



MINUTES - Committee Meeting - 24 January 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 All present – no apologies
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting were approved
- 3 Matters Arising
 - a. Outstanding Job description. Now written – Jonathan will email to Brian **Jonathan**
 - b. Display Boards and Advertising Flags – Louisa not spoken to her contact for display boards – will investigate for next meeting. **Louisa**
 - c. Hinchinbrooke Hospital Report attached – Louisa has asked for a photo of the wall to finalise positioning of prints and for publicity purposes. Brian and Louisa to visit the hospital to view the prints as soon as this is allowed. It was agreed that we should make the most of any publicity opportunities resulting from the print display. Steve L said that Hinchinbrooke were so pleased with our prints that other departments are organising a competition for prints for their own walls. **Louisa** to arrange a visit as soon as access is permitted.
- 4 President's Report attached. Points discussed:-
 - a. Committee Roles. Brian thanked everyone for their efforts and thanked those who are leaving the committee. Alice is to stand down and no replacement as yet. Marc also to stand down. Secretary role – Nicky will carry on in the Secretary role as it is less work now that reports are being received in advance. Steve L to stand down from Programme role although he has now arranged the programme for the rest of the year. Brian asked for ideas for candidates for these roles. Steve has agreed to give any assistance to his successor. Vice President – this role needs someone who can run club in Brian's absence. Steve H said that the technical aspect of programme role is also important. **All** to try to find possible candidates for the vacancies.

- b. Peter West Trophy –The committee favoured a plate - Steve suggested engraving with new logo. £300 has been donated for this so an engraved plate would be within budget. **Brian** to investigate. This trophy is to be given to the Member of the year as voted by members. Committee will be eligible to receive this award.
- c. Riverport Bar Exhibition – Brian has now spoken to Ron, the organiser, who is happy to receive our prints at a time to suit us. Our award presentation is on 5th May, so 21 May suited everyone as a date for setting up the display, which is not expected to be too much work. It was agreed that the display would be good publicity for the club. We need to view their display boards and the space available to decide on the size and number of prints required and then ask members for prints as appropriate.
- d. End of Season Dinner and Awards. Brian was hopeful that by 6th May this will be in person. The last award dinner was in The Golden Lion which worked well. **Peter** to have a word with them and to find out how much it will cost. It was agreed that it would be nice to mark our 50th Anniversary at this ceremony. The committee thought that champagne / prosecco and/or cake would be a good way to celebrate, and the club could even afford to pay for the dinner. A decision on the amount of contribution from the club will be made once Peter has established availability and price for the room. A display of prints from previous years was suggested to go on portable boards which are stored in the church.

5 Finance Review

Finances healthy – around £17000 altogether. Jonathan had looked at the purchase of a projector. Although ours is old it is a good spec. and it was decided to keep it going as long as it lasts. Replacing it would be around £4K.

- a. Renewal of EAF membership has now been done.
- b. Public Liability Insurance. Nicky advised that Tim has the renewal form and is happy handle the renewal unless we want to establish a new email contact or pay via a new PayPal account. The renewal is £96 and is due on 4th Feb. It was decided that it would be preferable to use a club address – Nicky to change the contact to the Secretary email and then to pay it and claim the money back. **Nicky**
Setting up of PayPal account. Steve not looked into it, but he felt that internet banking would be easier but this may need to remove one signatory in order to facilitate this. Much discussion took place regarding whether to set up a separate account with limited funds in it for on-line spending, or whether to have a withdrawal limit on the main account for spending by one person. **Peter** to have a word with Lloyds to see what can be done and then investigate other banks if they can't help as electronic payments would be easier.

6 Programme Report attached – **Steve L**

- a. We now have 20 images for the critique evening which makes it viable to go ahead. Steve, Alice, Gary and Tony are meeting to discuss now they will deliver the feedback.
- b. Members talks – there are 2 definite talks and one possible talk. Petros was also considering doing a talk and **Alice** agreed to message him to say that we would like him to do this. Steve can do a talk on drone photography. Louisa is happy to do a demonstration of photography using a Lightpad and Jonathan offered to do a talk on low light photography using flash etc.
- c. It was agreed that a mix of talks and practical sessions would make a good evening with a possible four corners of the room being used for different practicals. If there

are not enough sessions to fill the evening, it was agreed that it would be a good opportunity for discussions and chat.

