



ST IVES
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT ST. IVES GOLF CLUB–23 NOVEMBER 2022 at 19.30 hrs

Present:

Brian Sibley	President
Peter Wills	Treasurer
Graham Shirra	Secretary
Steve Eeley	Programme Secretary
Louisa Christie	Internal Competition Secretary
Nicky Cope	External Competition Secretary
Debbie Hall	Membership Secretary
Steve Hardy	Communications Officer
Jonathan Sayer	Equipment Officer

1 **Apologies for absence:**) Steve Laws (Vice President) and Paul Dobson (Competition Assistant)

2 **Minutes of the last meeting** (21 September 2022) were approved.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Advertising flags had been purchased in time for the Exhibition: no further action. It was agreed that there is no need to replace the display boards at present since the “man with a van” arrangement used to transfer them for the Exhibition should be used again for future events upstairs in the Church.

3.2 Hinchingbrooke Hospital display: Louisa expects to visit the site by mid-December. **LOUISA**

3.3 Job Descriptions: all complete except for that of Equipment Officer. Jonathan will review the existing draft. **JONATHAN**

3.4 Peter confirmed that the Church had been booked for Interprint and also for next year’s Exhibition (reverting to the traditional 1st weekend of November). Peter undertook to make a provisional booking for the lower hall for Interprint, as it may be required for catering. **PETER**

3.5 Steve Laws has tidied up Dropbox.

3.6 References to occasional booking via Eventbrite need to be removed from the website. **STEVE HARDY**

4 Other Matters

4.1 None at this point.

5 President’s Report (Brian)

5.1 Brian thanked everyone, but particularly Debbie, for the work that had gone into ensuring that the Exhibition ran smoothly.

5.2 There was a lengthy discussion about how to encourage more people to enter print competitions – in particular, what can be done this season, recognising that significant changes (eg the question of re-use of images) are outside the Committee’s scope and can only be implemented following discussion and voting at the AGM. PDIs were also mentioned, as was the marking scheme.

5.3 The conclusion was that there should be an informal (non-competitive) print evening this season, with each member uploading a suitable file to create an A4 print to PhotoEntry. The Club would then arrange for these to be printed (by one of the commercial services such as DSCL) and possibly mounted; alternatively, mounting could be demonstrated as part of the evening. Costs could be borne by the Club as a one-off to demonstrate to members how it can be done. Prints would be reviewed, but not judged and marked, by some of the more experienced members.

5.4 This would, of course, require a date in the programme. We identified 2 possible options:

5.4.1 Alice’s talk is now re-scheduled for 7th February but there is concern whether she will be fit enough to prepare and present it – this might be a suitable date.

5.4.2 Alternatively, to give members more time to prepare, Gary might be able to bring his talk forward from 4th April to 7th February, and we could then have the print evening in April.

5.5 In either case, Alice could then give her talk next season which gives her more time to recuperate, though she might be able to attend assist with reviewing the prints (particularly in April). Brian will contact Alice and Gary to sound them out. **BRIAN**

6 **Finance** (Peter)

6.1 Progress has been made with setting up online banking; we are now “almost there”!

6.2 The Church are raising the hire charge, but only by 5% which seems very reasonable in the present climate. Interprint has traditionally boosted Club funds but will not contribute much, if anything, this season (fewer clubs participating, and no sponsorship) so we may well need to propose an increased subscription at the AGM. **PETER**

6.3 EAF membership forms (renewal due 1st January) have just been received. Routine.

7 **Secretary** (Graham)

7.1 Insurance renewal report to be prepared for January meeting. **GRAHAM**

8 **Programme** (Steve Eeley)

8.1 Current season’s programme running smoothly. Draft for next season agreed as a good outline. Steve Eeley would still like suggestions for remaining dates. **ALL**

9 **Competitions**

9.1 Internal (Louisa)

9.1.1 All seems to be running smoothly, however the most recent competition had highlighted some issues with resizing of PDIs. PhotoEntry can resize images to fit within the published maximum 1920 x 1200 pixels, but it is better for authors to

retain control of the finished product by resizing their images themselves before uploading. This is worth explaining in the Newsletter. **STEVE HARDY/LOUISA**

9.2 External (Nicky)

9.2.1 Interprint arrangements are all in hand. 20 participating clubs, all bar 1 have paid.

9.2.2 Confirmed that admission to the evening session will be £5.

9.2.3 Catering arrangements between afternoon and evening sessions are still to be finalised, following discussion with new manager of Tookey's who is due to take up post in December.

