



ST IVES
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

ST IVES PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

MINUTES OF 2025/26 AGM

Time and Date: 8.00 pm; 28th April 2026

Attendees:

Office and Committee Members:

Role	Name
President	Graham Shirra
Vice President	Mark Hudson
Honorary Treasurer	Nigel Sandbrook
Honorary Secretary	Jennifer Horn
Programme Secretary/Membership Secretary	Nicky Cope
Equipment Officer	Jonathan Sayer
Internal competitions secretary	Louisa Christie (and Daisy)
Communications secretary	Brian Sibley

together with the following Club members:

Peter Wills, Moira Shirra, Debbie Hall, Tom Lane, Ivan Barrett, Stu Hames, Kim Human, Marc Human, Steve Laws, Steve Eeley, Nitin Pastakia, Josh Bird, Stefania van Lieshout, Graham Davey and Ian Montgomery

Apologies for absence were received from Gary Dean, Sarah Oakley-Mudge, David King and Stan Mace

Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1 **Minutes of AGM held on 29th April 2025** were taken as read and formally approved, approval proposed by Nigel Sandbrook and seconded by Graham Shirra.
- 2 **Matters arising** - none other than those that will be covered below.
- 3 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Graham Shirra**
 - 3.1. Thank you to everyone for their contributions to the Club this season. Committee members have put in a lot of time and effort, but ultimately everything is down to the entire membership.
 - 3.2. Thanks to Nicky, we have provided a wide-ranging programme this season.
 - 3.3. Positives:
 - a. Membership numbers have held up
 - b. Club competitions generally getting a good number of entries
 - c. A strong Exhibition in November
 - 3.4. Externally, we've done better in prints than in PDIs:
 - a. 7th out of 20 in Interprint
 - b. 6th out of 18 in EAF Print Championship
 - c. 19th out of 23 in EAF PDI Championship
 - d. 7th out of 8 in A45 Trophy (PDI)

- 3.5. On an individual level, congratulations:
- a. to Gary Dean on achieving ARPS
 - b. to Gary for having 4 PDIs, and Nicky 3 PDIs and a print, accepted for the EAF Exhibition.
- 3.6. However, I don't want to be complacent:
- a. We're careful not to waste money, but costs always go up
 - b. We're not full, we can accommodate more members (and more membership fees help to meet our costs)
 - c. We are still multi-tasking on the Committee
- 3.7. I look forward to the Summer Programme, and to seeing everyone again when the new season starts in September. Details on the website.

4 **Honorary Treasurer's report: Nigel Sandbrook**

4.1. **Introduction**

This is my first report to the members, and I'd like to begin by acknowledging Peter Wills' many years of dedicated service in this role. His commitment to the club has been greatly valued, and I hope to build on the solid foundations he has laid.

4.2. **Improvements to Record Keeping & Compliance**

When I accepted this position, it was with the understanding that I could bring about further efficiencies in membership records, GDPR compliance, and financial record keeping. I'm pleased to report the following progress:

- Membership records are now managed through Club Treasurer, which I hope you'll agree has professionalised our billing and compliance processes.
- We have extended our use of Lloyds Bank's systems, with income and expenditure records now generated through their Business Finance package.

4.3. **Our Financial Mission**

Following engagement with the committee, I've supported a more commercial approach to the club's operation. Our objectives are straightforward:

- Improve the members' experience
- Manage events with a clear understanding of their costs and contributions
- Improve the club's overall financial position

Put simply: generate more income, reduce costs, and improve the members' experience – a tough order, but one we're committed to!

4.4. **Financial Year Alignment**

The committee has supported my proposal to align our financial year end with the membership year. The 2025/26 financial year will therefore run from 1st April 2025 to 31st July 2026, with a standard August–July year thereafter.

This change will allow us to clearly identify the club's true financial position without having to carry over costs and income from one period to the next – such as the SIPC Annual Dinner.

4.5. **Financial Statement (Interim) – see attached**

Please note this is an interim report, which will be finalised after 31st July 2026. The accounts will be reviewed by Tony Lawler FCCA (Chartered Accountant), with any material variance reported to the committee.