- d. It was agreed that it would be nice to do a light trail evening outside with a backup of low light photography in the church if the weather is bad

Steve has organised the winter 22/23 programme with a good mix of events. Alice suggested UK club photography Facebook site for speakers. Steve L said that the zoom register was also good.

Point for discussion –

- a. Number of print competitions in view of difficulty of securing local judges. Steve presented his table of available judges and said that there were not enough local judges to cover our competitions

It was agreed that DPI only would work for the Quartet, George Dellar and Presidents Trophy, so that on-line judges could be arranged

Alice is going to prepare a proposal for AGM to change the Quartet competition to DPI only.

From a Competition's secretary point of view, Alice pointed out that preparing for an on-line comp is more work than for an in-person event.

Alice felt that it may be too hard to do online only for the Annual competition.

In cases where a judge or speaker cancels at the last minute it was agreed to source online replacement speakers and judges where necessary. If prints are part of the competition, it was suggested that we could ask for a DPI of the fully mounted print as a last resort.

Currently, Alice needs two laptops and a third monitor when projecting from home. See equipment item below.

7 Competition Report attached – Alice.

Steve L questioned if there were ways in which we could share details of external competitions with more members as they often don't know they are happening unless they have images selected. Steve H suggested we could display images from the external competitions in the Member's area or on the News Page of the website – all agreed Steve H.

Items for discussion from competition report:

- a. Future treatment of invalid competition entries. It was agreed that the rules would be firmly enforced from now on
- b. George Dellar Trophy – future format of competition. As members' ideas differ as to what is a recognisable landmark, this led to entries in the recent competition which some of the committee believed to be invalid. As this is open to individual interpretation, there will always be an element of doubt as to what entries should be allowed. A great deal of discussion took place, but the committee were unable to agree on a definitive way forward. It was agreed to continue the discussion by email so that a clear proposal could be drafted before the AGM. Everyone to email their ideas to the committee email.

- c. Date images are taken – it was agreed to bring this into line with Cambridge Club which currently has a 5-year limit on the age of entries. **Brian** to create AGM proposal
- 8 Interprint Report attached **Alice**
- 9 Equipment Report – none attached.
 - a. Jonathan proposed a webcam with a mic or USB headset to solve Alice's problems for the online competitions. Jonathan will sort out the equipment to make things easier for Alice. – **Jonathan**
- 10 Communications Report attached
 - a. General Update. Members' update page ready to go. Members' galleries also need to be updated. Alice has ideas for linking this to social media. Members will be asked to submit some of their images to the gallery. Hints and tips learning centre has also being updated. **Steve H**
 - b. Social Media Team Report. To generate interest there will be a weekly challenge and members of the public can post their images on each of the challenges.
- 11 Membership Report as attached.
 - a. A student is defined as a full-time student with a student card.
- 12 Preparation for AGM. Proposals from Committee Members. **All**
- 13 Any other business. AGM minutes from last year to go on website **Steve H.**
- 14 Date of next meeting 23 March 7pm

Reports

(3c) Hinchingbrooke Report – Louisa

The last images were delivered before Christmas. The two authors are to receive a letter & a box of chocolates each (with are with me, not eaten).

I emailed Natalie last week to ask for a final image of them hung as the only thing outstanding is the plaque. I delivered the holder for the plaque with the images, just need to confirm the wording as it will impact the order in which they were hung. I emailed Natalie last week to chase, but not heard back yet. It's on my list for this week.

(4) President's Report - Brian

Thank you for all your hard work and support in what has been a difficult time since our last meeting, as we had to take the undesirable decision to move back to online meetings after the great success of being back in the church. I'm hopeful that we'll be meeting in person again at the end of February.

This time of year it is always difficult as we struggle to get out with our cameras following the Christmas and New Year break, with work and family pressures vying for our time with club responsibilities, but the survey results confirmed that overall we are providing the right mix of activities for our members and I am excited to see the club thriving with many new members getting involved with some great work and enthusiasm.

