



ST IVES
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Committee Meeting – 4 March 2026 at 19.30 hrs, Location, Jennifer’s house

MINUTES

Present: Graham Shirra, Mark Hudson, Nigel Sandbrook, Nicky Cope, Louisa Christie, Gary Dean, Jonathan Sayer, Brian Sibley, Jennifer Horn

1. Apologies for absence – none, all committee attended
2. Minutes of the last meeting (21 January 2026) taken as read
3. Matters arising –
 - 3.1 Louisa, any update on advertising in St Ives (electronic boards) – not yet but will pursue
 - 3.2 Committee posts: to be elected/re-elected at AGM

Officers

President: Graham Shirra – willing to stand for his 3rd year
Vice President: Mark Hudson – willing to stand for his 2nd year
Honorary Secretary: Jennifer Horn – willing to stand for her 3rd year
Honorary Treasurer: Nigel Sandbrook – willing to stand for his 2nd year

Programme Secretary: Nicky Cope is standing down, do we have any replacements – no volunteers yet, probably need to approach potential candidates individually

Internal Competition Secretary: Louisa Christie is standing down, Sarah Bassett has volunteered to take over but is away a lot, Nicky and or Louisa will assist if available. Gary would also offer to assist but needs to learn system. Set a training session before start of next season. Competition secretary should set up photo entry as part of the role.

External Competition Secretary: Gary Dean – willing to stand for his 2nd year

Committee Members

Equipment: Jonathan Sayer – willing to continue.

Communications: Brain Sibley is standing down, do we have any replacements - not yet. Angela still helps especially on social media but doesn't have time to act as communications secretary. It was discussed who could be approached.

Interprint Secretary- Graham happy to continue as familiar with what is needed and Nicky and Louisa happy to carry on assisting on the night.

Membership secretary – Nigel, as Treasurer, will also run software side of membership records. Nicky happy to continuing doing meet-and-greet.

ACTION - need Programme Secretary - and also approach someone re Communications Secretary

3.3 Membership fees for 2026/27

All agreed to propose dropping e-membership at the AGM - we don't have many e-members, ex e-members can come along to any meeting and pay the visitor's fee and can access club information on the website or Facebook.

Nigel thought the £4. visitor fee too much bother to collect, but general opinion, need to charge something for visitors. Agreed increase one-off visitor fee to £5.

There followed a general discussion on what annual club membership fee to propose at the AGM. There was general agreement that the fee should be raised at the very minimum to keep in line with inflation and increasing costs, a small increase each year being more acceptable than any sudden larger increase. Inflation would take the current fee of £65 up to £70. (Note - Church Hall hire gone up by more than inflation.)

Treasurer's comments: (Nigel)

Club fees proposal: Increase general membership to £85 (£1.64pw) based on equipment replacement budget - Say £5k for new projector/screen at some point. Fully depreciate over 5 years requires £84pm (£1008pa), this would be accommodated within this year's membership fee increase. Say 50 members @£20 = £1000

Graham thought that a £20. increase was too much, especially after a relatively large increase last year and suggested a 10% increase, but possibly add a request to the renewal asking if a member would like to add a voluntary contribution.

Nigel presented a Profit and Loss sheet (year up to 4 March) – copy attached – which showed a very small surplus, but after a few ins and outs over the rest of March would essentially result in a break even situation. The simple profit and loss sheet was very useful, could be improved by detailing income/costs for specific events such as Interprint or our own exhibition.

Nigel suggested it would be easier to complete the accounts if the financial year end was moved to, say, June or July as by then no more income for that season. Would then need to present the final accounts at the AGM the following April, just a 'Treasurer's report' at the AGM. (This would also require a change to the Club Rules which state that an AGM is "to be held within 6 weeks of the end of the Club's financial year.and shall include consideration and approval of the accounts."))