9.3 Print entries – covered under 5.2 above.

9.4 Possible future participation at national/international level – deferred until next meeting, to allow proper consideration of briefing note. **ALL**

10 Events

10.1 Annual Exhibition (11/12 November 2022)

10.1.1 As already noted (5.1 above) this had been a success. Despite closing early on Saturday, we still had over 200 visitors.

10.1.2 Debbie commented that, with plenty of helpers, it had been possible to pack up the Exhibition extremely quickly.

10.1.3 Confirmed that the 2023 Exhibition will return to the first weekend in November (Friday 3rd/Saturday 4th) as, on reflection, coinciding with Guy Fawkes Night did not seem to be an issue. Church already booked (3.4 above).

10.2 Christmas Social (13 December)

10.2.1 It was agreed that for simplicity, and to avoid issues over Food Hygiene certificates, catering should be bought in – pizza, sandwich platters from one of the major supermarkets or a local independent business, etc. As usual, attendees should bring their own drinks. **ALL**

10.2.2 Event will be free to members, cost for non-members will be £5 (probably via Eventbrite). There will also be a raffle.

10.2.3 Nicky will prepare a quiz/bingo game on the lines of one she previously prepared for the golf club, which would provide the entertainment. Peter will have a word with the church authorities to confirm that we are not indulging in gambling.

PETER/NICKY

10.3 Interprint (25 February 2023)

10.3.1 See 9.2 above.

11 Communications (Steve Hardy)

11.1 Steve Hardy confirmed that the current publicity cycle of Newsletter and Facebook posts seemed to be working well.

11.2 Steve reminded everyone that our 50th Anniversary year pad now passed, therefore logos ((email signatures and elsewhere) should be the new plain version without the “Celebrating 50 years” strapline. **ALL**

12 Membership (Debbie)

12.1 Currently there are 51 paid-up members (including 1 new)

13 Equipment (Jonathan)

13.1 Jonathan has started to prepare an inventory of Club owned equipment to show what may be available for loan to members, and for insurance purposes. **JONATHAN**

13.2 However this has highlighted that we should spend some time tidying the cupboard to cross-check what we have and to make everything more accessible. This probably requires a dedicated session sometime. It would also be more efficient if the various horizontal bars of the print stands were packed separately, rather than mixed, at the end of an evening. **ALL**

14 Any other business

14.1 Nicky proposed that, as the Golf Club don't charge for our use of a room, we should buy some chocolates as a Christmas gift for their staff. Agreed. **NICKY**

15 Date of next meeting(s)

15.1 Agreed as 11th January 2023, 8th March 2023. AGM: 25th April 2023

Detailed reports in the agenda and attached.

APPENDICES – Committee Members' Reports

PRESIDENT

As we approach the Christmas break I'd like to thank you all for making the first half of the winter season a success and continuing to maintain what I'm frequently told is a friendly, approachable club.

Thank you to Steve Laws for holding the fort while I was away on holiday.

I'm sure Debbie will have more information but I was very pleased to see so many people getting involved with the Annual Exhibition and it was great to see the variety and quality of the work on display - thank you to everyone involved, especially Debbie.

Unfortunately this leads on to a problem that seems to be developing - although there were 200 prints in the exhibition, we are seeing all-time low entries to print competitions, especially as some experienced members are no longer entering prints following the rule change at the AGM designed to encourage entry. This will have a knock-on effect on our ability to compete in external competitions, as was demonstrated in the Swavesey Friendly last week. As a club we need to try to encourage more print entries - I'm open to ideas to reverse this trend.

TREASURER

To follow

SECRETARY

The EAF have sent further information about the new PAGB group insurance scheme. As our current policy with Zurich doesn't expire until 4th February, I will compare the policies and get quotes in time for discussion at our January meeting.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY

Draft programme for 2023/24 attached for discussion.

COMPETITIONS (INTERNAL)

Nothing particular to report.

I expect to meet at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital within the next fortnight to discuss photographs there.