Following questions from the members, Graham explained that we plan to hold a special general meeting (SGM) near the beginning of September to change the financial year end to 31st July and the financial year, in future, to run from 1st August to 31st July. An interim financial statement will be presented at the AGM. The detailed reporting with new Lloyds software will allow the committee to keep a close eye on finances throughout the year. At the SGM we also will propose changing the club rules removing the requirement to audit accounts, replace with having someone with financial qualifications to review accounts

Debbie asked why is the club making a loss - Nigel has a breakdown which members can look at during break - costs have gone up, 17% increase in room cost; this was an unforeseen hike, larger than expected.

Steve asked how loss compares with last year. Nigel replied order of magnitude of loss similar to last year. Shortfall would be worse if we didn't earn about £300 interest on reserves. Membership is slightly up.

5 Internal Competitions Secretary's Report – 2025/2026 Season: Louisa Christie

The 2025/2026 season saw steady entry numbers in both Digital Projected Images (DPI) and Prints. Average DPI entries were typically 35–45 per competition, with Prints averaging 20–30. We only had to cull a couple of months on DPI to ensure that the evening didn't overrun.

Stand-alone competitions also attracted a strong number of entries; the only consistently low participation was for Quartet Print.

I would like to encourage all members to give competitions a go, there is plenty of support within the club to help those who are unsure. Whilst we may not agree with judges' comments on many an occasion you should find some value in what they have to say & only by entering competitions will you get this critique.

After a small number of technical issues early in the season with FFPX, a software upgrade resolved the problem.

The interclub 'friendly' evening took on a different format and was well received by Swavesey, and the event ran successfully. We hope Swavesey will host it next season.

Once again, I have had excellent support from my back-up team: Nicky, Johnathan, Jennifer and Sarah, who have all provided invaluable assistance behind the scenes and, increasingly, on competition nights. Thank you also to all those who help with setting up print stands, lighting etc.

I will be stepping down as Competitions Secretary and would like to welcome Sarah to the team. I will, of course, support her while she familiarises herself with the role.

Annual Categories next Season: Natural History, Creative, Landscape, Night, Transport, Sport.

In Gary Dean's absence, Louisa also presented the **External Competition Secretary's report**, copy attached.

Discussion followed on why the number of print entries is always less than number on DPIs for our own competitions giving fewer entries for Gary to select from. Steve Eeley commented that other clubs also reported that print entries were diminishing. Steve also suggested the club should proactively suggest printing of good DPIs or actually print them. Committee will discuss and talk to Gary about how to encourage entries.

6 Election of club officers (Appendix A):

As officers of the club are elected for a term of 3 years, the following positions are not due for election/re-election this year and the present officers have agreed to serve for a further year: Graham Shirra (President), Mark Hudson (Vice-President), Nigel Sandbrook (Honorary Treasurer), Jennifer Horn (Honorary Secretary) and Gary Dean (External Competition Secretary).

Vacant position of **Programme secretary** - no nominations received however Nicky and Louisa have offered to act as Programme Secretary together. The internal competition secretary will take on managing judges and Jennifer will assist in running the current programme.

Internal competition secretary - Sarah Bassett was elected by a vast majority of those present.

7 Election/re-election of other committee members (Appendix B):

Communications Officer - Brian standing down - no volunteers at the moment. Graham asked for volunteers, or suggestions of how the job could be broken down. Graham asked for anyone with suggestions or volunteers to talk to him during the evening or within the next few weeks.

Equipment Officer: Jonathan Sayer re-elected by a vast majority of those present.

Membership secretary: the proposal that in the absence of any volunteers for this position, the function of Membership Secretary be covered by the treasurer for the year 2026/27 was approved by a vast majority of those present.

Committee members with special responsibility for organising events:

Nicky Cope and Louisa Christie - elected by a vast majority of members present.

8 **Review of Club's ongoing financial position:**

Nigel Sandbrook reported that our biggest increase in costs was the increase of about £800. in room rental. Jonathan commented that this is still very good value for money: reasonable room rate, and we have storage, own key, no time pressure to vacate etc. Steve Eeley commented that we are the envy of other clubs - for the excellent venue.

Interprint was cash positive but member exhibition runs at a loss, however Nigel expressed the view that the exhibition is important for the club and its members and said that it had been discussed in committee how we could increase income, or reduce costs by e.g. selling items at the exhibition or reducing opening hours. Stefania suggested charging for exhibiting and Nigel commented that this was already being considered by the committee. The level of charging was briefly discussed along with the practice of other local clubs.

