



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING – 6th MARCH 2024 at 19.30 hrs

Venue: Hemingford Village Hall

Present:

Brian Sibley	President
Graham Shirra	Vice President / Minute taker
Peter Wills	Treasurer
Nicky Cope	External Competition Secretary
Steve Eeley	Programme Secretary
Jonathan Sayer	Equipment Officer

1. **Apologies for absence:** Steve Laws, Louisa Christie, Paul Dobson, Debbie Hall, Angela Lucas

2. **Minutes of the last meeting** (3rd January 2024) were approved.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1. It wasn't clear whether Mark was aware of the hire of boards by Swavesey CC for their Exhibition (weekend of Saturday 23rd March). **Post meeting note:** *Graham phoned Mark and confirmed all is in hand.*
- 3.2. Brian has a flyer for Swavesey's exhibition – to be sent to Angela for inclusion in the Newsletter. **Brian, Angela**
- 3.3. Graham has received card reader etc from Lloyds Bank but has not yet activated it. **Graham**
- 3.4. Insurance has been renewed with Zurich.

4. Interprint

- 4.1. Graham reported that Interprint had gone ahead as planned on 24th February: thanks to all who had helped in any way. A fuller report was attached to the Agenda.
- 4.2. Although final costs were not available, it appeared that Interprint had just about covered its costs, but it had not made the contribution to Club finances that we had enjoyed pre-Covid. This is due to the lack of sponsorship which is inevitable in the current economic climate. There was some discussion as to whether the Club entry fee (currently £25) could be raised in future years, but at present we don't have any information about entry costs for any comparable events. For consideration for 2025, but will also come into the wider financial review (see 9.3 below).

5. AGM

- 5.1. It was agreed that Steve Laws should use Mailchimp to send AGM papers to members (as suggested in Secretary's report). **Steve L**

- 5.2. It was agreed to propose an amendment to the Rules, to clarify the use of AI in competition images.
- 5.3. Committee discussed potential post-holders for 2024/25 season. There are a number of long-standing members who, for personal or work reasons, don't want to take on a Committee role. With Peter stepping down from Treasurer, Brian was concerned about doubling-up of roles: he wanted to ensure that there would still be someone at the door each Tuesday, and we also need to have clear arrangements for opening and locking up the Church each week. Steve Eeley would like to stand down as Programme Secretary in due course; he will deliver the programme he is putting together for 2024/25, but would like to see a "shadow" who would work on the 2025/26 programme. Currently, the new Committee might look like:

President:	Graham
Vice-President:	no major responsibilities so a good learning role – Stephen Attwood?
Secretary:	Jennifer Horn (to be confirmed)
Treasurer:	Louisa Christie
Programme:	Steve Eeley, shadowed by Nicky Cope (subject to other posts)
Internal Comp:	Louisa Christie
External Comp:	Steve Eeley
Assistant Comp:	Paul Dobson
Membership:	Sue Warren (to be approached)
Equipment:	Jonathan Sayer
Communications:	Brian Sibley

6. Annual Dinner and Awards

- 6.1. Brian & Peter confirmed that Slepe Hall had been booked. We need a minimum of 20 people, Peter is now getting people to sign up and make menu choices.
- 6.2. Graham agreed to deal with Stanjay over the trophies, in Steve Laws' absence. **Graham**
- 6.3. Nicky will prepare a slideshow of winning images, ideally to match individual awards. Brian to provide the presentation running order. **Nicky, Brian**
- 6.4. Committee decided that former members returning to the Club should not be considered for the Best Newcomer award, which should go to Sue Warren this year.

7. President's Report

- 7.1. See report in Agenda.

8. Vice President's Report

- 8.1. Nothing to report

9. Finance Report

- 9.1. Currently there is £1,210.84 in current account (Lloyds), £14,175.93 in savings (Cambridge Building Society) and £226.10 in cash.

- 9.2. Peter pointed out that there will again be a deficit this year; we cannot continue in this way, so we need to reduce costs, raise income or both. He wondered about amalgamating Interprint with the Annual Exhibition to save cost and effort. Points from discussion:
- 9.2.1. Subscriptions are believed to be artificially low compared with other clubs in the area, having in effect been subsidised by Interprint in former years.
- 9.2.2. We could possibly re-introduce chargeable refreshments at the break on Tuesday evenings, though this creates extra work and would not generate significant surplus.
- 9.2.3. Holding Committee meetings in the Golden Lion (if space available FOC) or returning to the previous practice of meeting in members' homes, rather than paying for the current venue, would save about £200 per year.
- 9.2.4. Interprint generates income (entry fees, evening ticket sales etc) so is roughly cost-neutral. However the Annual Exhibition raises very little: a rough calculation suggests it costs in the order of £11 per member per year.
- 9.2.5. A combined Exhibition/Interprint might work on the basis of putting up the Exhibition on Thursday evening (as at present); open to the public on Friday; dismantle on Friday evening, hang the Interprint exhibition; run Interprint on Saturday as currently. However, as long as Interprint entries are low/mid 20s, spare board space could be utilised to show a selection of Club work (labelled to show that it was not part of the Interprint exhibition/competition). This would require careful planning, particularly for the Friday evening. However it would save the cost of hiring the Church for a second event, and also of transporting the boards.
- 9.3. It was agreed that Peter and Jonathan would look at numbers in some detail and prepare a presentation for the AGM, to include a proposal (with justification) for a significant increase in subscriptions for 2024/25 and also to generate discussion and seek members' views on the Annual Exhibition and Interprint.

Peter, Jonathan

10. Secretary

- 10.1. See report in Agenda.

11. Programme

- 11.1. The 2024/25 programme is well under way, however Steve commented that it's often difficult to get timely replies from prospective speakers.
- 11.2. Date of Michaelmas Fair in October is still not confirmed; Steve will allow flexibility around this time.
- 11.3. It was felt that 2 speakers per month is sufficient. The "speed dating" event had gone well and more "in house" events would be welcome – they might be particularly useful for newer and less experienced members to build confidence.
- 11.4. The Summer 2024 Programme is also well under way.

12. Competitions

- 12.1.1. Internal (Louisa): see Report
- 12.2. External (Nicky): see Report

13. Communications

13.1. Nothing to report.

14. Membership

14.1. We currently have 57 members.

15. Tookeys

15.1. See Report.

15.2. Graham has 1 wire hanger to use as a template and can create more as required. **Graham**

16. Equipment

16.1. Nothing specific to report. However, see Internal Competitions report on issues with FFPX on back-up laptop.

17. Any other business

17.1. "Tasteful or Artistic Nude Images": not likely to be a safeguarding issue in Competitions, but might be more of an issue in Exhibition. However we need to be mindful of what is acceptable to the Free Church: this needs to be cleared. **Peter**

18. Date of next meeting

18.1. Provisionally mid/late May, after the AGM; date and venue TBC.