

## CHELMSFORD CAMERA CLUB

Minutes of the AGM for 2007 / 2008 held at Moulsham Mill on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008

Present: Ray Bacon, John Bailey, Steve Baxter, Paul Beko, Howard Binns, Sheila Binns, Colin Birch, Sheila Birch, Dave Bladon, Konrad Borysiuk, Simon Bromwich, Dorothy Chorley, Dennis Clarke, Arnold Cleaver, Tony Cockrell, Barry Collin (Chair), Derrick Cutts, Mike Daly, Steve Docherty, Pamela Elmes, Melvyn Frewin, Pat Frewin, John Goodacre, Bruce Gray, Ray Lawrence, Malcolm MacGregor, Tony Mansfield, Jack Miles, Valerie Miles, Brian Oliver, Derek Parrott, Andrew Pickess, Howard Rison, Adam Rowe, Mandy Rowe, Richard Stevens, Ann Vine, Phil Voyez, Brigitte Whiteing (39 members)

### 1. Apologies for Absence:

Veronica Rice, Barry Henshaw, Jacqui Wall, Annie Ringland

### 2. Approval of 2006/2007 Minutes:

The minutes were approved and signed.

### 3. Matters Arising:

(3) Terry McDonald last year commented on the reuse of images in different competitions. It was decided to hold this over until there was a problem. This issue has now occurred this season, and will be an agenda item for the first meeting of the new committee (28<sup>th</sup> May 2008).

(5.5) The quality of digitally projected images was raised last year and Bruce Gray did have the laptop and projector re-profiled before the season. However a number of members (Colin Birch, Melvyn Frewin, Dennis Clarke, Konrad Borysiuk) still felt there was a problem. The AV judge had also commented as he uses the same projector at home but runs his on half power. Running on half power would require another profile to be performed. To be discussed at committee.

(12.3) Various suggestions were made to improve visibility and seating on print and digital evenings, and these have been tried. However the shape of the room and the position of the kitchen preclude any real improvements.

### 4. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008

I would like to thank Ron Gregory for auditing the accounts for this financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

The Club's membership increased by 14 this year to give a total of 83 members. This figure includes 3 honorary members.

You will see by looking at the balance sheet, under Income, that Subscriptions and Attendances have increased in proportion to the increase in membership.

The Andy Rouse Evening generated £891.25 profit for the club. Thanks are due to Pat and Melvyn Frewin for organising and managing this event.

Most of the expenses are similar to last year with the following exceptions:

- The rent for the Mill has not decreased but some of the VAT was refunded from last year.
- We have been informed that this ruling has changed, yet again, and VAT will be added for next year.
- A review of the insurance schedule has resulted in a decrease in the premium paid, by not insuring some obsolete equipment that was costing more to insure than it was worth.
- Expenditure on Engraving and Cups has increased from £111 to £385 as the club has purchased some new cups.
- External Competition Expenses have increased from £64 to £120. This is due to the club taking a very active interest in competitions. We have been very successful in these and it is money well spent in promoting the club.
- Coffee, Food & Drink has increased from £41 to £156, due partly to the fact that the Club supplied the drink for the Christmas Evening.

You will see that the surplus for this year is £2305.78, which includes £891.25 from the Andy Rouse Evening. Taking into account of the increase rent for the Mill and general inflation I would

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recommend that the subscriptions and attendance fees remain unchanged.

I will be retiring from the committee this year and would like to thank all the members for their help and support over the years and wish the new treasurer every success.

Dennis Clarke – Treasurer

### 5. Officers Reports:

#### 5.1 Secretary – Veronica Rice

I do apologise for not being with you today, but I am away taking photographs, and hope I will have some worthwhile images to show for it next season!

This has been my second season as Secretary; my principal task is to act as the Club's prime contact with outside organisations, and initial contact with prospective members.

It has been a very exciting and exceptionally busy year with an increasing number of enquiries regarding membership, many of whom I am glad to say have joined the Club. I have also received notification of many external competitions, courses, photographic holidays, exhibitions, second hand equipment etc. and I have, as in the past, attempted to sift through these and bring to the members' notice those I think will be of interest. We have also been the grateful recipients of camera equipment from the late Geoffrey Harris, which I know has been put to good use by some of our members.