There followed a general discussion of costs, including the fact that we can't determine the exact cost of booking the church hall before making the booking as it is necessary to book well in advance to ensure we have the room when we need it for the exhibition and Interprint.

9 **Rate of subscription for 2026/27 (Appendix C)**

C.1 Proposal to discontinue E-membership

Kim Human asked for elaboration on why it was proposed to discontinue e-membership and Nigel explained that the purpose was to simplify administration and Graham explained e-membership was only introduced due to the Covid pandemic and no longer seemed relevant; we only have a small no. of e-members, complications arise as to who can attend meetings, who can enter competitions or exhibitions, etc. Current e-members would be encouraged to attend as guests and are always able to access the group's website for information as to what is on. The suggestion to increase the e-membership fee instead of abolishing e-membership was countered by the comment that we might then lose some full members, those members who maybe don't attend all meetings nor enter competitions.

Marc Human proposed an increase in e-membership fee at the same time increasing the number of meetings that could be attended, however the proposal in the agenda that e-membership was discontinued was put to the meeting and approved by a majority vote of 14 for the proposal and 5 against, the remaining members abstaining.

C.2 Proposal to increase the annual membership fee to £70. (current fee £65.)

Nigel said in his opinion the membership fee should be increased by more than £5. say to £90. or at least to £75. – membership fee to be put to a vote (the proposal to increase to £70. was agreed by a majority of the committee).

After a short general discussion, an alternative proposal was put forward by Peter Wills and seconded by Tom Lane - **that the membership fee be increased to £75.**- this proposal was approved by a substantial majority of those present, only 2 members voting against and therefore **the membership fee for the year 2026/27 will be £75.**

C.3 Young persons' membership to remain at £10. – as this is unchanged and as no comments received unnecessary to put to a vote.

Guest Fee – this was also covered in the general discussion of income versus expenses. Nicky Cope proposed that **the guest fee be increased to £5**. This was seconded by Louisa Christie and approved by a substantial majority of those present.

After a short break for refreshments the meeting continued by considering the proposals in Appendix D of the Agenda.

10

Proposal D1 from Nicky Cope re monthly competitions

In response to questions, Nicky Cope said that the monochrome competition would be held in October to ensure that the club could consider the monochrome prints for external competitions during the year; the suggestion to allow up to 4 prints per member was because we need to fill an evening and the number of members who produce prints is limited. Mono prints could of course still be entered in any of the other 5 competitions as desired.

The proposal to extract the Monochrome Trophy from the Annual Print Competition so that it becomes a stand-alone monochrome print competition, to drop from six monthly cumulative competitions to 5 and to hold a dedicated monochrome print competition, allowing up to 4 entries per person was approved by a vote of 17 for and 1 against, the remaining members abstaining.

Proposal D2 from Graham Shirra re definition of 'natural history' was approved by 19 votes for, none against (for details see Appendix D).

11 **Any other business**

11.1 **Subject for president's trophy** – Graham announced that this would be "communication(s)"

11.2 **The subjects for the annual competition** will be - nat. history, landscape, creative, night, sport and transport

11.3 In the interest of keeping costs down, Steve Laws commented that the **keepsake trophies** are expensive. Graham responded that this had been discussed in committee and it was decided to discontinue keepsake trophies and give certificates instead.

12 The meeting closed at 9.52pm.

Minutes taken by Jennifer Horn, Honorary Secretary, 28 April 2026

Appendix A: Election of Club Officers

1.1 Programme Secretary

Position vacant

1.2 Internal Competition Secretary

Proposed that Sarah Bassett be elected as Internal Competitions Secretary.

Proposed by Graham Shirra

Seconded by Louisa Christie

Appendix B: Election of other Committee members

B.1.1 Communications Officer

Position vacant

B.1.2 Equipment Officer

Proposed that Jonathan Sayer is re-elected in the position of Equipment Officer.

Proposed by: Graham Shirra

Seconded by: Brian Sibley

B.1.3 Membership Secretary

In the absence of any volunteers for this position, it is proposed that the function of Membership Secretary be covered by the treasurer for the year 2026/27.

Rationale: the software used to keep track of membership is the same as that used by the treasurer for accounting purposes.

B.1.5 Events Organiser(s)

Proposed that Nicky Cope and Louisa Christie be elected as committee members with special responsibility for organising events.

