



# ST IVES

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

## ST IVES PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

### MINUTES OF 2021/22 AGM

**Time and Date:** 8.00 pm; 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022, The Free Church, St Ives

**Attendees:**

Officers and Committee Members:

Role	Name
President	Brian Sibley
Vice President	Marc Human
Honorary Treasurer	Peter Wills
Honorary Secretary	Nicky Cope
External Competition Assistant	Louisa Christie
Equipment Officer	Jonathan Sayer
Communications Officer	Steve Hardy

together with the following Club members: Ian Montgomery, Martin Edwards, Stan Mace, Ivan Barrett, Graham Shirra, Dave Cole, Gary Dean, Graham Davey, Steve Eeley, Kim Human, Mark Hudson.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Steve Laws- Programme Secretary  
Alice Kendrick – Competition Secretary,  
Paul Dobson – Competition Assistant  
Debbie Hall – Membership Secretary

together with the following Club members:

Karen Laws, Bryan Basketter, Elizabeth Watson and Tom Lane

- 1. Minutes of last AGM of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
Minutes produced by Tim Norman last year were formally approved by the members.
- 2. Matters Arising**  
No matters arising

**3. President's Report**

Brian Sibley thanked everyone for attending and read his report (see attached). He was pleased to have seen an increase in membership to 62 members at a time when other clubs are struggling to survive. He highlighted the success of the Annual Exhibition in our 50<sup>th</sup> year and said how good it was to hold events in person again.

He reported increased followers across social media and thanked the Communications Officer and social media team. He felt that Interprint had been well received, despite being an on-line event this year. He thanked the committee for their support and in particular Alice and Marc who are now stepping down.

**4. Treasurer's Report** and approval of the Club Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. (see attached). Peter Wills presented his report. The total Club assets are £17,640.90. There was a typing error in the report affecting this total, but the figures were otherwise as presented.

Peter said that members joining towards the end of the year pay a reduced rate, so this is reflected in the membership figure. Peter was pleased to see membership increase. As Interprint was on-line only this year, this revenue stream was less than in previous years but to be expected.

Peter reported a decision to move money into a savings account over the summer. David Cole said that as Building Society rates are increasing lately the proposed move to put money into a Savings Account was a good one.

**5. Competition Secretary's Report** (see attached). Louisa Christie read the report for Alice Kendrick who was unable to attend as her flight home had been cancelled.

In the report, Alice Kendrick thanked Louisa Christie and Paul Dobson for their help and support over the year.

Alice reported the difficulties of working a hybrid system of on-line and in-person competition but felt that the challenges had been largely overcome.

Respectively 29 and 11 members had entered the monthly DPI and Print competitions, with Gary Dean the winner of both.

The Quartet had 22 DPI entrants with the winner being Elizabeth Watson.

The print section had 6 print entrants and was won by David Cole.

21 entered the President's challenge, won by David King.

20 people entered the George Dellar, which was won by Gary Dean.

19 people entered the Annual DPI Competition which was won by David Cole.

There was no annual print competition this year as the judge contracted Covid 19, and it was cancelled due to the committee being unable to secure another judge at short notice.

The results of all the External competitions are detailed in the report, but our results throughout the season were respectable with a notable increase in placement in the Cambridge digital competition where we finished just 8 points behind the winners.

19 clubs joined our DPI only Interprint competition, which went well. Alice particularly thanked Karen Laws. Peter Wills and Tim Norman for their contribution.

Alice thanked the committee for their support over her years as Competition Secretary and said that work commitments have reduced the time available for the role making it clear that it is the right time for her to hand the role over.

## **6. Proposals for Committee Restructure**

The following new positions were proposed by Nicky Cope and seconded by Louisa Christie –

### [Appendix C 1](#)

- a. Internal Competition Secretary
- b. External Competition Secretary

This proposal was accepted by a majority of members

## **7. Election of Club Officers**

Nominations for the following positions were accepted by a majority of members - [Appendix A](#) (President – Brian Sibley already elected within three-year term)

- a. Vice-President – Steve Laws
- b. Honorary Treasurer – Peter Wills
- c. Honorary Secretary – Graham Shirra
- d. Programme Secretary – Steve Eeley
- e. Internal Competition Secretary – Louisa Christie
- f. External Competition Secretary – Nicky Cope

## **8. Election of Other Committee Members**

Nominations for the following positions were accepted by a majority of members - [Appendix B](#)

1. Communications Officer – Steve Hardy
2. Equipment Officer – Jonathan Sayer
3. Membership Secretary – Debbie Hall
4. Competition Assistant – Paul Dobson

## 9. Other Proposals

### Appendix C 2 George Dellar – Change of wording in order to clarify the rules

The following wording was proposed by Nicky Cope, seconded by Louisa Christie

“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.”

