



ST IVES
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING – 2nd August 2023 at 19.30 hrs

Venue: Hemingford Village Hall

Present:

Brian Sibley	President
Graham Shirra	Vice President
Peter Wills	Treasurer
Steve Laws	Secretary
Steve Eeley	Programme Secretary
Louisa Christie	Internal Competition Secretary
Nicky Cope	External Competition Secretary
Jonathan Sayer	Equipment Officer

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Angela Lucas, Paul Dobson
- 2 **Minutes of the last meeting** (24 May 2023) were approved.
- 3 **Matters Arising**
 - 3.1 Hinchingsbrooke Hospital display: ongoing, delayed due to covid/visiting restrictions, Interprint commitments etc. **LOUISA**
 - 3.2 Job Description for equipment officer completed.
 - 3.3 Church cupboard has been cleared.
 - 3.4 Pop up exhibition in shop is going well.
 - 3.5 The completed club rules and AGM documents are now on the Website.
 - 3.6 Everyone to see if there are any sponsorship opportunities. **ALL**
 - 3.7 Mailchimp has been downgraded to the free option. Unfortunately, we lose the scheduling option.
- 4 **President's Report** (Brian)
 - 4.1 Covered in other agenda topics and see appendix for full report.
- 5 **Vice President's Report** (Graham)
 - 5.1 Covered in other agenda topics and see appendix for full report.
 - 5.2 Agreed to provide board space at our annual exhibition for the *Rotary Young Photographer competition*.

6 **Finance** (Peter)

- 6.1 £1097.55 in bank, £13838.29 in savings, £365.54 in cash.
- 6.2 Replace Steve Laws with Graham on the bank and savings accounts. Check if there is an option for a committee member to have read only access to the accounts. **PETER**
- 6.3 Amended accounts include late invoices for church rent are ready and need presenting at the first club meeting. **PETER and BRIAN**

7 **Secretary** (Steve)

- 7.1 EAF confirmed change of secretary.
- 7.2 Promote RPS and PAGB distinctions in the club via the Newsletter. Graham will also talk about this later in the season.

8 **Programme** (Steve Eeley)

8.1 Summer Programme (Debbie)

- 8.1.1 Village Challenge results to be presented on the 3rd of October.
- 8.1.2 We agreed to present certificates for the best images from the summer programme. Peter, Steve Laws and Jonathan will each select their best ten images. Brian to set this up. **BRIAN**

8.2 Winter Programme (Steve Eeley)

- 8.2.1 Winter programme detailed in Appendix C.
- 8.2.2 Steve Eeley has put the basic details of the programme on the Website and will now work on adding the detailed descriptions. Louisa to provide description on speed dating session. Nicky to provide description for equipment night. **STEVE EELEY, NICKY and LOUISA**
- 8.2.3 Brian and Graham to host summer review on first evening. **BRIAN and GRAHAM**
- 8.2.4 Steve Laws will try to setup a Zoom subscription from the club bank account. **STEVE L**
- 8.2.5 Jonathan to find another laptop dedicated to Zoom to save Louisa having to bring the competition laptop to every evening. **JONATHAN**

9 Competitions

9.1 Internal (Louisa)

9.1.1 Photo Entry setup for this season's internal competitions.

9.1.2 Agreed for this season that we stop using sacrificial images. Jonathan recommended that we do not display titles for the run through making the competition similar to the print competition. **LOUISA**

9.2 External (Nicky)

9.2.1 Still waiting for all the external dates to go on the Website.

9.2.2 The judge booked for the Swavesey competition has mandated that we use the pre-AI version of the Adobe Photography Plan. We will not agree to restrict version of Adobe so Steve Eeley to find a new judge for the Swavesey competition. **STEVE E**

