



**ST IVES**  
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 19.30 hrs**

Present:

Brian Sibley	President
Steve Laws	Vice President
Peter Wills	Treasurer
Graham Shirra	Secretary
Steve Eeley	Programme Secretary
Louisa Christie	Internal Competition Secretary
Jonathan Sayer	Equipment Officer
Steve Hardy	Communications Officer
Paul Dobson	Competition Assistant

1 **Apologies for absence:** Nicky Cope (External Competition Secretary), Debbie Hall (Membership Secretary)

2 **Minutes of the last meeting** (11 January 2023) were approved.

2.1 Brian noted that minutes of some of this season's meetings, although in Dropbox, still needed to be added to the website. **STEVE HARDY**

3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 Hinchbrooke Hospital display: ongoing, delayed due to covid/visiting restrictions, Interprint commitments etc. To be revisited after the end of the season. **LOUISA**

3.2 Job Descriptions: final one (Equipment Officer) still to be e-mailed. **JONATHAN**

3.3 Graham confirmed that the Zurich insurance policy has been renewed.

4 **President's Report** (Brian)

4.1 Brian repeated his thanks to everyone – but particularly Nicky – for the work that had gone into Interprint.

4.2 We must involve more members in what is, after all, one of the biggest events in the East Anglian photographic calendar. Breaking down end exhibition element and reinstating chairs etc for the evening session is labour-intensive. Graham offered to do a short presentation about EAF and the club framework, probably early next season. **GRAHAM**

4.3 For the Committee for the new season, Graham was prepared to take over as Vice-President; Steve Laws was prepared to be Secretary, but only if no-one else was available. Also, Steve Hardy had now indicated that he wished to step down. Brian will talk to members in the next couple of weeks to encourage volunteers to come forward.

**BRIAN**

## 5 Finance (Peter)

- 5.1 Peter reported that there are still some bills to be received, but it appears that we will have made some surplus (<£300) on Interprint, and thus there should be a slight surplus on the year as a whole.
- 5.2 The accounts need to be audited in early April: Brian agreed to ask Kim Human, as she had done the audit previously. **BRIAN**
- 5.3 While Club reserves look healthy, these are contingency funds for major equipment replacement if needed (projector, laptop, display boards etc) and we would not want to dip into them for regular running expenses.
- 5.4 Committee considered that it was better to increase the annual subscription by a modest amount each year, rather than a big increase after several level years; it is also possible that the Church will increase the rent again next season, particularly if energy prices increase again. After discussion, it was agreed that an increase in the annual subscription from £35 to £37 seemed appropriate; this will have to be on the agenda for the AGM.

**GRAHAM**

## 6 Secretary (Graham)

- 6.1 Zurich had sent a generic email that morning about risk assessments; Graham will forward to committee members as it may provide useful templates for our activities. This can also cover the possibility of anyone being taken ill at events. **GRAHAM**

## 7 Programme (Steve Eeley)

- 7.1 Current season's programme running smoothly.
- 7.2 Next season's programme still has a few gaps but is not far off complete. Steve will circulate the current version shortly. **STEVE EELEY**
- 7.3 Steve still needs ideas and volunteers for the Summer Programme. So far we have the MAGPAS "Dash" event at Abbots Ripton on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May (Graham to lead), Hemingford Manor 13<sup>th</sup> June (Nicky to confirm) and Nicky's proposal re Frinton-on-Sea (date TBA). There had been interest in a trip to London, but current train strikes make this difficult to plan. Street photography in Cambridge might be possible. The Raptor Centre is a popular annual event. Louisa will speak to a contact at Linton Zoo, who may be able to organise a special visit for us (alternatively, he might be able to put on an animal session at the Church next season). Brian has had contact from Houghton & Wyton Cricket Club, who would welcome our members at their matches in return for some images for their use. **ALL**

## 8 Competitions

### 8.1 Internal (Louisa)

- 8.1.1 There was discussion about how to make competitions more attractive to enter. Suggestions included:

- 8.1.1.1. Reducing the monthly competition to (say) 4 rounds, with more themed competitions in the other months.

8.1.1.2. Retain 6 rounds but only count a member's best 5 rounds; that helps those who miss a round eg through absence, and maintains more interest to the end of the season.

8.1.1.3. Make some competitions (eg George Dellar) "print only".

8.1.1.4. None of these, however, is yet sufficiently refined to be put to the AGM, as would be required for a change to the rules. **ALL**

8.1.2 It was clarified that the current rules permit a print as small as A5, suitably mounted, to be entered in competition.