Proposed by Jennifer Horn

Seconded by Nigel Sandbrook

Appendix C: Membership fees

Currently annual membership fees are

Ordinary membership: £65.

E-membership (for members who cannot attend the club on a regular basis): £15.

Young persons' membership (for members under 21): £10.

Proposals

C.1 Discontinue E-membership

C.2 Increase the annual membership fee to £70.

C.3 Young persons' membership to remain at £10.

Proposed by: Graham Shirra

Seconded by: Jennifer Horn

Appendix D: Proposals

D.1: Proposal

Extract the Monochrome Trophy from the Annual Print Competition so that it becomes a stand-alone monochrome print competition.

To do this, we propose that we drop from six monthly cumulative competitions to 5. We propose that we hold a dedicated monochrome print competition, allowing up to 4 entries per person.

Rationale

The monochrome trophy feels very rushed tagged onto the Annual Print. It is geared towards those who have entered monochrome throughout the season and is very narrowly selective from scores of 9 or above. This new competition will offer everyone a chance to compete for the trophy. This will give us more material for external competitions and will give all members the opportunity to explore the monochrome world.

Entries for this trophy cannot have been used in any other competition, as per the rules of other Trophy Competitions.

Proposed Louisa Christie, seconded by Nicky Cope

D.2: Proposal

To amend the Club's Internal Competition rules, specifically regarding the definition of "Nature" as one of the categories in the Annual Competition, to read:

2.6.4.c Natural History - Images conforming to the PAGB definition of Nature.

Background

The current rule is:

Natural History – Images conforming to the PAGB definition of Nature, which is as follows:

- May depict landscape, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the main subject matter.
- This includes subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums or enclosures.
- Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.
- Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is allowed.
- Cloning of image defects and minor distractions, including overlapping elements, are permitted.
- Photographs of anthropology or archaeology, human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

In recent months the PAGB have changed their definition, which is now as follows:

Nature means Images where living organisms are the primary subject matter. The story telling value of an Image will normally be weighed more than the pictorial quality.

Nature includes:

- Images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on man for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.

Nature excludes:

- Images where the subjects are obviously domestic animals or plants.
- Images where an obviously artistic treatment has been applied.

Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements.

An Image appearing to meet these criteria will be accepted as Nature. The Judges will normally assume that any Image presented to them is eligible. Access to some biological subjects may be restricted. Where that is relevant, then Photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practices and hold any necessary licences.

Rationale

The definitions are similar in intent, but there are differences. Working to the current PAGB definition will simplify matters when we consider work for external competitions, where the distinction may be important.

Not including the full definition in our Rules means that we are always up to date, even if the PAGB alter it again. For the convenience of members, the online Rules can be hyperlinked to the definition on the PAGB website.

Proposed by Graham Shirra, Seconded by Nicky Cope

External Competitions report by Gary Dean ARPS CPAGB BPE3*: 21 April 2026

My first year in some time back on the Committee and in the role as external competition secretary. As I stated last year, I have put my own judgement on the line and solely selected the images for this year's external competitions. So, if you the members don't like the results, you can replace me with another willing member! However, I am happy to stay on in the role and build on what we have achieved this year.

Despite having some 50 members it is noteworthy that only 12 and 8 members entered all 6 monthly dpi and print competitions respectively and only 4 members entered both (Jennifer, Sarah, Kim and Gary). This inevitable limit the pool of images from which I have to choose from. Consequently, I want to encourage you all to consider entering each and every competition. Don't get too hung up about the mark, we know that can be erratic from time to time, but overall a judge's critique is worth listening to. By taking on board their comments it can help when processing, reviewing and selecting your own images. I appreciate it may not always be possible for you to enter our competitions, and I do not constrain myself to just those images. You can upload any image to photo entry or talk and show me directly anytime you think you have that special shot.

Having said that, it is a very big thank you from me to all of you who allowed the use your images to represent our club in competitions this season. We entered 6 external competitions of varying formats this season with mixed results. With prints we competed well, winning the print section of the 4 -way battle, coming 6 from 19 clubs in the EAF print Championships and most pleasing of all a 6th place in our own Interprint. In DPI competitions there is clearly room for improvement. We can 9th from 15 at Cambridge, 19th from 23 at the EAF Championships and 7th from 8 at Bury St Edmunds. Tom, Gary and Nicky all had images scoring the maximum mark.

