ST IVES
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING –22nd January 025 at 19.30 hrs

Venue: Graham's house

Present:

Graham Shirra	President, Interprint Secretary and acting External Competitions Secretary
Brian Sibley	Vice President / Communications
Nicky Cope	Membership and Programme Secretary
Louisa Christie	Internal Competitions

1. **Apologies for absence**: Jennifer Horn and Jonathan Sayer. In Jennifer's absence. Graham took minutes.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** (4th December 2024) were approved.
3. **Matters arising**

3.1. These are dealt with under the relevant Agenda headings, except for:

3.1.1. 3.2 (access to old emails): overtaken by changes in responsibilities.

3.1.2. 4.4: although the survey doesn't close until the end of the month, it was thought that those who haven't yet replied are unlikely to do so without a reminder. It was mentioned in the last Newsletter, Graham will remind on Tuesday. **Graham**

4. **Vacant Committee Posts**

4.1. External Competitions – Steve Eeley has had to stand down for personal reasons, so Graham will cover for the rest of the season.

4.1.1. Peter continues to cover the Treasurer role, but would still like to hand it over as soon as a suitable candidate comes forward. This needs to be considered in conjunction with other Committee vacancies. There have been some signs of interest among members.

5. **President's Report**

5.1. Nothing particular to report at this point in the season.

5.2. Graham has agreed to talk about the Club to the St Ives Men's Club in February.

6. **Finance**

6.1. There was no report from Peter, but it was believed that funds were much as might be expected at this point in the season.

6.2. It was noted that, as we are not a registered charity, Lloyds had moved us to a Community Account as from 14th January. There will be a basic monthly fee of £4.25, plus additional fees in certain circumstances, particularly:

6.2.1. In any month when there are more than 100 electronic transactions, whether in or out. We are unlikely to hit this threshold.

6.2.2. For cheques drawn or paid in (so an incentive to use electronic payments and receipts if at all possible)

6.2.3. For cash drawn in or paid out, whether in bank or via a Post Office. Minimising cash transactions through careful cash management will be the order of the day.

6.3. This led to some discussion as to whether we should consider alternative banking arrangements, but it was felt that research on other options should wait until a new Treasurer is in post.

7. **Programme**

7.1. The programme is in place for the rest of this season.

7.1.1. Nicky has made good progress on the 2025/26 winter programme, taking into account the preliminary results of the survey.

7.1.2. Nicky will also think about the summer programme, which doesn't necessarily need a meeting every week. We need to ask members for ideas for events; there was a feeling that simply ambling around an area in the hope of getting some photos is not what members really want. **All**

8. **Competitions**

8.1. **Internal**

8.1.1. There have been some issues and inconsistencies in setting up the new laptop and in the way FFPX handles half marks, but Louisa has found a work-round.

8.1.2. Agreed that we would see if the George Dellar trophy attracts a better turn-out next season, if it is not immediately after the Christmas break. The President's Trophy needs a subject that permits broader interpretation.

8.2. **External**

8.2.1. The result of last week's friendly competition with Swavesey was slightly disappointing, partly because of the agreement that all 12 prints and 12 PDIs should be by different authors: this is a particular challenge to us in the Print section. Graham thought that the benefit of this competition was less now that Swavesey are regular participants in the 4 Way competition (with Ely and St Neots). It was suggested that perhaps we need a different format, perhaps more of a themed event. Graham will talk to Penny Reeves about the possibility of a different approach next season. **Graham**

8.2.2. Our entry is in place for Cambridge Digital this weekend. We reviewed Steve's selection and agreed that, in future, use of images from previous seasons by people who are now e-members should be the exception rather than the rule. **Graham**

8.2.3. It was confirmed that we should enter both EAF Championships (PDI and Print). PDI entry is due this weekend and Graham has a selection, ready to go, and will work on selecting prints (not due until mid-February) alongside selection of our own images for Interprint. **Graham**

9. **Events**

9.1. **Interprint** (1st March 2025)

9.1.1. Church, transport and judge are booked. We are now firm at 22 clubs (including ourselves); some have already uploaded to PhotoEntry, all are due by the end of this month.

