ST IVES
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING –12th August 2025 at 19.30 hrs

Venue: Louisa's house

Present:

Graham Shirra	President & Interprint Secretary
Nigel Sandbrook	Treasurer
Nicky Cope	Membership and Programme Secretary
Louisa Christie	Internal Competitions
Jonathan Sayer	Equipment Officer

1. **Apologies for absence**: Brian Sibley, Jennifer Horn and Gary Dean. In Jennifer's absence. Graham took minutes.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** (21st May 2025) were approved.
3. **Matters arising**

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

3.1.1. 2 – Graham still to liaise with Tookeys over hanging the new print.

3.1.2. 3 – despite reminders, Nicky has still not received any reply regarding possible clash with the Youth Theatre (10th March). This is when Jonathan Vaines is scheduled to talk. Agreed to try a further e-mail on the basis that we have a prestige speaker booked, he has a busy schedule and is unlikely to be able to reschedule, and it would be most unfortunate to have to cancel.

Nicky

4. **President's Report**

4.1. Graham reported that the project for a display at The Next Chapter in Huntingdon was in hand, though we could still use images from 2 more members.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1. Nigel reported that the Lloyds mandate had now been updated and that he has replaced Peter as a signatory. The Cambridge Building Society account still needs attention.

5.2. The new Club Treasurer software is in use, though Nigel still needs to understand it fully. Membership aspects will still be managed by Nicky.

5.3. Nigel observed that we didn't seem to set budgets for particular subjects (the annual programme, Interprint etc). Graham felt that, to date, we had tended to rely on the common sense of the relevant person in not incurring excessive costs. This is something that may need more attention when considering levels of subscription in future seasons.

6. **Programme**

6.1. Summer programme – no issues noted, still a few events to come.

6.2. New season opening night:

6.2.1. Prior to the evening, Nicky will extract images from PhotoEntry and send to Nigel & Jonathan who will winnow down to 10 from each event to be shown. Members will then be asked to vote for the top 3 overall, which will get certificates. **Nicky/Jonathan/Nigel**

6.2.2. Nicky will also lay the ground for her presentation the following week, and introduce the buddy scheme.

6.2.3. The 2025/26 programme is now complete and on the website.

7. **Competitions**

7.1. **Internal**

7.1.1. All competitions for 2025/26 have now been loaded into FFPX. The Knock-out Challenge (11 November) will need to be promoted, both by announcements on club nights and in the Newsletter.

7.2. **External**

7.2.1. Gary would like members to be able to put forward work for consideration for external competitions, even if it hasn't been used internally. It was agreed that a separate portal on PhotoEntry would be the best way to handle this.

8. **Events**

8.1. **Annual Exhibition** (30th October/1st November)

8.1.1. Debbie Hall has agreed to co-ordinate this. It needs to be plugged at the beginning of the new season.

8.1.2. Carlos, our previous transporter, has now retired; we need to find a replacement. The key factors are a suitable size van to carry the boards upright, and the willingness to bring the boards upstairs at the church. Louisa agreed to double-check sizes with Mark, and to contact some local "man with van" services. **Louisa**

8.2. **Interprint** (28th February 2026)

8.2.1. Church is booked. Transport is the same as for the exhibition.

8.2.2. Graham is about to approach a possible judge. **Graham**

8.2.3. We discussed the likely finances of the event. In 2025 the Club entry fee was £25, with tickets per person for the evening at £7.50; the event covered its costs, but not by much. While the best way to increase revenue is to increase the number of participating clubs, that's not very easy in the current climate (though Graham is considering stretching the radius from 75 miles to either 100 miles or "reasonable travelling distance of St Ives"). It was agreed for 2026 to raise the Club entry fee to £50 but to include 2 evening tickets in that price; individual entry can remain unchanged. **Graham**

9. **Communications**

9.1. Brian reported that he had emailed The Villager magazine requesting that our September dates be added to their "What's On" section. He will also get in touch with the Hunts Post to see if we van be their "Club of the Week" (maybe nearer the Exhibition).

9.2. Communication with Campkins re their Photography Month seems to have gone dead. NFA.

9.3. Graham is still working on the display for The Next Chance bookshop in Huntingdon. **Graham**

10. **Membership**

10.1. Renewal invitations will be emailed out through Club Treasurer later this month.

10.2. Nigel, with previous experience in Data Protection matters, considered that we don't need to ask members to repeat their preferences regarding use of their images etc – we simply need to give them the opportunity to update those preferences if they wish.

10.3. It was agreed to go ahead with the idea of a Club WhatsApp group, administered by Nicky and Nigel. Members will need to agree to join it. It can be publicised on Club nights and in the Newsletter. **Nicky, Nigel**

10.4. Nicky proposes to run the pre-Club night gatherings in the Golden Lion twice a month – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays – to try to build and maintain momentum.

11. **Equipment**

11.1. Jonathan's research has found that the only realistic projector option is the JVC NP5 range which would cost in the order of £5,000 (inc VAT). However, we would not get the best from it unless we also replaced the screen – potentially another £700.

11.2. Members present felt that this was a reasonable option, but Jonathan will undertake some further review before a final decision is made – it is not essential to replace the current projector immediately, and we have not identified any possible sources of grant funding. Also, a new projector would handle files larger than the present 1920 x 1200 pixel: introducing such a change mid season would be an issue. **Jonathan**

12. **Any other business**

12.1. Louisa asked whether we should consider making a charge for hot drinks and biscuits on Club nights. Quite apart from the need to provide a cash float, it was considered that the refreshments are currently considered to be a membership benefit and that this would need agreement an AGM (when it might be bound up with discussion on subscription levels).

12.2. It was noted that the Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday 3rd December clashed with the 4 Way Competition, hosted this year by Ely. It was agreed to bring the meeting forward 1 week, to 26th November.

13. **Future Committee meetings**

13.1. Dates are now 15th October, 26th November, 21st January and 4th March.