9.3 Interprint

9.3.1 Graham has agreed to take on Interprint Secretary Role.

9.3.2 Photo Entry has been setup by Nicky.

9.3.3 Graham is trying to identify a judge.

9.3.4 Keep it at 6 images and aim for 30 clubs.

9.3.5 Further discussions deferred to a later meeting.

10 Communications (Angela Lucas)

10.1 Nothing to Report.

11 Membership (Debbie)

11.1 See membership report.

11.2 Brian to email members about start of new season and ask them to complete membership applications and make payments. **BRIAN**

12 Tookey's Prints

12.1 Tookeys had suggested they display the Hemingford Arts pictures in Tookeys Cafe now and then we will display the Photographic Club prints in January for six months then rotate again etc. However, the current position is unclear so Peter will check with the Church to confirm their plans for both Tookeys and the shop. **PETER**

13 Equipment (Jonathan)

13.1 Inventory to be stored in Dropbox when complete. **JONATHAN**

13.2 Jonathan will produce a list of equipment that members can borrow and Angela will upload this onto the members area of the Website **JONATHAN and ANGELA**

13.3 Need to ensure laptops are updated before the start of season. **JONATHAN**

14 Any other business

14.1 Use of AI in images (see Appendix B). General agreement from the committee that we need to update the club rules at the AGM to state that all parts of an image need to be taken by the Author so that AI generated images are not used. This also impacts the rules for Interprint so the Interprint committee will need to draft an update to the Interprint rules.

GRAHAM

15 Date of next meeting(s)

15.1 Dates for committee meeting: 4th of October; 6th of December; 3rd of January and the 6th of March. Starting time at 7:30pm in the Hemingford Abbots Village Hall.

APPENDIX A – Committee Members' Reports

PRESIDENT

As always, I'd like to start by thanking you all for your work in the background as we come to the end of an excellent summer calendar (even if the weather hasn't always been on our side!), and prepare to begin a new Winter season. I'd particularly like to thank Debbie for all her help with organising and running the summer programme this year.

I was very pleased that the church gave us permission to display some of our work in the empty shop windows and hope that it will help generate more interest in the club from the local community - we have had at least two new members join us over the summer as a direct result!

Thank you to Nicky, Debbie, Louisa and Graham for helping with this.

If anyone can suggest any other forms of publicity like this for the club, I'd be happy to hear ideas.

I will be looking to update the members information sheet over the next week with the Winter programme highlights and will send out the updated sheet in the next couple of weeks with a covering email to welcome members to the new season, reminding them to fill in the membership form on the website and pay their subscriptions - please make sure to encourage members to complete both the form AND the payment if asked!

Thanks to Nicky for offering to cover membership for Debbie while she is away in Australia at this busy time of year.

VICE PRESIDENT

Brian and I were invited to attend the opening of the Cambridge Camera Club exhibition in April. This included the winning entries, and presentation of awards, for the Cambridge heat of the Rotary Young Photographer competition. This is a national annual event and we thought that it might be worth finding out whether St Ives Rotary Club have any involvement.

I have spoken to Jim Murdoch of St Ives Rotary Club. Last time, they only had a few entries which were judged by one of their members. He would prefer if one of us could take on judging next time. He would also like support in getting more entries. There are 3 age groups (7 to 10 years old, 11-13 and 14-17) and he has tried - with little success - to put the message out through local schools. I've said that we could give him a bit of board space at our Exhibition in November to show last year's entries and publicise the 2023/24 competition: the timing works well as the closing date for local heats is either December or early January. This has potential to be a good bit of community involvement.

SECRETARY

Received confirmation from EAF regarding change of secretary.

I've resolved most of the spam that was sent to me via the club contact form by enabling reCAPTCHA on our website.

I've forwarded to our members details of the next EAF advisory day for anyone thinking about PAGB distinctions. Should we do more to encourage and support members doing distinctions?

Amendment to the AGM treasurers report completed and reviewed by Peter.

TREASURER

To follow.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY

See Appendix C.