9.1.2. Dave Norman has agreed to do the brochure layout; Graham plans to send to him this weekend.

9.1.3. Louisa would like the running order fairly soon, to start setting up FFPX (links with data for Dave).

9.1.4. On the day, Louisa will run FFPX if she is available, otherwise Graham will deal.

9.1.5. Nicky will deal with light refreshments (tea/coffee/biscuits) in the evening interval; we will need to book the downstairs hall & kitchen for a couple of hours. **Nicky, Brian**

10. **Communications**

10.1. Brian presented some statistics (attached – self-explanatory) regarding the reach of our social media. There are other platforms that could be used, but it's not clear that there would be any extra benefit.

10.2. Newsletter ongoing on its fortnightly cycle – material is always welcome. **All**

11. **Membership**

11.1. Currently we have 51 members, including 10 e-members.

11.2. Membership survey is open until the end of this month, so will be discussed at the next meeting,

12. **Equipment**

12.1. Jonathan has indicated that a more modern phone than was used at the Exhibition could probably handle card payments. We had noted that the "Donations" facility on the Church ground floor is permanently connected to mains power, to ensure that it does not go to sleep and lose connectivity.

13. **Any other business**

13.1. **Trophies and awards**: style of "keepsakes" was discussed: there are various online options, but Stanjay have traditionally included the Club badge as part of the job. Graham will make preliminary contact with Stanjay, particularly as they have now moved premises within Godmanchester, to see what might be feasible this season **Graham**

13.2. **Annual dinner**: it was agreed that Friday 2nd May would be the best date. While Slepe Hall had worked well for the past couple of year, there was concern that there might be a facility fee for the use of a private room. St Ives Golf Club was suggested as an alternative; Nicky will check it out and make a provisional booking if it is available, the facilities meet our needs (presentation space etc) and prices are reasonable. **Nicky**

13.3. **Tookey's**. One print (by Steve Laws) had been sold: we now owe him some money. It was agreed to find a replacement from the images previously submitted by members. We need to check whether there are still any frames in the cupboard in the Church, or whether we need to purchase more from a budget source such as Dunelm or B&M. **Graham/Brian**

14. **Next meeting**

14.1. 5th March (Nicky's house)

REPORTS FOR SIPC Committee Meeting on 22nd January 2025

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FROM Graham Shirra

I am still concerned about Committee vacancies and the extent to which we are doubling up. However, there have been some signs of interest which can be followed up in the next month or so.

INTERPRINT REPORT FROM Graham Shirra

We have 22 participating clubs (Royston missed the deadline but I decided to accept their entry).

PDIs are to be loaded to PhotoEntry by Sunday 2nd February. As at 19th January, 3 clubs have uploaded.

I do, of course, have to decide which 6 images to use to represent SIPC …

I expect to receive the majority of the prints at Cambridge Digital (25th January) or EAF AGM & PDI Championships (16th February) – the latter being the closing date.

Action now is to follow up with all clubs as required, and to make sure that we have our in-Club helpers organised for the event.

INTERNAL COMPETITION REPORT from Louisa Christie

Monthly competitions

The running of competitions on the night seems to be running smoothly. A few technical issues with the way the scoring tab is showing in FFPX but have worked a way around it. Overall majority of judges have been receptive to the new scoring scheme & we seem to be getting more balanced scores.

The number of entries across DPI & Print are down on last Season. This is mainly due to losing members who regularly entered competitions. However, it is nice to see newer members entering. I hope this continues.

George Dellar/Presidents Challenge

A very poor number of entries across both competitions. I think several factors were in play here. The date they were held. On the George Dellar, I believe it has had its day, even though we've

extended the distance, it's lost its appeal. On the Presidents I am sure Graham won't mind me saying as it has admitted himself, the subject did not generate enough creative interest for members to give it a go.

Going back to George Dellar, how do we stand doing something completely different? are we going to blame it all on the date, or do we need to come up with something new & propose a change at the AGM?

ACTING EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS SECRETARY REPORT from Graham Shirra

The friendly with Swavesey took place on 16th January. It was quite difficult to select our entry since the agreement is that, as far as possible, the 12 prints and 12 PDIs should come from 24 different authors, and we have barely 12 members submitting prints. Swavesey won by 440 to 418, the full list was in the Newsletter.

Cambridge Digital takes place this weekend, 25th January. Steve put in our entry before Christmas, and I shall be attending. (They have 29 entries out of a possible 35.)