All results have been published in the weekly newsletter, and a more detailed report for each competition is available on the website.

Sorry I am unable to be with you this evening in person but I look forward to enjoying the images you put forward next season. Remember I am always more than happy to see and talk to you about your images and help with printing.

Gary (external.competitions@stives-photoclub.org.uk).

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 points 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 Drink 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 Kestrel 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 inter federation national competition.

Print Championship tickets - 15th March 2026

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

Tom Lane, Yosemite in Winter, Mono 12
Tony Cole, Late Saturday Afternoon, Mono 13
Snow Ghosts, Ivan Barrett, Mono 12
Tom Lane, Life Can Be Tough, mono 10
Gary Dean, Gray-backed Fiscal With Prey, NH 13
Nicky Cope, A drink For Mum and Baby Baboon, NH 11
Gary Dean, Vervet monkey with Young, NH 11
Nicky Cope, Warthogs Fighting, NH 12
Steve Laws, Rydal Water 12
Louisa Christie, Summer Morning 11
Adam Payne, The Art of Industry 9
Ivan Barrett, Kirkjufell Aurora 11
Tony Cole-Women's Rights, Mono 12
Steve Laws, Silver Birch Colour 12
Tom Lane, Protestor and Copper 15

Nineteen clubs competed. Judges were Sue Moore, Bob Moore and Erica Oram. Each marking out of 5. We can a creditable 6th place with 176 points, the same as Cambridge CC. Tom Lane's Protestor & Copper scored a maximum 15 and we got a couple of 13's (see above). Beyond Group won the

Championships with 194 points, Colchester were Second (192) and Royston 3rd (189). All together with PICO will represent the EAF in the PAGB inter federation final.

Bury St Edmunds – A45 Cup- 17 April 2026

The following dpi represented the Club in this competition:

1. Steve Laws – Skutafoss Waterfall **17**
2. David King – Going For Broke **17**
3. Kim Human – Serving Humanity At The Golden Temple **17**
4. Gary Dean – Mountain Gorilla Family (NH) **20**
5. Tom Lane – Three Beauties Of Vilnius (MC) **17**
6. Louisa Christie – Daisy Patch **16**
7. Nicky Cope – Rutting Impala (NH) **20**
8. Ivan Barrett – Mist Forest (MC) **14**

Eight Clubs competed. Ken Payne was the judge with this one and he gave a very good evaluation of each image, however his marking range was limited, and he held back 26 of the 64 images which all received 19 or 20. We scored 2 maximums, Gary's Mountain Gorilla Family and Nicky's Rutting Impala. Unfortunately for us we also received one of only 2 14's his dished out, in my opinion very harsh! The net result was we came 7 out of 8 with 138 points. Cambridge had all eight of their images held back and amassed an impressive 155 out of 160 to win the trophy. David Steel of Cambridge got best image. Full results below.

Position	Club Name	Score
1	Cambridge	155
= 2	BSEPS	146
= 2	Ely	146
3	Felixstowe	142
4	Bottisham and Burwell	140
5	Stowmarket	139
6	St Ives	138
7	East Ipswich	130

Financial Statement – Interim

Income & Expenditure to 28th April 2026

	Amount
Income	£6,306.00
Expenditure	£6,802.00
Shortfall to date	£496.00
Income outstanding	£38.95
Expenditure outstanding	£202.00
Forecast shortfall at year end	£659.00

Funds Held

	Balance
Lloyds Current Account	£376.00
Lloyds Savings Account	£1,010.00
Cambridge Building Society	£13,906.00
Total Funds (2026)	£15,292.00
Total Funds (2025)	£15,668.00

6. Overall Financial Position

The overall position of the club remains strong, with a substantial reserve fund maintained. That said, we need to move out of an income shortfall position and work towards a balanced budget. It would also be desirable to generate additional funds to support equipment replacement whilst rebuilding reserves for future expenses.

7. Proposals for Member Approval

The following proposals are put forward for consideration by the membership:

- Increase full membership to £70 per annum.
- Remove the e-membership category.
- Maintain student membership at £10 per annum.
- Increase and combine e-membership and visitor fees to £5 per event.

*Hon. Treasurer, St Ives Photography Club
28th April 2026*