Questions for consideration by the committee:

Committee Roles

With the end of the winter season and the AGM in sight I unfortunately need to make you aware that we will have some committee positions to fill - please could you consider and let me know who in the club may be suitable (and willing) to fill the following roles:

- Secretary
- Vice President
- Competition Secretary

I'd like to thank the current role holders for all their work during their tenure of these roles.

Peter West Trophy for member of the year. What is the preferred format for a new trophy?

- Cup
- Plate
- Plaque/shield

Riverport Bar Exhibition

Ron hadn't responded since our last meeting in November

Now in touch again after a few prompts - May/June is good for him. We need to pick a date to setup

Do we want to wait until after the Dinner/Awards weekend (6th May)?

End of season Dinner & Awards

- We need to get something booked soon
- Can we use the room at the Golden Lion again?
- 50th Season - plan something special - ideas?

(6) Programme Report – Steve L

[Winter Programme 2021-2022](#)

Jim Hartje has told me he is vulnerable and not happy to present in person on the 15th of February so this will now be a Zoom meeting.

Malcolm Clements does not want to present his talk online on the 8th of February and has asked to reschedule if we cannot return to the church in February. Hopefully as numbers are starting to peak, we can return to the church by then.

I have purchased a monthly subscription to zoom at a monthly cost of £14.39. Suggest we keep this going for the rest of the season as we have at least 2 more online sessions before the end of April.

[Winter Programme 2022-2023](#)

There wasn't anything surprising in the survey including a low number of responses. In general members happy with one or two practical sessions in the season although some of our longer-term members don't find these personally useful but understand the value for newer members. I've only scheduled one practical in this season and Jonathan as come up with a good plan to capture movement.

Programme is nearly complete as can be seen here:

[SIPC-2022-2023-Winter-Programme-v0.2.pdf](#)

I have tried to select a mix of genres to keep members interested.

However, it is getting more and more difficult to book local speakers and judges as there isn't a large pool to choose from in our local area and some of our older speakers and judges and not wanting to travel far in the winter months. I also think that the experience of being able to judge and give talks from home the last 2 years has appealed to many.

For speakers I have selected several online talks which helps the problem with local speakers. However, judges are more difficult because we have a lot of competitions in the season and many of these are print competitions. I think for next year we may need to consider online judges for DPI competitions and perhaps reduce our number of print

competitions like the quartet which we already discussed making DPI only. On the next page I have illustrated the point with number of competitions versus available judges.

I have estimated total cost of judges and speakers will be ~£900 which is about 10% less than this season so this should offset the zoom costs.

Expenses

Heads up that the renewal of our domain for another 2 years is due in May which will be about £24. In the summer I will put in a claim for this plus a year's Web hosting (12 x £5.99) plus the zoom fees.

Discussion point about number of print competitions

Number	Judge	Distance	Fee	Comment
1	Sarah Kelman	5	£ 5	Very busy and difficult to book
2	David Steel	15	£ 15	
3	Ben Pike	25	£ 25	
4	Jonathan Vaines	27	£ 25	
5	Richard Burn	33	£ 30	
6	Naomi Saul	34	£ 35	
7	John Wilcox	35	£ 35	No Reponse from John
8	Dave Stewart	36	£ 35	
9	Trevor Rudkin	42	£ 40	Not happy to drive this far in the winter
10	Colin Strong	53	£ 50	Not happy to drive this far in the winter
11	Paul Radden	64	£ 60	
12	Ken Payne	65	£ 60	
13	Richard Houghton	80	£ 75	

Internal Competitions		Prints	Comment
Monthly Competitions	6	6	
Annual DPI	1	0	
Annual Print	1	1	
George Dellar / Presidents	1	0	
Quartet	1	1	
Total	10	8	

Interclub		Prints	Comment
Swavesey Friendly	1	1	Alternate Years
4-Way	1	?	Every 4 years
Interprint	1	1	Every year but booked separately

As you can see, I have 9 judges to cover 10 competitions and, in some years, there can be as many as 12 when you include interclub competitions.

Recommendations:

1. Use online judges for DPI only competitions which has the added benefit of seeing other judges.
2. Make Quartet DPI only.
3. Consider making Swavesey DPI only.

Programme Secretary
Steve Laws

(7) Competition Report - Alice

Internals

So far the monthly competitions are well subscribed and we have new members entering those and the stand alone competitions which is encouraging to see, especially as some are doing really well.