It was left at the last meeting that we would wait until this meeting to make a final decision on entering the EAF PDI and Print Championships. I feel it's important that we do enter both, as a way of

maintaining the Club's profile (there is no entry fee). Closing date for PDI entries is 26th January, which is achievable; and I am already committed to attending the PDI Championships to collect Interprint entries. Closing date for print entries is 23rd February, and we can put an entry together in that time.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS topics from Louisa Christie

Tip of the Day

Graham & Brian are aware that Nicky & I have started a project called 'tip of the day'. We have purchased some cheat cards for photography. The idea being each week we will have tip of the day/week, featuring an area of either camera setup or a particular genre of photography.

Nicky & I have met to discuss how best to implement the cards into the weekly programme. We have decided to start in the new season, so it offers continuity. If there is a talk relevant to one of the cards, that card will be picked for that week.

We will have a table with around 12 cards to give away to members; we have an easel & a wipe board where we can promote tip of the week. The tip could also be replicated in the newsletter.

There are 30 cards in the pack, the rest will be divided up over the Season. Starting in September gives us plenty of time to get them printed & possibly laminated & listed out ready for the start.

Club Night Start Time

Is there any reason why we start at 8pm & not 7.30pm? We are consistently not starting the evening until after 8pm & consequently not finishing until after 10pm. By the time we get packed away, it's making the evening long, especially for those of us who have work the next day.

External Competitions

I understand this role is vacant so putting added pressure on people already doing double roles. Should we be looking at withdrawing from them until such a time that this role is filled?

I personally think we are struggling with entries; this was particularly noticeable at the Swavesey friendly when we had to draw on some very old images from exhibitions, some of which not even put before a judge before?

I thought entries to external competitions were to be chosen from high scoring images from previous months, If we can't meet the entry requirements with a high standard, should we be entering at all?

ANY OTHER BUSINESS topics from Brian Sibley

- Annual Awards Dinner (date and venue)
- Summer Programme
- Tookies Prints

Communications Update

The website is up-to date, other than the George Dellar & Presidents Challenge results – awaiting files from Louisa.

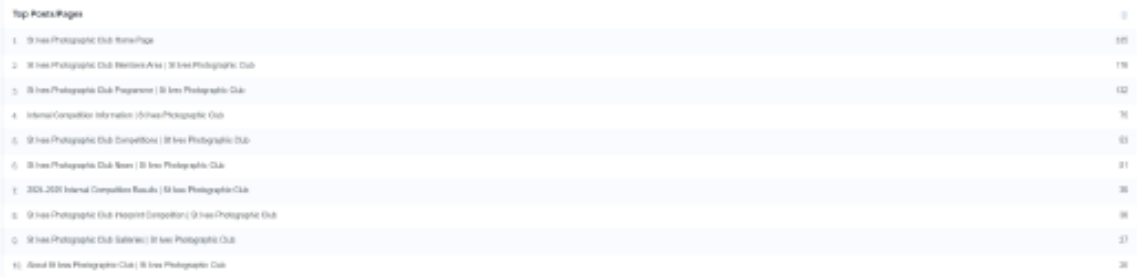
The Newsletter is generally opened by 85%-90% of members – any content ideas?

Continuing to post on social media at least twice a week on Facebook, Instagram and X.
Should we be investigating Threads/BlueSky etc?
Social Team is now only Angela and myself logging in as the club, checking messages and interacting with social posts to gain more visibility once a week minimum.