## 8.2 External (Nicky)

8.2.1 In her absence, see report.

8.2.2 Brian would like to set up a separate meeting when Nicky and Debbie are available, purely to discuss Interprint and "lessons learned" for next year. **BRIAN**

8.3 Possible future participation at national/international level – deferred, as would require input from Nicky.

8.3.1 Graham said that he would possibly be prepared to co-ordinate entries if members wished to put images forward for the EAF Exhibition next year.

## 9 Events

### 9.1 **Cancelled print evening** (7<sup>th</sup> March)

9.1.1 The 12 prints put forwarded will be mounted from 7.30 onwards, and shown at, the monthly competition on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Steve Eeley will speak to the judge for that evening (Paul Radden) and ask him to provide a critique (not a judgement) on these extra images. **STEVE EELEY**

### 9.2 **AGM** (25<sup>th</sup> April 2023)

9.2.1 The proposal to widen the geographical catchment area for the George Dellar trophy will be proposed by Steve Laws, seconded by Louisa. **STEVE LAWS/LOUISA**

9.2.2 Brian and Louisa will liaise with Club members to get an agreed form of words to put to the AGM regarding re-use of images (any revised rule should probably apply to PDIs as well as to prints). **BRIAN/LOUISA**

### 9.3 **Annual Dinner and Awards** (28<sup>th</sup> April 2023)

9.3.1 This will now take place at Slepe Hall, rather than the Golden Lion.

9.3.2 Steve Laws will investigate Keepsake trophies of a new design with the club logo and arrange engraving of all trophies, with assistance from Graham

**STEVE LAWS/GRAHAM**

9.3.3 Trophies will need to be returned to the club – Brian to request at next meeting(s)

**BRIAN**

9.3.4 After discussion, New Member of the Year was determined to be Jennifer Horn.

10 **Communications** (Steve Hardy)

10.1 There will be a Newsletter this weekend.

11 **Membership** (Debbie)

11.1 Nothing to report.

12 **Equipment** (Jonathan)

12.1 Peter has established that the Church is generally free on Saturdays: this would be the best time for a work party to clear and tidy the store; and thus develop the asset register.

12.2 It was agreed that this could sensibly wait for a few weeks. Jonathan will provide some dates when he is available, and Peter will finalise with the Church. **JONATHAN and PETER**

13 **Tookey's Prints**

13.1 Debbie's report attached - ongoing

**DEBBIE**

14 **Any other business**

14.1 Louisa pointed out that the Just Sharing shop on the ground floor of the Church had now closed. It has several large windows on a busy thoroughfare. Depending on the Church's plans, we could perhaps use those windows for an outward-facing display of members' work – publicity for us, and better for the Church than an obvious void. Brian agreed to contact the Church to find out what they hoped to do with the space and when. **BRIAN**

15 **Date of next meeting(s)**

15.1 AGM: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Detailed reports in the agenda and attached.

## **APPENDICES – Committee Members' Reports**

### **PRESIDENT**

As we approach the end of another Winter Season I'd like to thank you all for your help in making this club what it is. Although it may sometimes feel like our work goes un-appreciated we should all be very proud in what we have achieved and the overall health of the club.

Our first "in-person" Interprint Exhibition and Competition for three years was very well received by the visiting clubs and the judge which is a testament to the huge amount of preparation that went into the running of this event by everyone, but especially Nicky and Debbie - Thank You! I would also like to thank Louisa for setting up and running the competition, and last but not least, Steve Laws for standing in for me at the last minute!

I suggest we have a separate meeting to discuss "Lessons Learned" for next year's event to ease the pressure on individuals and make the process more streamlined.

As some of you know, following our discussions in the last committee meeting, a few of us met with experienced club members to discuss printing and competitions in general at the club. It was a very productive meeting and some good ideas were discussed, such as changing the order on competition evenings to spotlight prints rather than rushing them at the end.

### **Committee Roles**

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

### **Auditing of the accounts**

We will need someone to audit the club accounts before the AGM

### **Committee for 2023-24 (provisional)**

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

\* Will need to be nominated prior to AGM

## **TREASURER**

To follow

## **SECRETARY**

Routine emails. The only item of significance is that March CC have asked about borrowing our display boards for an exhibition on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May: this has been agreed in principle, they will finalise the requirement after their committee meeting this week.

As agreed at the last meeting, the Club's insurance with Zurich was renewed at the beginning of February.

The AGM is planned for 25<sup>th</sup> April, and under the Constitution I need to give members formal notice not less than 3 weeks beforehand (I will aim for the end of March). I will do this by email (separate from the Newsletter) but will also post to Facebook.

An audience member was unwell during the Interprint evening session; fortunately his wife was with him and was able to sit with him in the foyer until he felt better. What arrangements (if any) do we have for situations like this – not necessarily requiring first aid - at open events such as Interprint and the Exhibition, and indeed on regular club nights?

