



**MINUTES of Committee Meeting held on 26th November, 2025 at 7.30pm,  
location Nicky Cole's house**

Present: Graham Shirra, Mark Hudson, Nicky Cope, Louisa Christie, Brian Sibley and Jennifer Horn

- 1 Apologies for absence received from Nigel Sandbrook, Gary Dean and Jonathan Sayer
- 2 Minutes of the last meetings: taken as read.
- 3 Matters arising will be dealt with under relevant headings.
- 4 President's Report (Graham) – see attached report.
- 5 Treasurer's Report (Nigel) – see attached report.

All present agreed that finishing the exhibition at 4pm rather than 5pm would be better; very few visitors after 4pm and it would save money. The church is expensive but those present agreed the Free Church the most suitable venue.

A discussion followed on how to save money/increase income so that future exhibitions break even rather than make a loss.

We could do with sponsors - maybe Wex, Camkins, someone in St Ives? Maybe ask in newsletter if any member knows a company who might sponsor. Finding sponsors is difficult and no-one specifically volunteered to try.

The suggestion that opening the exhibition one day only to save money was rejected.

To increase footfall, better signage to exhibition so visitors to downstairs fair don't miss us. Large board pointing upstairs was favoured. Graham will source a board and use it initially for Interprint. **Action Graham**

Maybe charge members £1 or 50p per print displayed. Ask members at AGM. **Add to AGM Agenda**  
Mark can move boards for Interprint in his trailer, just need people to lift in and out.

6 Programme (Nicky)

Current season: Kevin Pigney need print stands next week, ask a few members to come early via social media to set up. **Action Brian**

Xmas social organized.

Next season: Nicky reported that the programme for 2026/27 is a work in progress but well under way, a copy of items she has arranged so far is attached.

Has scrapped summer outings roundup. Any suggestions for 1st meeting in Sept.?

The following suggestions were put forward:

Post processing night, add having all members edit same photo (to be circulated by email) then compare results at a later meeting.

Mix n Match - will need judge (?Penny)

Bob Dockrill possible for a practical session - Graham will ask him.

Zoom talk would need licence. Zoom talks not generally favoured, too impersonal.

Mark Hudson offered to do a talk on 22/9/2026.

Instead of Michaelmas Fair how about a ghost walk in Cambridge, self guided.

Caroline Clifford from library/museum showing old local photos - Graham will ask if willing to speak.  
Suggestion for 9th March, maybe a practical outdoors.  
Maybe move themed evening to another month, otherwise lots of images required in April.  
Tom Peck suggested as possible judge.

Nicky will do a mid season update on how buddy scheme is going for next newsletter.

A few speakers still to find, Nicky has in hand. If we choose a more expensive speaker, possibility of advertising to other local clubs.

Golden Lion, not many coming now changed to twice in month.  
Graham will remind members at the meeting the week before.  
It was agreed to revert to once a month, 1st Tuesday each month and start at 7pm as it was generally agreed that 6.30am is a bit early for most people. Brian will advise change in newsletter.

Nicky reported most feedback positive. Brian asked for 'sound bites' from feedback for advertising.

Actions Graham, Nicky, Brian

## 7 Competitions:

7.1 Competitions, Internal – Louisa reported all going OK except for FFPX software - see attached report.

FFPX can't shuffle anymore, members don't like this. Problem has occurred since using new laptop. Initially, Brian will try uninstalling and reinstall. If unsuccessful, try FFPX on back-up laptop which Graham will bring next Tuesday. If still problems, Graham may be able to contact author of FFPX.

Actions Brian, Graham, Louisa

7.2 Competitions, external – see attached report from Gary.

## 8 Events:

8.1 Graham thanked Debbie for organizing an excellent exhibition.

Financial aspects of the exhibition and ideas for next year already discussed under Item 5, Finance.