As we can no longer rely on a profit from Interprint, there was also a discussion on alternative means of raising money including charging members for entering our annual exhibition, increasing the visitors' entry fee/suggested donation to £2., charging for visitors to the Interprint exhibition, offering cards for sale at exhibitions and putting prices on the prints at our exhibition to encourage sales or, if we had a 'special' high quality speaker we could charge more than the £5.visitor fee, advertising more widely to other clubs on social media to attract visitors. The latter would be a risk as we don't know how many visitors we could attract. Gary suggested an exhibition preview evening, but charge for the event, offering drinks/canapes. Nicky and Louisa happy to do 'events' and form their own small sub-committee to improve profile/income.

Taking into account the fees charged by other local photographic clubs and Jonathan's input that estimated cost of new projection equipment is now £7K. (or £408. a day to hire a projector), there was general agreement to propose increase membership fee to £75. (plus charge for exhibiting and look for other income streams).

When this increase in membership fee is put to members, it should be emphasized that, whilst the club has money in the bank, it is not flush for money as if anything made a small loss over the year therefore reducing our reserves. Last year's increase in subscription fees allowed us to prevent a substantial loss over the year but the suggested increase to £75. will still mean we have to take at least half of the cost of a new projector (essential if the current projector fails as the obsolete model cannot be repaired) and so we will need to bear in mind topping up the reserve to allow for future purchases of new laptops, new exhibition boards, etc. .

ACTION – AGM agenda

3.4 Strategy plan - discussed above.

3.5 Nigel Sandbrook will approach either Kim or Marc Human (both accountants) to have a second person look over the accounts as done in the past.

4. President's Report (Graham)- see attached report

Need a date for sorting out the storage cupboard in the church, maybe a weekend. Mark offered to store anything just for exhibition use. Nicky will sort out a suitable date with church. **ACTION Nicky**
Publicise list of items that members could borrow. **ACTION communications secretary**

5. Treasurer's Report (Nigel) – already covered 3.3 above.

6. Programme (Nicky) – see attached Programme for 2026/27 and comments from Nicky.

Current season: It will cost £70. to hire a model for the studio photography evening later this month. Agreed a charge of £5. for anyone who wants to participate – but this must be published as soon as possible to warn members. **ACTION Brian**

2026/27 season: Millenium photos needed for first meeting – Gary hadn't located at time of meeting, but has now confirmed that Huntingdon Library have the photos.

One more judge needed:

Mark suggested trying Sarah Rawlinson - Mark thinks she is new on the list of judges.

As an alternative Graham suggested Sarah Rossouw.

Still has one space on program – but this leaves flexibility if changes necessary.

Note - Average charge for a speaker is now £100.

Summer programme: nothing done so far, need to ask for volunteers to put forward ideas.

Louisa suggested writing a list of dates and asking members to fill in offers.

Mark then then offered to organise the summer programme. Having thanked Mark, he agreed to aim for one outing per week, either Tuesday evening or at the weekend, but this depends on what dates and times suit volunteers leading the outings.

7. Competitions

7.1 Internal (Louisa) – see attached report

Nicky's suggestions re number of next season's competitions were discussed, general agreement that good idea to reduce number of cumulative monthly competitions to 5, and use the freed-up slot for a stand-alone monochrome print competition, the monochrome competition preferably early in the season to allow for entries to be selected for externals. **ACTION – proposal for AGM**

Also it was agreed George Deller trophy competition needs to be refreshed to encourage more high-quality entries but details of how left for a future meeting.

7.2 External Competitions (Gary) – see attached report

8. Events

Interprint (28th February 2026) – see attached report

It was also commented that we need to encourage more of our own members to attend the evening session (which is free of charge to our members).

9. Communications (Brian) - website updated and still keeping socials updated, also newsletter. Nothing special to add.

10. Membership (Nicky)

New lady Marion came Tuesday, felt welcome, especially as joined in at Golden Lion before the meeting, and is bringing her friend next week. They had tried Swavesey but felt a bit daunted. Suggestion to charge £20. to join rather than the full £65. membership fee as it is so late in the season was agreed.