## **PROGRAMME SECRETARY**

To follow.

## **COMPETITIONS (INTERNAL)**

### **Monthly Competitions**

With only one to go in the open monthly I overall think my first Season on internals competitions has gone well. I've not had any issues with meeting deadlines. I now feel quite confident in the software in preparing images ready for club competition evenings. Thank you to Jonathan & Paul for your support on the evenings with getting the equipment side sorted.

We are slightly down on DPI numbers, but we have identified members who were previously entering who are not this Season for a variety of reasons.

We are obviously all aware on lack of prints & doing are best to address this, but think it's going to be a slow process. Hopefully tagging the 'print night' onto the next monthly will have a positive result.

I am concerned about the number of 'open' monthly competitions. Personally I feel this number could be reduced to four, so we could slot in another two more specific type of comps. Having six makes for some very repetitive types of photography being submitted.

I would like to see a dedicated Monochrome evening in both DPI & Print + one other on a theme. We always seem to get good submissions for 'Presidents Challenge' & the Quartet. I think it would lead to more variety & entries from members who don't always take part in the monthlies. It may also have a better impact on the monthlies: with only 4, members might feel they have enough material to cover these months.

## **Print Rules**

Why do we state a specific size for prints in the rules? A couple of judges have commented in the last few months that an image would have looked better mounted with a smaller image? Is this something we need to look at discuss? I personally would love to have more flexibility on size as certain images would look better not being printed so large.

## **COMPETITIONS (EXTERNAL)**

Thank you to Louisa, Tom and Steve for helping to select the Interprint and EAF Print entries. I hope the EAF does as well as Interprint – 3<sup>rd</sup> place for St Ives, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Louisa too. Well done!

## **Interprint**

The event went very well, and we have received some lovely feedback from participants. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard at the event – especially Debbie who didn't even eat and only left the venue for a coffee. Thanks also to Louisa for all the IT and to everyone else who worked so hard. I know Graham was there all day too.

However, this has been hours and hours of work and I feel that more help is needed next year both in the preparation and at the event itself. I found that I have sent so many emails backwards and forwards to clubs who don't refer to their previous emails. I was even helping one club upload their entries at 10.30pm on the closing date. I also had to drive to Royston to pick up one club's prints because they didn't find me at the EAF. The person organising the clubs should not be the person organising the exhibition itself or the catering.

I feel that the job needs to be split into 4 roles, each with help if needed –

- 1      **Communication and Admin**
  - Booking the judge & accommodation and Church
  - Applying for Patronage and medals
  - All mailings to clubs including map (revised map from this year available)
  - Maintaining spreadsheet of clubs, payments and entries as they come in
  - Help with upload of entries to PhotoEntry as required
  - Co-ordination of Brochure
  - Collection arrangements for print entries
  - Upload of files to Dropbox
  
- 2      **Exhibition**
  - Layout of boards – plan, labels for clubs
  - Labels for back of prints (template from this year available)
  - Booking of board collections
  - Printing tickets for the event (template from this year available)
  - Organisation of help sheets
  - Printing of scoresheets
  - Trophy and prize organization.
  
- 3      **Catering**
  - Organising enough supplies and buying anything necessary.
  - Manning service and clearing away
  
- 4      **IT**
  - Uploading entries from PhotoEntry to FFPX

- Preparing a spreadsheet for summary at half time and full time (template from this year available)
- Projection of the evening presentation
- Preparing summaries for social media and website.

My suggestion for catering going forward is to adopt the EAF approach. Only serve coffee and cake at the interval (not before) and include refreshments in the ticket price so that they can serve themselves. If anyone is hungry before the presentation, there are plenty of places in St Ives to grab a snack.

Pots of coffee out and pots of tea with someone topping up as required. Far less work and much easier to organise. Ise and Richard were there the whole time (and deserve a medal) and Jennifer was there for most of the service too with Debbie going backwards and forwards.

If we sold tickets on Eventbrite before the event it would give us an idea of how many people were coming and although we pay commission, we would make up for this by not over-spending due to a lack of information on the numbers expected.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Nothing specific to report

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Nothing specific to report

## **TOOKEY'S PRINTS** (report from Debbie)

I have spoken to the Manager at Tookey's (still an interim one and someone who has done the job previously).

I have agreed with her that I will redo the price tags for the photos currently on display and she is more than happy for us to continue with the current agreement. She did think that it might be nice to have some new prints displayed though, so we probably need to open this to members, as previously and then choose some new images to be printed - if the committee is in agreement. My own thinking on this is that we definitely need to produce local images - if we go ahead.