Moving back online has meant that we have had to revert to DPI only which is a shame but hopefully it will only affect the January monthly competition. Once again though, the procedure to get the competition showing correctly for Zoom is clunky as the main laptop has no functioning speaker or microphone and if running the competition through FFPX, Zoom does not like the "projector" window that FFPX produces unless it is shown full screen on a separate monitor.

There have been some obvious issues with the George Dellar competition this year which need to be discussed and are likely on the agenda separately. I also feel that this year's competition was a little farcical and that a number of images should not have been allowed. I apologise that I did not think to check the images before turning the laptop on to run the competition after Paul did the setup. It was his first time organising this competition and obviously mistakes were made by both of us.

I agree that the timescale in which an image was taken should definitely be tightened - not just here but across all competitions. I don't think that asking for an image to have been taken in the last 2 years for example is unreasonable. It should challenge our members to keep producing new work but also to show their most recent and hopefully some of their best images and promote their own personal growth as photographers. I know that some of our longer standing members who have historically done very well in competitions are using older images recently and because the standard is high it does seem unfair to those newer members who don't have that back catalogue to draw upon. I also know that the coronavirus situation may be raised as an objection to this, but it has not stopped me from getting images, in fact some of my more successful images in the last 2 years have been taken either in my garden or in the village so personally I don't feel like there's much excuse to be made there.

I have also been considering the format of the George Dellar competition and wondered whether, if it is felt that people are struggling to find images, we should change it so that the theme alternates - local places one year, local people and events the next? Of course this is merely a suggestion but one that I feel would allow the competition to at least attempt to maintain the original ethos of George's photography (as I understand it). If not, then we need to think about whether we want to continue with the local theme or scrap it entirely and if we were to do that then how could we align it with something that fits the trophy name? Do we need to keep it at all?

Externals

Since our last meeting there have been 2 external competitions held.

In the 4-way we came 3rd with 199 points - only just behind the winners, Ely with 204 - a close competition.

In the Cambridge Digital we came 18th out of 25 with 83 points out of a possible 100. Once again it was a tight competition at the top with the winner having to be decided with a tie break. It would've been nice to be slightly higher on the table but as always, the standard of images was high and I don't feel we embarrassed ourselves as I believe third place was only 6 points ahead of us!

(8) Interprint Report - Alice

Since Christmas we have made the difficult decision to hold Interprint online again this year. It would have been so good to have had a proper event at the church considering it's our 40th anniversary of holding this competition but we didn't feel that it was practical considering the situation with covid.

As a result, we have also taken the decision to reduce the images to 6 again rather than 8 to keep the judging brief and the editing achievable.

The judge has confirmed he is happy to see the images in advance and we aim to record the judging on the afternoon of 12th February to allow time for video editing etc.

The poster has been updated, participating clubs have been informed and we have our first entries. Closing is at the end of the month. We have yet to make our own selection but will be doing so in the next week hopefully.

(9) Equipment Report – Jonathan – not received

(10) Communications Report – Steve H

Social Media

- Analysis needs to be done of stats for each channel, just posting images on a daily may no longer be getting the interaction - need more interesting topics to get more interaction.
- Resourcing will be a challenge if more topics/activities posted

Communications

- Not much to report
- Members' area of website still needs more work (time limited)
- Some point playbook needs to be documented of all activities to handover etc

(11) Membership Report - Debbie

- The current membership stands at 59 members. Of those one is an E-member and 3 are students
- Brian and I have recently discussed the information that new members get after completing a membership form and as a result Brian has created a word document which is now saved in Dropbox <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4d5v9koyyzco90w02apzk/New-Member-ClubInformation.docx?dl=0&rlkey=5cm6ksor5l4yvj6r97v0xknt9> This can now be used by anyone to send out to a new member, should Debbie not be available at any time The document can be attached to a welcome email and the email itself can then include bank details for paying fees and any other information deemed appropriate that is not covered in the word attachment
- The wording regarding whether a new member is a student or not has been revised on the website after it became clear that it wasn't precise enough. It now says: Membership normally costs just £35 per year and a reduced rate of £10 for students in full time education with a current student card.