Nicky proposed this change as she felt that not everyone was interpreting the rules of the George Dellar Competition in the same way and therefore some clarification was needed to ensure everyone was following the same criteria.

Much discussion took place over this point – both Jonathan and Stan said that they felt this wording was too restrictive.

Nicky read the current rules which state “images should feature one, or a combination of, a Landscape, Building or Landmark, People or St Ives events within the area. The features must be easily identifiable. “

Louisa said that it was possible to ask that members insert the place of capture in the comments section of the PhotoEntry box.

Brian gave three options for vote:

- 1 As proposed
- 2 To add the location of capture in the “Entry Reference” box of PhotoEntry but to leave the rules as they stand
- 3 To leave the rules as they stand

The vote by a majority of members was for option 2.

**Action – committee to add a note to rules asking for place of capture to be included in the Entry Reference box.**

### Appendix C 3 Club Membership Renewal – Closing Date

The following wording was proposed by Steve Hardy, seconded by Alice Kendrick and accepted by a majority of members:

“Close date for Membership renewal should be brought forward to September 30<sup>th</sup>. By October no clarity on re-joining. Admin will be easier. You cannot enter a competition unless you have paid your membership.”

**Action – committee to change membership renewal requirements on website.**

#### Appendix C 4 Time limit for images entered in competitions

The following wording was proposed by Louisa Christie, seconded by Debbie Hall

“Images submitted across all club competitions must have been taken in the last five years of the competition closing date in order to encourage members without a large back catalogue of images to compete.”

Graham Shirra said that it was not possible to police time of capture on images. Steve Eeley felt it would be hard to decide the creation date of certain re-worked images and that metadata is not always reliable and such a ruling would be unenforceable.

Jonathan Sayer highlighted the problem of composite images where part of the image was taken outside the 5-year limit.

Brian Sibley advised that some external competitions require entries with a time limit and therefore we would have to check dates and exclude older images before submitting our entries to some of the external competitions. Brian said that some research might be needed to ascertain what other local clubs are doing in this respect.

The motion to introduce a time constraint was rejected with majority vote.

#### Appendix C 5 Quartet Competition - Change to DPI only

A change to DPI only for the Quartet competition was proposed by Alice Kendrick, seconded by Nicky Cope. The main reasons for this proposal were:

- Low number of people entering prints for this competition
- Difficulty in securing local judges which are needed for print entries
- Amount of administration needed to handle the multiple prints per entry
- Cost involved for members for producing multiple prints
- Making it DPI would bring it into line with George Dellar and President's Challenge.

Mark Hudson said if entries are low the print entry should be promoted not scrapped.

Jonathan said that the quartet is the only competition that is not limited on size of print – so he feels it is worth doing as members can interpret the presentation to suit their entry.

Gary said that if you can re-use some of the prints in another competition it also helps. He said there is an art to producing prints for this competition so the cost can be justified.

Louisa said that only 6 people entered this year, and the admin is time consuming.

Steve Hardy said there is more of a general problem of getting people to enter prints in competition. David Cole said we should ask the members why they are not entering prints into this comp so that we can benefit from their feedback.

Jonathan said the prints can also be used in the exhibition. He suggested an evening of previous quartet images to show new members what can be achieved for a quartet format, which he stressed was not a panel competition but a themed group of 4. He felt that many members would have their previous prints to bring along to such an event.

The motion to change to DPI only was rejected with majority vote.

**Appendix C 6 Monthly competitions** –To allow print images to be used in two competitions. This was proposed by: Gary Dean and seconded by Ivan Barrett

Gary emphasised the importance of using the media of print in photography and referenced a recent PAGB news article on why photographers should own a printer. He highlighted the benefits of showing prints and retaining control over the way images are seen. He felt that only having an image used once puts pressure on the photographer and may not be worth the effort in producing and mounting the print. He felt that we should be encouraging more members to enter, and this would help them have enough prints to choose from.

Brian explained that the current rule of allowing a print to be used once only was introduced in 2017 to prevent a member winning the monthly print competition with only 6 images, having re-submitted a high scoring image on each occasion. David Cole said that having the opportunity to re-enter an image you think has been scored incorrectly is a positive point as another judge may view it differently. Jonathan Sayer said you should be allowed to edit and re-submit your entry, having taken into account the judge's comments – this would benefit the club, providing a larger pool of quality prints to use in External competitions. Kim Human suggested marking such images as “re-submitted” in order to help the administrative control of such re-entries. Mark Hudson said that you don't want to discourage people from entering based on score. Kim said other clubs allow images to be entered more than once. Ian Montgomery and Louisa Christie suggested a cut off mark for print entries. After much discussion Brian Sibley gave the following options to the floor:-

1. Allow an image to be re-entered if it scored 17 or lower.  
Re-editing permissible.
2. To allow re-entry as proposed
3. To leave the rules as they stand

The vote by a majority of members was for option 1.