COMPETITIONS (INTERNAL)

Photo Entry is set up for the forthcoming Season. I will make a start on getting 'sacrificial images' together next month. Still think I have enough of my own material to use.

Following on from the Village Challenge hosted by Lynn & Dave Cole, may need to discuss uploading the images to Photo Entry if they are going to be projected on the first evening?

Debbie & myself had an idea for the Christmas social. We thought if members provided an image of themselves from teenage years, we could project them & then members would have to put a name to an image. Could be a giggle, anyway just a thought.

COMPETITIONS (EXTERNAL)

To follow

COMMUNICATIONS

To follow

MEMBERSHIP

A document has now been created detailing the Membership Process – awaiting approval before going into Dropbox

I have shown Nicky the process, so she can take over while I am away (23/08 – 18/09)

There have been 5 new members over the Summer period:

Andy Davis

Alan Yates

Richard Poynder

Stef Van Lieshout

Denise Hunt

None of them have paid fees, as is normal for those joining while we are running the Summer Programme. They will be sent the email about renewing membership and paying fees, the same as all existing members, soon

Stef in particular has become an active member, attending most visits/outings. I fully expect her to join up properly in the Autumn. Not sure about the others

An idea for discussion is adding another box to the Membership form, for people to tick if they would like to enter competitions. This would give Louisa/Nicky info on who to definitely set up in Photo Entry for the next season.

EQUIPMENT

To follow.

Artificial Intelligence and the RPS

To RPS Members from the CEO

19 June 2023

It has been an exciting year so far, a year that has witnessed an explosion in activity, debate and controversy about the field of AI or Artificial Intelligence.

It seems like every day the news media carries yet another warning of the impending demise of humankind at the hands of our AI overlords - and yet some of the first practical applications of this revolutionary technology are being seen much closer to home, within our very own photographic community.

From the controversy at the Sony World Photography Awards to the launch of new image editing and generating applications and features (including in the ubiquitous Adobe Photoshop suite of products) it is clear that, whether the potential of AI excites or intimidates us, photography will never be quite the same.

That the RPS has a seat at the table and participates in the dialogue around AI seems to me entirely appropriate and consistent with our mission and heritage. That we need to give careful consideration of the impact these tools and capabilities will have on our beloved media also seems self-evident; I believe many of you feel the same way if the attendance and lively discussion around the Thames Valley AI event held last month is anything to go by.

As we begin to tackle this issue, the RPS is announcing a series of AI themed events and discussions to be held over the forthcoming summer months, culminating in an AI conference on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th October; to be held at RPS House.

To ensure we as a wider Society are aligned, we ask that starting from now any group or region considering an AI event to please work with us to optimize scheduling and content, so

that the RPS can deliver a coordinated, diverse and engaging series of events. A list of the events currently planned will be **available here shortly** and will be updated as we go forward.

We will shortly provide more detail on the exact format and nature of the October conference (and would welcome any suggestions or thoughts you may have about that by contacting us at this address: **ai@rps.org**).

Finally, given the pace of development seen over the last few months, and the anticipated acceleration of new products to market, we felt it would be helpful to clarify in writing the position of the RPS in relation to AI and also provide some interim guidelines for the use of AI tools in the preparation of images for submission to exhibitions, competitions or distinctions.

These are interim guidelines only, to be applied for the remainder of 2023, and do not constitute an agreed or fixed position, but should help our creative community explore the application of this revolutionary tech, whilst preserving the heritage and fairness of our established processes. They should also provide the RPS and the photographic community with some much-needed breathing space to properly investigate, understand and adapt to the long-term implications of AI on our world.