8.2 Interprint. See attached report from Graham.

Bury St Edmunds have now said yes as they want to defend their title, so now 19; Graham hopes for at least 20. This year charge per club of £50. includes 2 tickets for the evening session. (Previous year was £25. but evening tickets extra per person.) Maybe revert to charging separately for club entry and tickets for evening session..

Graham will check exactly what hours booked at Free Church for Interprint, including downstairs for refreshments?

Need a new team for refreshments; Jennifer, Moira, Sarah or anyone else? Details to be confirmed.

Jennifer agreed to take judge for meal between exhibition judging and evening session.

Actions Graham, Jennifer

9 Communications. Brian has been pushing Interprint. New members are looking at Facebook postings as shown by number of 'likes'.

A new version of the Bridge magazine was mentioned; Brian will try that for advertising, an advert for the club has just appeared in the Villager (Holywell cum Needingworth magazine).

Action Brian

10 Membership (Nicky) She reported 2 new members have not attended meetings yet, total membership now 52.

Nicky asked if anyone has heard from Steven Atwood as she has not heard from him and he hasn't attended this season, a previously very active member. Nicky will try and contact via Facebook.

Action Nicky

11 Equipment - as Jonathan unable to attend, any comments from him deferred to next meeting.

Graham reported he had discussed with the Cambridge club their latest projector – they bought an Epson as not much choice available, except a big jump to very expensive professional projectors.

12 Any Other Business

Louisa gave advance warning that she won't continue as internal competitions secretary next season.

Nicky also advised that she wants to step down from her two roles as Programme Secretary and Membership Secretary, however both Louisa and Nicky would still do events and both would be happy to help with advice to those taking over for an initial period.

Brian would also like to step back and will approach some other members about taking over the Communications role.

Action, the committee to recruit new committee members

13 Date and venue of next meetings

21<sup>st</sup> January at Louisa's house

4<sup>th</sup> March

Nicky apologized in advance for missing the January meeting as she will be away.

The meeting closed 9.15pm.

Minutes written by Jennifer Horn, Secretary

Circulated to the committee: Graham Shirra, Mark Hudson, Nigel Sandbrook, Nicky Cope, Louisa Christie, Gary Dean, Jonathan Sayer, Brian Sibley

## **President's Report, Graham Shirra**

1. Huge thanks to Debbie Hall and everyone else who helped in one way or another with the Exhibition, including all members who contributed material for display.
2. The display in the Next Chance bookshop in Huntingdon happened in October. The shop manager tells me that it generated a fair amount of interest from customers: there may be an opportunity to do a further display sometime.

## **Treasurer's Report, Nigel Sandbrook**

As I will not be able to attend the next committee meeting, I wanted to submit a brief report on the SIPC Exhibition from a financial perspective. Before covering the figures, I would like to express my strong support for the event and its outcomes.

### **Financial Report**

- Income over the two days £221.89 (don't ask!)
- Outgoings
  - Van hire: £50.
  - Hall hire: £504.
- Loss: £332.11

My initial view is that the loss was increased by the extension of opening hours; I understand the event previously concluded at 3 or 4 pm, with this change adding an extra cost of £72 to £144. On a positive note, we saved on transport, thanks to our two wonderful volunteers who generously assisted.

Overall, I believe we should absolutely aim to run the exhibition again. However I recommend we consider ways to achieve at least a break-even outcome next time.