11. Equipment (Jonathan)

New screen, two options, larger flatter screen tensioned all round would cost about £1000. But this would need at least two people to erect and would not be easy to store, or a cassette type screen, pull up type, which would be easier to erect/store, but wouldn't be much, if any, bigger than present screen. **ACTION – Jonathan will get price for cassette type, as large as possible.**

Projector already discussed at length.

12. Any other business

Greetings cards at annual exhibition (from Louisa) covered in 3.3 above.

Meeting closed at 10.15pm.

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

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with Interprint in any way.

I'm now turning my attention to Committee posts that will fall vacant at the AGM. At this meeting, I would like to review where we stand.

We need to tidy up our belongings in the upstairs cupboard in the Free Church. Perhaps we could think about a small work party on a separate evening, or maybe on a Saturday. Once we've reviewed what we actually have, we might think about investing in some more stackable crates (like the exhibition lighting) rather than carrier bags.

Graham Shirra

Internal Competition Secretary's Report March 2026

Competitions general

One monthly comp to go, then we head into Annual.

All seems to be going well. Entries for the monthlies have dropped off a bit on DPI as we draw to the last couple of rounds.

Louisa Christie

INTERPRINT SECRETARY'S REPORT

Interprint took place on 28th February as scheduled, and seemed to run smoothly. I've had an appreciative email from the judge, Clive Tanner. Thanks go to all the Club members who helped in any way.

Nigel will report on the financial outturn, but Mark's ability to transport the boards on his trailer will have made a significant saving. Getting sufficient able-bodied members to commit to helping is the biggest issue here.

It's a little disappointing that, despite encouragement, a significant proportion of our own members didn't come along to a free event.

I have a few notes on "lessons learned" to think about next year - nothing major, but things to clarify in the instructions to competing clubs, for example.

We do need to review the pricing structure, in particular our decision this season to raise the entry fee but to include 2 tickets for the evening session. This year we had 20 competing clubs, as against 21 last year. Bedford returned after a gap of a few years, and Ramsey entered for the first time, but we lost 3 long-time participants - Biggleswade, Bottisham & Burwell and Ipswich. I'm led to believe that the increased entry fee was a factor for all 3. I'm intending to talk to a few people from other clubs at the EAF Print Championships on 15 March, and to have a more detailed debate on this topic at our first committee meeting after the AGM.

Graham Shirra

Profit and Loss

St Ives Photographic Club

04/03/2026

24/3/26
 04/04/2025 - 31/12/2026

INCOME	
40000 - Income	
40100 - Refund	33.61
40200 - Annual Dinner	616.90
40300 - Membership Fees	2,828.51
40400 - Interprint	1,001.63
40500 - SIPC Exhibition	257.26
40600 - Equipment Hire	75.00
41800 - Interest Income	6.35
40000 - Total Income	4,819.26
INCOME	4,819.26
GROSS PROFIT	4,819.26
EXPENSES	
57000 - Expenses	
57100 - External Speaker	-420.70
57200 - External Judge	-363.60
57400 - Web/Email	-104.40
57600 - Software Licence	-261.50
57700 - Room Hire	-1,872.00
57800 - Refreshments - Interprint	-97.88
57900 - Annual Dinner	-678.76
58100 - Trophies	-330.00
58200 - External Competitions	-25.00
62000 - Bank Charges	-52.43
67000 - Insurance Expense	-119.16
69000 - Licenses Expense	-54.50
74000 - Rent or Lease Expense	-50.00
75500 - Supplies Expense	-50.10
57000 - Total Expenses	-4,480.03
TOTAL EXPENSES	-4,480.03
NET INCOME	339.23