**Action – committee change competition rules to reflect this.**

## **Appendix C 7 Change of Categories to the Annual Competition**

Bullet 2: delete (Gary Dean amended this to Bullet 3)

Replace with: The annual competition (print and dpi) should consist of six core categories as follows of which members can enter four images previously unused in club competitions:

1. Nature (wildlife)
2. Open Monochrome
3. Creative
4. Scapes
5. People
6. Open colour

No additional categories are proposed.

The rationale for this was outlined in Gary's proposal attached. In summary this was to allow a wider genre of subject matter and to encourage those successful in competitions to enter their images in exhibitions or apply for distinctions in RPS and PAGB. It was also to simplify the subject criteria so that the same categories were applied every year and to provide a more consistent catalogue for external competitions.

A statement by Steve Laws was read by Brian Sibley. Steve was in favour of set categories but did not want to include open subject matter in the Annual Competition, as this makes it more like the monthlies. He enjoyed the challenge of more specific categories.

Brian also read a statement by Debbie Hall who felt that too wide subject choice favoured those who are expert in certain fields of photography to the detriment of the majority, making it hard for others to compete and reducing incentive to enter.

Nicky Cope felt that a too wide entry would make the Annual competition more like the Open Monthly where members can submit images in their own genre. She felt that more specific categories challenged everyone to diversify and try areas of photography they would not normally choose. She also felt that there are many members who are not looking to attain PRS or PAGB accreditation but would simply like to compete fairly.

Ian Montgomery said that to have two open categories takes the challenge away. He thinks that to push more open categories is not a good proposal. Steve Eeley also agreed that having two open categories would remove the challenge of the Annual competition.

Gary Dean stated that the accreditations he has achieved have helped him to improve his photography, and that the same opportunity is there for others to achieve. Steam-lining the entry criteria with that of the PRS and PAGB can only help in this regard.

Stan Mace said that he did not wish to take photos of a subject matter he would not normally choose, and he felt that a broader category would suit many people. David Cole said that before we change categories, we need to get more people to enter. Stan Mace thought that the Annual entry categories deter entry as they are too narrow. Brian Sibley said that the number of print entries have gone down everywhere and is not an issue unique to St Ives, although that should not deter the club attempting to reverse this trend.

Much further discussion took place and Brian called for a vote.

The motion to change the Annual Competition was rejected with majority vote.

## **10. Any other business.**

Brian announced the 2022/2023 Category for the President's Challenge. This year it will be "Lines".

In view of the decision in C7, Brian also announced the 6 categories for this year's Annual Competition.

Core:- Landscape, Sport and Creative. Additional:- Macro, Street and Transport.

## **11. Closure of meeting 10.15pm**

## Appendix A. Election of Club Officers

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.

- a. **Vice President**  
Proposed that Steve Laws is elected in the position of Vice President  
Proposed by: Brian Sibley, Seconded by: Nicky Cope
- b. **Honorary Treasurer**  
Proposed that Peter Wills is re-elected in the position of Honorary Treasurer.  
Proposed by: Brian Sibley, Seconded by: Nicky Cope
- c. **Honorary Secretary**  
Proposed that Graham Shirra is elected in the position of Honorary Secretary.  
Proposed by: Brian Sibley, Seconded by: Nicky Cope
- d. **Programme Secretary**  
Proposed that Stephen Eeley is elected in the position of Programme Secretary.  
Proposed by: Ian Montgomery, Seconded by Graham Shirra
- e. **Internal Competition Secretary**  
Proposed that Louisa Christie is elected in the position of Internal Competition Secretary  
Proposed by: Nicky Cope, Seconded by Brian Sibley
- f. **External Competition Secretary**  
Proposed that Nicky Cope is elected in the position of External Competition Secretary  
Proposed by: Louisa Christie, Seconded by Brian Sibley

## Appendix B. Election of other Committee members

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.

- a. **Communications Officer**  
Proposed that Stephen Hardy is re-elected in the position of Communications Officer  
Proposed by: Brian Sibley, Seconded by: Nicky Cope
- b. **Equipment Officer**  
Proposed that Jonathan Sayer is re-elected in the position of Equipment Officer  
Proposed by: Brian Sibley, Seconded by: Nicky Cope
- c. **Membership Secretary**  
Proposed that Debbie Hall is re-elected in the position of Membership Secretary  
Proposed by: Brian Sibley, Seconded by: Nicky Cope
- d. **Competition Assistant**  
Proposed that Paul Dobson is re-elected in the position of Competition Assistant  
Proposed by: Brian Sibley, Seconded by: Nicky Cope
- e. **Events Co-Ordinator.**  
There are no nominations for this position

## Appendix C. Proposals

### 1 Splitting of Competition Role into two roles – Internal and External

To divide the role into two distinct roles.