RPS position on AI

- AI image processing and manipulation has been part of camera and post-processing software for several years.
- The recent development of advanced generative AI tools, where entirely new images or image elements are built at a pixel level using non-photographic processes, moves image-creation from photography to illustration.
- The RPS believes images generated solely via AI are not photography as defined in its Royal Charter.
- The RPS considers AI-enabled algorithmic automation of basic imaging processing (including exposure optimisation in-camera, the cloning of a background, or removal of subject elements), as being under the control of the photographer and represents an on-going evolution of long-standing capabilities.
- The RPS does not endorse the way some AI tools have been trained with datasets of photography without the permission of the rights owner. As part of a vibrant creative community, the RPS will continue to support the artistic, commercial and moral rights of all photographers, artists and creators.

- Establishing exactly what is and isn't the product of AI will become increasingly hard to discern and will require ongoing consideration, transparency and discussion when reviewing work for Distinction submissions, exhibitions and competitions.

RPS guidelines on the use of AI for members

1. The RPS remains committed to the principle that photographs should be the original work of the creator(s), so entirely generative images, or images with material elements entirely generated by AI will not be permitted for Distinction submissions, exhibitions and competitions. What constitutes material in this context is a grey area, and something the RPS will continue to explore with its creative community.
2. The RPS will continue to accept the use of algorithmic processing in-camera or in post-processing software, which supports digital photography for Distinction submissions, exhibitions and competitions, on the condition that photographers are clear and open where such tools have been used. The RPS will trust in the integrity of its community but in certain circumstances may request further evidence in the form of RAW files or EXIF data, data, accepting that such evidence may itself not be definitive.
3. These principles and guidelines are effective for the remainder of 2023 only and do not constitute a final, fixed position; they will evolve as AI capabilities change and understating increases.

Dan Jones

CEO

19 June 2023

APPENDIX C – Winter Programme

2023-24		Programme Fixtures		
Club Events	Zoom Bookings	Live Bookings	Competitions	Public Events
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	Judge - Nicholas Bowman	120miles	????
October				
03 rd	Member's Talks + What is the EAF?			
10 th	Michaelmas Fair - No meeting in Free Church			
17 th	Friendly -v- Swavesey	Judge - Chris Forster		
24 th	"Just Shoot it" -	Graham Currey	£50-00 ??????????????	
31 st	Monthly 2	Judge - Jonathan Vaines	54 miles	consent
November				
3-4th <i>Annual Exhibition?</i>				
07 th	Knockout competition			
14 th	4 Way -v- Ely/Swavesey/St Neots	Judge - Colin Mill, Milton Keynes	90 miles	
21 st	Trackside, with a photographer or 2 - Ron Russell		Foodbank donation	
28 th	Monthly 3	Judge - Penny Reeves	30 miles	consent
December				
05 th	Quartet Competition	Judge - Ben Pike		
12 th	Farm Girl to Photographer		Alice Kendrick	
19 th	Social Evening			
2024				
January				
09 th	President's Theme - "Motion"/George Dellar	Judge - Nick Akers	120 miles	
16 th	"Capture the Moment" - Mike Bennett LRPS, DPAGB, EFIAP, BPE3* No Fee			
23 rd	Practical Evening			
30 th	Monthly 4	Judge - Ken Payne	100 - 120 miles consent	
February				
06 th	178 years of "photoshopping"	Sue Clark	None specified	
13 th	Speeddating			
20 th	How to be a Portrait Photographer -	Geoff Reader	£20.00	
24 th	InterPrint			
27 th	Monthly 5	Judge - Richard Burn	65 miles	consent
March				
05 th	Where I photograph wildlife abroad	Malcolm Hupman	£40.00	
12 th	"Stairway to Heaven"	Mike Martin EFIAP AWPf	Charity donation requested	
19 th	TBA	Gary Dean		
26 th	Monthly 6	Judge - Gerry Metcalfe		
April				
02 nd	Equipment night			
09 th	Annual DPI	Judge - Naomi Saul	80 miles	consent
16 th	Annual Print + Monochrome	Judge - Naomi Saul	80 miles	consent
23 rd	AGM			
May				
3 rd	Annual Dinner			