2026/03/04 17:48:10 UTC

Page 1/1

*less 2025 of
 johns interest
 supplies
 less interprint
 room hire*

Updated programme for 2026/27 - just one speaker and one judge to find. Nicky

Date	Event	Details
1.9.26	SIPC Millennium St Ives photos	Plus info for edit challenge
8.9.26	Water droplet practical	Bob Dockrell
15.9.26	Post processing night	Demo Stations for PS, L, Be Funky
22.9.26	Members talk	Mark Hudson. Slides and prints
	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)	Judge - Penny Reeves
13.10.26	Ghost walk Cambridge	No church. Michaelmas fair.
20.10.26	Passion for Wildlife	Kevin Pigney
27.10.26	Monthly Comp 2	Judge Richard Houghton
3.11.26	Photographing Architecture	Tom Peck
10.11.25	Themed edit challenge / practical	
17.11.26	Sports Photography	Duncan Winterbourne
24.11.26	Monthly Comp 3	Judge Penny Reeves
1.12.26	Starry landscapes drone shots & more	Allen Lloyd
8.12.26	Quartet	Judge Simon Shore
15.12.26	Social Evening	Entertainment TBA
5.1.27	Members' Show and Tell	Members to show images
12.1.27	Gary Dean talk	Gary
19.1.27	President's / George Dellar	Judge Tom Peck
26.1.27	Monthly Comp 4	Judge TBA
2.2.27	Mobile Phone Photography	Tom Peck (moved from 2026)
9.2.27	Buddy Presentation	Including capture and post processing
16.2.27	Speed Dating	Speed feedback session
23.2.27	Monthly Comp 5	Judge Nick Akers
2.3.27	Tom Lane - talk	Tom
9.3.27	Round town photo practical	No meeting. Youth Theatre
16.3.27	Free Mines Coal Faces	Nick Hodgson
23.3.27	Practical night	TBA
30.3.27	Monthly Comp 6	Naomi Saul
6.4.27	Members 15 minute talks	Members TBA

13.4.27	Speaker	
20.4.27	Annual DPI	Judge Richard Houghton
27.4.27	Annual Print / Monochrome	Colin Mill
	AGM	

Ahead of the meeting on Wednesday, I thought I would also throw a couple of suggestions out there for changes to competition structure for next year - My suggestions are following Interprint and thinking that as a club we need to encourage printing more.

Proposal 1

I don't feel that the Monochrome competition works very well tagged onto the Annual print competition. DPI entries are hard to judge with the prints and usually a print entry wins. It all seems a bit of an afterthought, after quite a complicated annual competition which really needs time and does not benefit from the addition of the monochrome judging.

In my opinion the monochrome competition should be a stand-alone print competition to encourage more people to print.

I would like to suggest that we cut the open DPI competitions to 5, and add an open Print monochrome competition. This to be held early in the season to allow for entries to be selected for externals. (This would still be competing for the Monochrome Trophy and would not form part of the monthly open cumulative scores.)

Proposal 2

I also feel that it would be beneficial if the George Dellar became a print only competition. This could still be run with the Presidents DPI (in the same way as our normal monthlies are run as DPI and print), but would encourage more people to print.

Just something for you all to mull over

Nicky

External Competitions report: 4 March 2026 – Gary Dean

Cambridge Digital 24 January

The following images represented the Club at the annual Cambridge CC inter club digital competition.

There were 5 Categories as follows:

Monochrome: Yosemite in Winter by Tom Lane_17

People: The Building Inspector by Tom Lane_16

Landscape: The Art of Industry by Adam Payne_18

Nature: Marine Iguana and Lava Lizards by Gary Dean_20

Open: Black Eyed Susan by Louisa Christie_17

Spare: A Drink for Mum And Baby Baboon by Nicky Cope

The judge was David Loew. A total of 88 points leaving us ranked 9th with 15 clubs below us. The deserved winners were Ware and District Photographic Society who amassed 96 points, including 3 maximums. They also won best image from the 25 images that the judge scored a maximum. Joint second on 95 points were North Norfolk Photographic Society and Norwich & District Photographic Society. Ranked third were Stevenage Photographic Society. As you would expect there was a wide variety of different images nearly all very high quality. An enjoyable afternoon with excellent homemade cake!