One of my main objectives has been to try to encourage prospective new members to attend at least one club meeting so they can take a look at us and see what we do. The Club's policy of offering "no obligation" attendance at three Club meetings is extremely helpful. The initial visit by a potential member is of course, most critical, but I believe we are a very welcoming and friendly Club and our programme is varied and interesting and I think this is borne out by the substantial increase in membership this year. I am happy to say I have received a number of enquiries from younger aspiring photographers and hope that some of these will be joining us next year.

Our once-monthly workshops have proved to be most popular and are there for all members of the Club, old and new, to enjoy. These workshops are again being held this coming season so I hope everyone will take advantage of them. A lot of work goes into running them.

One of the Club's objectives is to reinforce its position as the leading photographic club in the area and I think we have truly succeeded in doing just that this year. The increasingly high calibre of members' work in league and inter-club competitions has continued to amaze me, some of which has come from our newer members. We are lucky to have amongst us, members who have been very successful this year in national and international competitions and these are to be congratulated as well as being an inspiration to the rest of us. Such successes, together with events such as our very successful Andy Rouse Evening organised by Pat and Melvyn, the Annual Exhibition, the club's activities published in the Chronicle and our very popular and well maintained website, help to raise the profile of the Club and attract new members.

Finally, I would like to thank Andrew for standing in for me and for carrying out my duties today, and look forward to seeing you all at the BBQ in August and again in September for the start of next season.

#### 5.2 Programme Secretary – Arnold Cleaver

This is my fourth and final report as secretary for setting the club programme for the future year.

At the end of the 2007 / 2008 season I can report that the club programme together with several other factors has resulted in an increased membership, bringing a healthier and enjoyable atmosphere to the club.

The highlights of the season have been the Andy Rouse event at the Cramphorn Theatre, excellently arranged by Melvyn, print talks from Hugh Milsom, Roger Hance and Colin Westgate and some excellent judges for our numerous competitions.

The popularity of competitions seems to increase so we introduced a members' audio-visual evening with entries judged by Mike Woolnough, one of the pioneers.

The season of practical evenings moved to the Bell Centre. Great Baddow with better attendance

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and member satisfaction.

The forthcoming season has already been booked and it starts on the 20<sup>th</sup> August with our print exhibition outside the Central Public Library. Note that it is shorter than usual and closes on the 28<sup>th</sup> August. Weekly meetings here will recommence the following week, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Coming attractions include a return visit by Roger Hance with Nature Through the Seasons, Dave Weedon with Evening in the Third Dimension, an evening with Joy and Mike Hancock, and Mike and Ursula Fuller with Island of the Galapagos. Other speakers will present Life in Fleet Street, Safari, The Rockies, New Zealand Flora and Fauna and the Falkland Islands.

Practical evenings will continue each month at the Bell Centre on Thursdays.

You can look forward therefore to receiving your pocket programme in early August for you to plan ahead.

Thank you all for the helpful comments I have received over my period as programme secretary and hope you continue to support the club in the future.

### 5.3 Print Competition Secretary – Colin Birch

#### **League Competition**

There were five competitions in the league this season with 33 people submitting colour prints and 25 submitting mono prints. Entry level was well supported this year with 9 people submitting prints. We averaged 77 prints on each evening which is about as many as a judge can manage and we had to limit the number of prints included to achieve this.

#### **League Mono Prints**

Entry Level was won by Ray Lawrence with an incredible 49 points out of 50 and he moves up to Advanced for next season. Advanced Level was won by Mike Daly and the Premier section by Trevor Burley. There will be 11 members in the Premier section next season.

#### **League Colour Prints**

Entry Level was won by Ray Lawrence and he and John Goodacre move up to Advanced level for next season. Advanced level was won by Mike Daly and the Premier section by Ann Burley. There will be 13 members in the Premier section next season.

#### **Burley Cup**

The Panel of Three competition was well supported and the cup was won by Pat Frewin with a panel entitled "Passing the Time of Day".

#### **Panel of Six**

There were 16 entries judged by Barbie Lindsay and the winner of the Cyril Chorley Memorial Trophy was Colin Birch with a panel entitled "Let Sleeping Dogs Lie".

#### **Annual Awards**

There were 150 prints submitted for the Annual Awards this year which is an increase over the total for last year. This gave the judge, Harold Mousley, quite a bit of work to do but gave rise to an enjoyable evening seeing some very good work.

Many thanks to all those who participated in these competitions, particularly those at Entry Level. The standard of prints was praised by the judges so we had some very good evenings enjoying the competitions. Thanks also to Sheila for manning the laptop and helping me to run the competitions.