#### Rationale

We have had no volunteers for the Competition Secretary role as it stands at present. By splitting the role into two, the workload for one person is considerably reduced. The Internal and External roles run independently and so there is no need for one person to do both. With good communication between both officers, competitions can run smoothly without any one person being responsible for competitions as a whole.

#### Recommendation

To create two new roles – Internal Competition Secretary and External Competition Secretary, and to abolish the current Competition Secretary role.

**Proposed by:** Nicky Cope,

**Seconded by:** Louisa Christie

### 2 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

### **3 Club Membership Renewal – Closing Date**

Currently members wishing to renew their membership for the new club season must do so by October 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 8 – 10 club meetings have been held. The current date of October 31<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>

**Proposed by:** Steve Hardy,

**Seconded by:** Alice Kendrick

### **4 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

## **5 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

## **6 Monthly competitions**

Bullet 4: A print image may be used twice, dpi images may only be used once (unless the Image is one used in the themed competitions).

### **Rationale**

The motivation here is to encourage more members to enter the monthly print competition. The proposed change has come about after discussion with current entrants to the monthly print competition. Preparing a print involves considerable time and effort and costs £5-6/ print in materials alone (paper, ink, mount etc.). Currently prints are shown to a judge for less than a minute, so we believe many of the 45 plus members who do not do prints think, "is this worth it?" Entry two times allows for the print to be seen by members and critiqued by 2 judges and we believe this would encourage more entrants counteracting the fact that it is possible some members may enter less prints over a season. The beauty of prints apart from the thrill of seeing your print emerge from the printer is that you have total control and what is presented is what you intended, which cannot be said for dpi in many cases.

### **Recommendation**

To allow print images to be used in two competitions.

**Proposed by:** Gary Dean

**Seconded by:** Ivan Barrett

## 7 Annual competition

### Rationale

The annual competition was originally conceived to align with national and international exhibitions and salons and RPS associate categories. The purpose to encourage members successful in club competitions to enter their images in exhibitions or apply for distinctions of the RPS and PAGB. We also enter club competitions that have categories or restrictions for example monochrome and natural history. The change provides categories in our annual that have a solid rationale will allow a wide range of subjects and genera to be entered rather than some random pot pourri of set subjects that is forever changing.

### Recommendation

Bullet 3: delete

Replace with: The annual competition (print and dpi) should consist of six core categories as follows of which members can enter four images previously unused in club competitions:

1. Nature (wildlife)
2. Open Monochrome
3. Creative
4. Scapes
5. People
6. Open colour

No additional categories are proposed.

The following are the definitions most often used by organisations such as the RPS, FIAPP, PAGB, BPE and PSA.

- **Scapes:**

Any rural, urban or coastal landscape image will be accepted in this category including Colour, Monochrome, Infra-red, HDR and Panoramic images.

The image must be from one capture. (HDR from a bracketed set of the same image and Panoramas from a panned set of the same scene are viewed as one capture).

The integrity of the subject must be maintained and the making of major physical changes to the landscape is not permitted. You may not, for example, move trees or import the sky from another image.

People and animals may be included in the scene as long as they are ancillary to and/or supportive of the main subject.

- **Open Monochrome:**

Any B&W image may be entered in this class.

A black and white image is one containing only various shades of grey, black or white.

A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain eligible for the monochrome class. However, a black and white work modified by partial toning or by the addition of one or more colours, becomes a colour work and is thus ineligible for the Monochrome class.

- **Open Colour:**

Any Colour image may be entered in this class.

If an otherwise 'nature' image is entered into this category, it is judged on the pictorial element and not the 'nature' element.

- **Nature (wildlife):**

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Colour images can be converted to greyscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

Images entered that meet the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species.

Guidance: Artistic Nature, meaning photographs which started as Nature but which have been creatively modified to show a purely pictorial image, do not meet the Nature definition. They may be entered in Open categories.

- **People:**

Images should portray people, as individuals or collectively, and should be concerned with showing their character, behaviour, or customs, or making social comment. Images from genres such as portraiture, street photography, social documentary and travel are all acceptable.

- **Creative:**

Any final image made up from a foreground (subject) image and one or more different background images is considered to be a creative image. The image must obviously display a change in natural colour, form, shape, or any combination of these three. Creative images are montages (a blending or composite of multiple images). High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are not considered creative and must not be entered in this class.

The original image(s) must have been captured using the photographic process.

Images may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else.

Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated, provided that the original photographic content predominates images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. It is necessary that the image's core content be photographic and identifiable.

Any subject matter is acceptable as long as the creative guidelines are followed. Non-creative images must not be entered in this class and will be marked down.

Images entered in this class may be colour or monochrome.

**Proposed by:** Gary Dean

**Seconded by:** Tom Lane