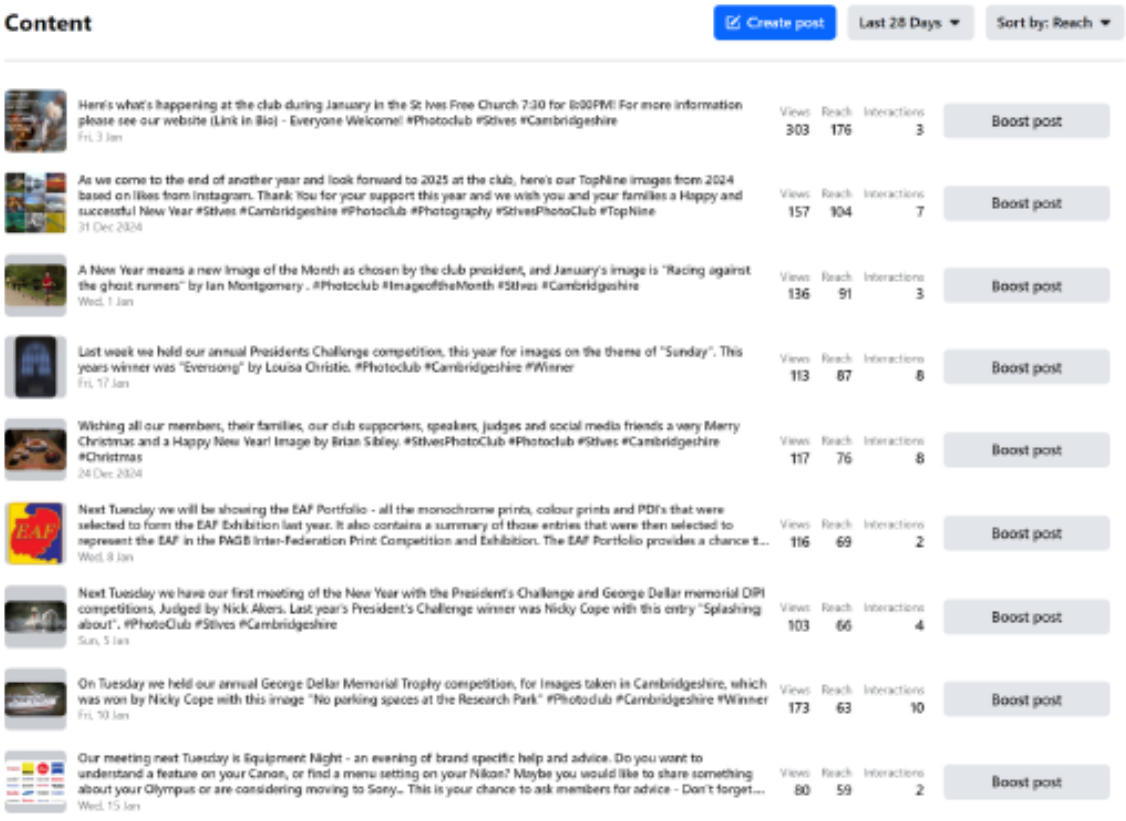
We need to ensure that new members are notified to communications, so I can add them to our mailing list and welcome them in the Newsletter.

Statistics from the last month

Top Website Pages



Facebook posts with most reach



Facebook Audience

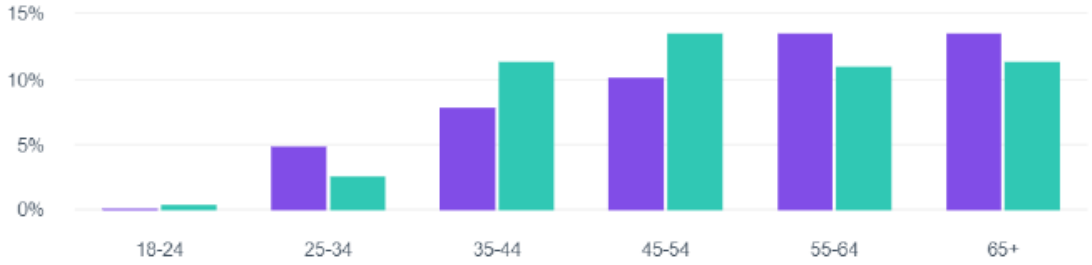
Demographics

Lifetime

Followers	295

Age and gender

Men	50.00%
Women	50.00%



Location

Towns/cities | Countries

Huntingdon	84
St Ives	53
Cambridge	28
Ely	6
Peterborough	6

Instagram Audience
704 followers

Account insights

Last 30 days

Reach

205
Accounts reached

Followers	187
Non-followers	18

By content type

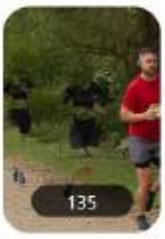
All | Followers | Non-followers

Posts	205.0
Stories	1.0

• Followers • Non-followers

Top content based on reach

See all



1 Jan

31 Dec

3 Jan

10 Jan

24 Dec

Engagement

38
Accounts engaged

Followers	37
Non-followers	1

By content interactions

Posts	92

• Followers and non-followers

Twitter/X Audience
244 followers