COMPETITIONS (EXTERNAL)

Our first External Competition was on 17th November against Swavesey Camera Club. Results were
DPI - St Ives 197; Swavesey 195. Print - St Ives 188; Swavesey 216.

Overall Result - Swavesey 415; St Ives 385

Our Scores:-

DPI

Alice Kendrick - Brown Argus - 18

Brian Sibley – Smoke On Go - 17

David Cole – Four Spotted Chaser - 18

Debbie Hall – Spiralising - 14

Elizabeth Watson – Chrysanthemum Reflections - 17
Gary Dean – Drake Mandarin Ducks Fighting - 19
Graham Shirra – Dragon’s Lunch - 16
Ise Berridge – Birmingham Library - 17
Jennifer Horn – Please - 15
Louisa Christie – Skeletal Leaves - 16
Nicky Cope - The face of a Cheese Grater - 15
Steve Laws – Cobbold’s Point - 15

Print

David Cole – Looking in the Mirror - 15
Debbie Hall – The Passage of Time -14
Elizabeth Watson – Friendship - 16
Gary Dean – Male Cuckoo - 16
Graham Shirra – Soldier - 15
Ivan Barrett – Ivy Girl - 17
Lynne Cole – Bright Eyes -14
Nicky Cope – Eaten Alive - 16
Petros Spyrou – Claire - 16
Paul Dobson – Spinecheek Anemone Fish - 16
Steve Laws – Millennium Bridge - 15
Tom Lane – Patrolling the Capital - 18

It was disappointing that none of our entries scored 20 and our print scores were very disappointing. Swavesey have 3 dedicated print competitions per season with around 70-80 entries in each. Two are part of their monthly cumulative so there is a huge incentive for members to enter. This needs to be looked at, as our print entries do not allow us enough choice for externals to compete at Inter-Club level.

We have two more External Competitions coming up soon – the Cambridge Independent Photographic Competition closes on 1st December. We have submitted images under the Camera Club section in the following categories: Architecture (Dave Cole), Black and White (Debbie Hall), Nature (Gary Dean) Creative (Louisa Christie), Portrait (Petros Spyrou) and Landscape (Steve Laws).

The Cambridge Digital Competition takes place on 21st January and entries close on 11th December, so we will be making our selections from our top scoring club images very soon. Categories are Mono, People, Landscape, Nature and Open.

Interprint

Currently 20 clubs including St Ives. Deadline extended to 20.11.22 and more clubs invited as we only had 17 at the end of October.

All but two have paid – reminders sent to those two and receipts sent to all the others.

PhotoEntry up and running.

Judge has sent his resume, and most of the brochure has been prepared. Dave Norman has sent the following email for discussion.

I recall we said that the brochure will be digital only (not printed) and we are planning 240 entrants, also we won't be including any advertising – please correct me if I am wrong.

An advantage that the advertising gave us was that it added interest to the brochure and some colour pages as well which was visually pleasing.

As we are not including advertising, it occurred to me that the brochure will probably contain around 27 pages or so of black text on white background apart from the front cover which is colour. Therefore the brochure may look a bit bland and unappealing.

It occurred to me that we could add some photos to give the brochure some interest – maybe from competition entries for the local area around St Ives (from the George Dellar competition?) – maybe up to 10 images?

If we were to add such images then I guess we would need to think about:

1. Obtaining the author's permission
2. Probably including the image titles and maybe the author's name?
3. By adding St Ives images in this way, could this create bias towards St Ives in what should be a truly equal competition for all the clubs?
4. How I would format the images? – I would probably shrink Landscape formatted images down so they can display OK in the Portrait formatted brochure so that readers don't need to rotate their head to look at the images
5. What to do in future years? – we wouldn't want to repeat images

Tookeys have a new manager starting in December, so we are unsure if they are catering. What numbers do we think we will need to cater for with 20 clubs? If no joy from Tookeys I will ask my friend at The Commute.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing specific to report :

- Website updates continue as normal
- Newsletter continues to be sent out on a biweekly basis
- New Social Media posting continues with no issues - next meeting (Weds), weekly image (Fri) and Image of the month (1st). Additional adhoc posts as needed eg Annual Exhibition
- 50th logo needs to be replaced with the normal logo now for all documentation + email signatures, website.

