



ST IVES

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

ST IVES PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

MINUTES OF 2023/24 AGM

Time and Date: 8.00 pm; 3rd April 2024

Attendees:

Office and Committee Members:

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

Together with the following Club members:

Brian Gilmour, Gary Dean, Stan mace, Ivan Barrett, Mark Hudson, Malcolm Clements, Nitin Pastakia, Martin Edwards, Marc Human, Kim Human, Peter Hayward, Moira Shirra, Stu Hames, Jennifer Horn, Ian Montgomery, and Stuart Turnbull.

Apologies for absence were received from: Karen Laws, Bryan Basketter, David King, Stephen Attwood, Alice Kendrick, Denise Hunt, Tom Lane, Stefania Van Lieshout and Marianna Karakoulaki.

1 Minutes of last AGM of 25th April 2023

Minutes produced by Graham Shirra last year were formally approved by the members.

2 Matters Arising

No matters arising

3 President's Report

Brian presented his report. See [here](#).

Gary Dean commented that he was pleased to see a big improvement in the numbers of members printing this year after the proposal at last year's AGM to allow prints (and DPIs) to be used more than once.

4 Treasurer's Report

Peter presented his report. See [here](#).

No comments on the accounts.

5 Competition Secretary's Report

Nicky and Louisa presented their report. See [here](#).

No comments on both reports.

6 Election of Club Officers

Brian highlighted that we had 3 unfilled vacancies for Vice President, Treasurer and External Competition Secretary. Attendees were asked if they would stand for any of these positions but unfortunately no member came forward.

As the club needs a bank signatory it was agreed that Louisa would stand for Treasurer as well as her current role of Competition secondary. Brian proposed the election and Graham seconded it. This and all officer posts nominations as follows were unanimously agreed by the members present:

Role	Name
President	Graham Shirra
Vice President	Vacant
Honorary Treasurer	Louisa Christie
Honorary Secretary	Jennifer Horn
Programme Secretary	Steve Eeley
Internal Competition Secretary	Louisa Christie
External Competition Secretary	Vacant

7 Election of Committee Members

All the following committee members were unanimously agreed by the members present:

Role	Name
Competition Assistant	Paul Dobson
Equipment Officer	Jonathan Sayer
Membership Secretary	Nicky Cope
Communications Officer	Brian Sibley
Programme Secretary Assistant	Aliette Bretel

8 Review of Clubs financial position

8.1 Financial Position

Jonathan presented the state of the club finances:

- The club has made a loss the last two years: £1466.21 in 2022/23 and £314.39 in 2023/24.
- This year's loss is after exceptional savings interest of £337.64 so our real loss this year is higher, more like £650, as the interest somewhat compensates for how inflation has eroded our savings this year.
- Interprint used to make a profit of ~£1000, but due to lack of sponsorship and less entries we are just braking even or making a small profit. This year we had a good attendance at Interprint bringing in an improved profit of £303.26 but still well down on a few years ago.
- Our Annual Exhibition is a cost at £330 rent plus £140 to move the boards. Suggest we could charge an entry fee.
- Our Christmas social which is free to members is also a cost to the club with rent of 2.5 hours at £16.50 per hour plus food costs.
- We will need to spend significant money on a new projector and replacement laptop from our savings. We also keep talking about replacing our exhibition stands although it isn't possible to purchase anything which meets our size requirement.
- Jonathan recommends we increase fees to £51 to bring us back to even.

This stimulated a lot of positive discussion and ideas from the members present summarised in the following sections.

8.2 Subscription costs in other clubs

Graham Shirra commented that other local clubs charge between £60 and £80 per year although some clubs include Tea and Coffee.

Moira Shirra said that she is a member of two local choirs with one charging £75 and one £150.

Steve Eeley commented that some clubs also charge an attendance fee of ~£2 per meeting.

8.3 Annual exhibition

It was suggested that the committee should look at charging for entry to the exhibition.

Marc Human mentioned that St Neots charge a £1 entry fee.

8.4 Christmas Social

Stan Mace suggested that the club asks members to bring food to the Christmas social to save costs.