Interprint - 28 February 2026

The following print images represented the Club at *Interprint* 2026 and were as follows:

Summer Morning, Louisa Christie_18

Life Can Be Tough, Tom Lane_18

A Drink for Mum & baby Baboon, Nicky Cope_19

Warthogs Fighting, Nicky Cope_17

Rydal Water Boathouse, Steve Laws_19

Grey-backed Fiscal With Prey, Gary Dean_18

The judge was Clive Tanner. A total of 109 point left us ranked 6th, a creditable result and only 2 points off a top 3 spot. We also headed the likes of Cambridge, Stevenage and Norwich. Congratulations to Milton Keynes, a new name on the trophy and Ware (2), Bury (3) and Ely(3).

PDI Championship - 15th February 2026

The following dpi represented the Club at the EAF DPI Championship:

Louisa Christie Normans Mill_9

Nicky Cope, Dotty_9

Tom Lane, The Building Inspector_9

Steve Laws, Havard Glacier Carving_10

Nicky Cope, A Dring for Mum & Baby Baboon_13

Adam Payne, Urban Kaleidoscope_9

Tom Lane, Bygone Days_9

Adam Payne Sunset Over Llandudno Pier_10

Steve Laws, Padley Gorge_11

Gary Dean, Chimpanzees Grooming_10

Louisa Christie , Black-Eyed Susan_9

Adam Payne urban Monoliths_10

Steve Laws Cathedral Choir_12

Gary Dean, wedged Rumped Storm petrel_11

Tom Lane, Yosemite in Winter_11

Tony Cole, Banjo Player

Ivan Barrett, Stykkisholmer Church

David King. View From the Footplate

Stefania Van Lieshout, Sunset in Slow motion

Sarah Bassett, Preparing the Catch

Debbie Hall, A long Way Down

Graham Davey, Common Blue Butterflies Mating

Angela Lucas, You Can't Make an Omelette

Stan Mace, Mad Hatter

Nicky Cope, Young Kestel Leaving the Nest

We scored 152 points leaving us outside the top 10 in 19th place from 23 clubs. A disappointing result in a high-quality competition that was won by PICO with runners up Beyond, Colchester and Cambridge qualifying for the PAGB national competition.

Print Championship tickets - 15th March 2026

Venue: The Fulbourn Centre (Townley Memorial Hall)

31 Home End, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5BS

If you want tickets (£8.50) please e-mail Gary on external.competitions@stives_photoclub.org.uk

The following prints selected to represent the Club in the EAF Print Championship are as follows:

Tom Lane, Yosemite in Winter, Mono

Tony Cole, Late Saturday Afternoon, Mono

Snow Ghosts, Ivan Barrett, Mono

Tom Lane, Life Can Be Tough, mono

Gary Dean, Gray-backed Fiscal With Prey, NH

Nicky Cope, A drink For Mum and Baby Baboon, NH

Gary Dean, Vervet monkey with Young, NH

Nicky Cope, Warthogs Fighting, NH

Steve Laws, Rydal Water

Louisa Christie, Summer Morning

Adam Payne, The Art of Industry

Ivan Barrett, Kirkjufell Aurora

Tony Cole-Women's Rights, Mono

Steve Laws, Silver Birch Colour

Tom Lane, Protestor and Copper

All images uploaded, prepped and ready to go.

Gary, Ivan and Graham attending so far. Tickets purchased.

Bury St Edmunds have been in touch, and I have confirmed we will enter their inter club digital comp on Thursday 16th April at 7.30 pm. Selection to be confirmed but I will be using images not used in the above competitions with an eye to next season.