### 5.4 Projected Image Secretary – Bruce Gray

#### **Film Slides**

The 2007-2008 season saw a further reduction in participating members. League competitions were supported on most evenings by 10 members including 1 entry level member compared to an average of 12 advanced level members in the previous year. There was a similar reduction in entries to the annual awards with only 8 members submitting a total of 54 slide entries spread across 3 classes compared to 64 across 3 classes in the previous year. Support for the final league competition no.6 collapsed to 7 member entries.

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Congratulations go to Brian Oliver the only entry level competitor. His league score was 45.5 marks which would have been a highly respectable result in the advanced level. In addition, Brian was the winner in class 1 of the annual awards, achieved 2nd place in class 3 of the annual awards and was awarded the President's cup for the best slide overall in the annual awards. It is of no surprise that he moves into the advanced section next year.

The annual award winners for the 2007-2008 season were: -  
Following Current Rules, 7 members will be in the Premier class league next year: Barry Henshaw, Malcolm MacGregor, Colin Birch, Andrew Pickess, Robert Scott, Paul Beko and Pat Frewin.

In view of the high standard of all slide workers and the new proportion of 7 from 10 members being in the Premier league I would suggest that some thought is given to merging slides into a single league as is the current situation with digital entries.

### **Digital Projected Images**

During the 2007-2008 season we had 2 first time events with the introduction of digital images to the annual awards and the hosting by Chelmsford camera club of the first CAPS (Chelmsford Association of Photographic Societies) digital projected image competition. Support for the digital format has been reasonable with 13 members supporting the annual awards with 64 images and between 21 to 25 members submitting work for the 6 league competitions. With this level of support, league competition entries were limited to 2 images per member with the exception of competition no. 6 where, due to the collapse in film slide support, time permitted 3 entries per member.

The majority of digital projected image members are now submitting their work correctly sized within the 1024 X 768 pixel format for which I thank you. Unfortunately, the current league rules requesting the use of metadata for entry details has not been successful and it is obvious that the system of many members cannot cope with these rules. As a result, and if I am re-elected as Projected Image secretary, I would like to adopt for next year the file name format that proved successful for the CAPS competition. i.e. Member number-preference-Title.jpg. Details will be posted on the club web site.

There is only 1 class for digital projected images in the annual awards. The winners were:-  
1st Place Bruce Gray, 2nd Place Paul Beko, 3rd Place Ann Burley.

Similarly there is only 1 level of entry in the league competition. The result was very close this year with competition no 6 determining the final result. Winners after the single lowest mark was deducted from a total of 6 competitions were:- 1st place Bruce Gray 49.5, 2nd place Ann Burley 48, 3rd place Melvyn Frewin 47.5

In conclusion I would like to give a special vote of thanks to my wife Eileen for her assistance in giving titles and keeping the scores in the digital competitions and to Steve Baxter and Colin Birch for projecting the film slides. Finally to all members who have supported the competitions throughout the season.

### **5.5 External Competition Secretary- Pat Frewin**

We have had another very successful year winning 8 out of the 13 competitions that we have entered. This is excellent and is giving Chelmsford Camera Club a very good profile.

The wins were:

Basildon Battle  
Benfleet Battle + Best Mono and Best Colour Print both by Trevor Burley  
CAPS Print Competition + Best Print by Trevor Burley  
Baddow Print Competition  
Essex Inter Club Slide Competition (3rd year running) + Best Slide by Trevor Burley  
ICON 5-Club Battle (4th successive year)  
Braintree Shield  
Maldon Challenge

The best result of the season was coming 3rd in the FAF Slide Championships. which is the highest

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position we have ever achieved at this event. Trevor Burley also received a Judges Award for his slide "Chinese Whispers".

I have decided not to enter the East Anglian Shield from now on due to the distance to be travelled to attend the event.

Halstead Camera Club and Harlow Photographic Society have invited us to enter two new competitions, one in June and the other in October. This takes our External Competitions up to 16.

My thanks go to Colin and Sheila Birch, Barry Collin, Arnold Cleaver, Bruce Gray and Dennis Clarke, who have filled in on competitions for me when I have been away.

It was good to see more support this year from our Club members at the various competitions, hope you will keep it up next year.

Most importantly my thanks go to all of the members who have supplied their excellent work for me to use during the season, you have seen what great results we have had. Keep it coming for next year.

### 5.6 Exhibition and Publicity Officer – Jacqui Wall

I took over the Publicity Officers post in January 2008. After every meeting I have e-mailed a detailed report to the Essex Chronicle news section, but unfortunately not all have been printed. I have since made personal contact with the relevant department and also with the Go section with a view to include advance notice of meetings and special events, commencing in late August to publicise our first meeting of the new year.