## Provisional Programme for 2026/27 from Nicky Cole

Date	Event	Details
1.9.26	<b>Speaker</b>	
8.9.26	<b>Practical night</b>	Water droplet photography?
15.9.26	Post processing night	Stations around the room PS, L, Be Funky
22.9.26	<b>Members talk</b>	
	Buddy project intro	Intro of buddy project. Subject
29.9.26	Monthly Comp 1	Judge -Ben Pike
6.10.26	Mix n Match (girls v boys)	
13.10.26	No church. Michaelmas fair.	<b>Possible Zoom talk</b>
20.10.26	Passion for Wildlife	Kevin Pigney
27.10.26	Monthly Comp 2	Judge Richard Houghton
3.11.26	<b>Speaker</b>	
10.11.25	Knock Out	Informal audience vote
17.11.26	<b>Members' 15 minute talks</b>	
24.11.26	Monthly Comp 3	Judge Penny Reeves
1.12.26	Ivan Friend talk?	
8.12.26	Quartet	<b>Judge TBA</b>
15.12.26	Social Evening	Entertainment TBA
5.1.27	<b>Practical night</b>	
12.1.27	Gary Dean talk	Gary
19.1.27	President's / George Dellar	<b>Judge TBA</b>
26.1.27	Monthly Comp 4	<b>Judge TBA</b>
2.2.27	<b>Speaker</b>	
9.2.27	Buddy Presentation	including capture and post processing info
16.2.27	Speed Dating	Speed feedback session
23.2.27	Monthly Comp 5	<b>Judge TBA</b>
2.3.27	<b>Member Talk</b>	
9.3.27	Possible youth theatre clash	No meeting. <b>Possible zoom talk</b>
16.3.27	<b>Practical night</b>	
23.3.27	<b>Speaker</b>	
30.3.27	Monthly Comp 6	<b>Judge TBA</b>
6.4.27	Friendly themed evening	Images to represent a song title
13.4.27	<b>Speaker</b>	
20.4.27	Annual DPI	Judge Richard Houghton
27.4.27	Annual Print / Monochrome	<b>Judge TBA</b>
	AGM	

### Ideas

#### New Members Zoom workshops

meet the committee, learn about competitions, get familiar with PhotoEntry,  
Zoom talk when church closed

## Interprint Competition Secretary's Report, Graham Shirra

1. We currently have 18 entries (17 clubs who have actually paid, plus ourselves). That compares with 21 last year.
2. I am still following up with some clubs (entry doesn't close until 14 December) and there will be something in the next EAF Bulletin due out soon, but we seem unlikely to see over 20 entries. However, 18 is still a viable competition.
3. 3 regular participant clubs (Biggleswade, Ipswich and Royston) have declined to take part, all citing the new cost structure. It seems that some clubs don't automatically refund the competition secretary's ticket costs, so rolling tickets into the overall entry fee is a problem for them. We may need to reconsider this next season.

4. The next matter for consideration is transport of the boards, in the light of experience at the Exhibition.
5. I assume that, as last year, refreshments will be limited to tea/coffee and biscuits at the interval. We should think about who will manage this, if Nicky is helping with projection, and also where - do we need to book the downstairs hall for a couple of hours?

## **Internal Competition Secretary's Report November 2025, Louisa Christie**

### **Months 1 & 2**

Month 1 & 2 competition has gone well.

I think culling if we get 65 to 70 plus images across both DPI & print is OK. It seems fairer for the second half as judges do take their time over prints.

November has seen a lower number of entries, so we haven't culled.

### **Technical Issues FFPX**

FFPX hasn't been playing ball for a while. On the monthlies, I can no longer shuffle like I could before. The best I can currently do is distribute by Author.

There were problems with both mix & match and the recent knockout, where the software was not doing as it should.

I understand from Graham that we now have a direct contact email address to the guy who designed the programme, so perhaps if we gather the issues, we can email him to get some help.

### **Photoentry**

No issues with this. I did have a big sort out with the categories as it was starting to look rather messy. This now looks much tidier & is easier to navigate.

## **External Competitions Secretary's Report, Gary Dean**

**4 way battle** - All pictures selected and members notified. Encouraging members to attend via meeting, What's App and newsletter. As well as supporting the club members will see what is required at inter club level and some excellent photography by enthusiasts in other parts of Cambs.

**Cambridge Digital** - selection made will be uploading tomorrow. I will then publicise and notify authors. Date 24/1/26 whittelsford village hall 1 pm. Spectator tickets now on sale so drop me a What's App if any committee member wants a ticket. I will be going.

**Interprint** - my next selection target- will see how prints fair at the 4 way.

Sorry I can't be with you tonight been looking after seals at Horsey today and tomorrow.