MEMBERSHIP

To follow

2023-2024 Programme – Current draft

2023-24 Programme Fixtures

[Zoom Bookings](#)

[Live Bookings](#)

2023

Date	Event	By	Costs
September			
05 th	Welcome & Review of Summer Programme		
12 th	Russ's Reflections—Part Creative - Dennis Russ		£10 - £20 Amazon Voucher
19 th	Light Painting Workshop	Robert Snary	Tea & Biscuits
26 th	Monthly 1		
October			
03 ^d			
10 th	Michaelmas Fair - No meeting in Free Church		
17 th	Friendly -v-Swavesey		
24 th	"Just Shoot it" -	Graham Currey	£50-00
31 st	Monthly 2		
November			
07 ^h			
14 th	4 Way -v- Ely/Swavesey/St Neots		
21 st	Trackside, with a photographer or 2 - Ron Russell		Foodbank donation
28 th	Monthly 3		
December			
05 th	Quartet Competition		
12 th			
19 th	Social Evening		

2024

January			
09 th	President's/George Dellar		
16 th	"Capture the Moment" - Mike Bennett LRPS, DPAGB, EFIAP, BPE3*		No Fee
23 ^d			
30 th	Monthly 4		
February			
06 th	178 years of "photoshopping"	Sue Clark	None specified
13 th			
20 th	How to be a Portrait Photographer -	Geoff Reader	£20.00
27 th	Monthly 5		
March			
05 th			
12 th	"Stairway to Heaven"	Mike Martin EFIAP AWPf	Charity donation requested
19 th			
26 th	Monthly 6		
April			
02 nd			
09 th	Annual DPI		
16 th	Annual Print + Monochrome		
23 ^d	AGM		
30 th			

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS – NOTE FOR COMMITTEE

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) is an umbrella organisation for 15 regional Federations covering the whole of the UK, some 1,000 clubs in total. SIPC is affiliated to the PAGB through the East Anglian Federation (EAF).

1. Our starting point is to continue with the EAF PDI and Print Championships each spring, to see how we fare against other clubs in the region.
2. At National level, PAGB runs annual competitions where entries are directed by the Federations:
 - 2.1. The Inter-Federation Competition is held each June: this is a print competition where the prints are selected by the Federations from members of their Clubs
 - 2.2. The Inter-Club PDI Championship is held each July. Participation is restricted: the previous year's finalists get an automatic invitation (so there's a certain element of "keeping it in the family"), and then each Federation nominates 2 further member clubs. In the EAF's case, this is done by nominating the highest-scoring Clubs from the Federation Championship.
 - 2.3. The Inter-Club Print Championship is held each October and the criteria are the same as for the PDI Championship.
3. PAGB also runs competitions every January where there is no pre-qualification, clubs can enter of their own volition:
 - 3.1. The GB Cup (PDI) – there are categories (Nature, Open etc) but as a highly-simplified version of the rules, Clubs can enter up to 24 images with their 12 highest scoring images being used to determine the order of merit. There is an entry fee of 50p per image. 87 Club entries in 2022.
 - 3.2. The GB Trophy (prints) – similarly, up to 30 unmounted A3 images with the 12 highest scores being taken into account. However this is free to enter (clearly the PAGB are also trying to encourage more people to print!) 24 Club entries in 2022.
4. There are doubtless inter-club competitions run by individual clubs on the lines of Interprint and Cambridge Digital, but the trick is to find them – the well-publicised ones (Smethwick, Southampton etc) tend to be for entries by individual photographers.
5. On that note, perhaps we should encourage members to think about the EAF Exhibition (entries normally close in March for an Exhibition in May). Technically these are entries by individual members, but for control reasons the entries have to be submitted through member Clubs.
6. All the above have one thing in common – they draw on the same (fairly limited) pool of judges from the UK. So a judge may well recognise something that they've previously seen elsewhere.
7. International competitions would bring fresh pairs of eyes to our work, and are relatively simple to enter since for logistical reasons they tend to be for PDIs rather than prints. However most seem to be for entries from individual photographers, though some offer reduced entry fees when a group of photographers from a club enter together, and there may then be some Club awards. But EAF recently forwarded information about the FIAP (Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique) "World Cup for Clubs" which may be worth considering in the future.

Graham Shirra

19 November 2022