8.5 Programme

Gary Dean said that we shouldn't cut our programme to save costs. We need a few good speakers to keep members engaged as the last thing we want to do is loose membership.

Nicky Cope mentioned that the committee have tried to reduce programme costs this year by having more internal meetings like the knockout, speed-dating, and equipment nights.

Marc Human asked if we could have a zoom only membership to reduce costs. Jonathan explained the technical problems with hosting remote zoom sessions. Brian also highlighted that having a remote zoom option in the programme will mean members will opt to stay at home and some speakers are unhappy at attending venues when most of the viewers are online. Stan Mace suggested we could avoid the church rent for these sessions to save cost. This idea was dismissed.

Steve Eeley said that the feedback this year was that the Zoom meetings have been generally poor and we will try to reduce these. However, it is getting increasingly difficult to get speakers to come out on

Tuesday nights to give talks to the club. Also, some speakers are asking for high fees on top of the EAF expenses.

8.6 Ideas for funding

Gary Dean suggested the committee look at a fund-raising event and look at Lottery funding for major purchases such as replacing the display boards.

Nitin Pastakia suggested that the club could consider selling services to the community like photographing events. Graham Shirra pointed out that we are not insured to do this.

Angela Lucas suggested we sell images. It was pointed out that we do try to sell images at the annual exhibition and in Tookeys but the number of sales is very low.

8.7 Equipment purchases

There was some discussion as to whether the clubs needs to change the projector and laptops. Jonathan explained that whilst not essential we would like to be able to present our competition entries as best as possible. Also, the current equipment in starting to get old.

Gary Dean pointed out that equipment purchases are a club asset and would depreciate over 5 years as far as the accounts are concerned.

8.8 Level of subscription

Marc Human asked if the proposed increase to £51 took into account inflation. The answer was no.

Marc Human also asked if there is any increase to student and E members fees. Debbie Hall said that we only have 2 E-Members and one student so the financial impact from these members is low.

Steve Laws said that considering our annual loss for the last two years is an average of about £1000 per year, based on 50 members we need to see a bigger rise in the subscription of at least £20 per member. When you include the effect of inflation, as Marc Human pointed out, plus the erosion of our savings due to inflation and equipment purchases we need our fees to be more like £60 per year.

Debbie Hall said that although we have 60 members at the end of this season, we started the year with nearer 50 members so the average fee for the year is based on more like 55 members rather than 60.

There was very good positive feedback from the members to increase the fees to a higher level than proposed.

9 Agreement of rate of subscription for 2024/25 season

Following a long discussion on the club finances a vote was held to see how members were prepared to pay a subscription of either £55 or £60.

£55 – 8 votes

£60 – 21 votes

It was therefore agreed to increase the membership fees for full members to £60.

It was also agreed no change to membership fees for students at £10 and E-members also at £10.

10 Proposals

Proposal C.1 Use of AI Images was unanimously approved.

Proposal C.2 Competition Scoring was agreed by all members present who voted. 2 members abstained. Proposal approved.

11 AOB

11.1 Do we need an external judge

Peter Hayward asked why we need an external judge for competitions as it appears that they just score images well for genres that they like. It was explained by Brian that we need an independent judge for our competitions, but we do also have informal competitions with members judging like the knockout competition.

Gary Dean said that judges are trained by the EAF to give a technical critique on images but when it comes to the held back images there is naturally an element of choosing what the judges likes.

No further action needed.

11.2 Tea and Coffee at meetings

Mark Hudson suggested that it would be a good idea to bring back Tea and Coffee at the interval and he would be happy to organise this. The committee thanked Mark for his offer and will consider it.

11.3 Thank you to Brian Sibley

Graham Shirra thanked Brian for everything he has done for the club in his three years as president and the members gave Brian a round of applause.

11.4 Presidents Trophy

Graham announced that next season subject is **Sunday**.

11.5 Annual Competition Categories

Louisa announced that subjects for next seasons annual competition are:

Landscape, Natural History, People, Still Life, Street Photography and Transport.

Meeting closed at 21:32

Steve Laws

Secretary St Ives Photographic Club

23rd April 2024