our competitions. Making this competition DPI only would bring the competition in line with the George Dellar and President's Challenge competitions. We would also be able to secure an on-line judge in the absence of a local one. In addition the workload for members and the competitions team would be reduced.

Recommendation To make the competition a DPI only competition

Proposed by: Alice Kendrick

Seconded by: Nicky Cope

4 **Club Membership Renewal – Closing Date**

Currently members wishing to renew their membership for the new club season must do so by October 31st after which time their names and details will be removed from all club documentation and distribution lists

Rationale

The new season typically starts first week of September, with membership renewal open in August with online/BACS payment etc and by October 31st 8 – 10 club meetings have been held. The current date of October 31st is way too long as a closing date as it impacts club processes and membership cannot be confirmed.

It is unacceptable if members cannot make their mind up or are happy to attend the initial meetings but still not pay membership dues for the year in a timely fashion.

Recommendation

Close date for Membership renewal should be brought forward to September 30th

Proposed by: Steve Hardy

Seconded by: Alice Kendrick