*Barry Collin expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the previous officer Simon Bromwich who had to resign from the committee due to his wife's ill health. He was especially thanked for his battling work in getting the exhibition organised and his perseverance with the Essex Chronicle.*

### 5.7 Web Master – Andrew Pickess

The new web site went live at the end of May 2007. This was a major redesign of the site and a tidy up of all the information on the old site. There are now 152 pages on the site.

There have been in the region of 60 updates to the site since then, and new pages have been added for:

Digital AV, Colour management, New products, National Competitions, National Exhibitions, Links to Tutorial Web sites.

3 random images are displayed on the home page.

All league competition tables are now in order .

Scores for members images are now available for external competitions.

The site can now be searched.

The site is number 1 in Google Search, and Google reports that since the end of July 2007 there have been 4300 visits to the site and 31,000 page views. People visit the site from all round the world!!

I have noticed that there are only 15 members' image galleries, this is a photographic club, and I urge more members to submit images for a gallery, ideally 6 to 12 images.

**ACTION:** Set up a private forum for members use. Email all club members when set up.

### 5.8 Chairman – Paul Beko

I have now reached the end of my second season as Chairman.

This time last year Valerie left the Committee after many years service. Tonight it is the turn of Dennis who served as treasurer for a number of years and was my immediate predecessor as Chairman. I can't remember what he did beforehand, all I can say is that he has spent many years of selfless Committee service. He is now retiring to serve on the back benches. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the work that he has done on the Committee over the years.

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This season has been an extremely successful one and last year's membership total of over 70, a club record, has been exceeded this year and now stands at over 80. Every visiting judge and speaker has remarked on the number of people in the audience and the lively atmosphere that they have encountered when coming through the doors.

There have been several factors leading to the club's success, most notably the programme. It has to be said that it got off to a rather shaky start, but subsequently it blossomed with speakers that included Andy Rouse, Colin Westgate, Hugh Milsom and Paul Foley. It was a programme to be proud of. So firstly I would like to thank Melvyn Frewin for organising the successful Andy Rouse evening at the Cramphorn Theatre. Secondly my thanks to Arnold Cleaver for putting such an excellent programme together. It was his last season as Programme Secretary and he should be congratulated.

As far as the remainder of the Committee is concerned, each member of the Committee has worked diligently to meet the interests of the Club and the enjoyment of all its members.

With regard to the general membership I would like to say 'Thank you' for the support that you have given me and to the Club in general. The ambience of the Club has been excellent and newcomers to the Club have clearly enjoyed their experiences because most of them have stayed. You have provided that important friendly welcome. Almost all of you have given your time to serve on that all important tea rota. Furthermore a number of you have volunteered for the reception and raffle duties which provide that initial friendly face to newcomers and underlines the efficiency of the Club. Attendances have generally been high which speaks volumes - the Club is a nice place to come to on a Wednesday evening. So once again 'Thank you'.

### 5.9 Approval of the Treasurer and Officer Reports:

Arnold Cleaver proposed approval of the reports, this was seconded by Ray Bacon. The reports were accepted unanimously.

The Chair changed the running order of the next 2 items as this was more logical.

### 7. Proposed additional subscription charges:

Overseas Membership - £10

Proposed by Dennis Clarke and seconded by Valerie Miles. Accepted with no objections.

Junior/Guardian Membership - £27 for a junior under the age of 16 accompanied by his/her guardian. The junior will be entitled to all rights as a member other than voting, but the guardian will not have such rights or enter competitions.

Proposed by Dennis Clarke and seconded by Steve Docherty. Accepted with no objections (However see 6).

A new concession for new members joining after the 31<sup>st</sup> March who would pay the full relevant subscription but this would also include the whole of the following season as well.

Proposed by Dennis Clarke and seconded by Steve Baxter. Accepted with no objections.

### 6. Year 2008 / 2009 Subscriptions:

The president, Barry Collin, announced that the Committee were proposing that there would be no changes in subscriptions or entrance fee for the next season. This was proposed by Dennis Clarke and seconded by Malcolm MacGregor.

There was then a lengthy debate about Junior under 16 membership, Brian Oliver stated that the club should not penalise under 16 members because they have to be accompanied by a guardian. Brian then proposed that an under 16 member pays £10 and that the guardian pays only the weekly entrance fee. This was seconded by Ray Lawrence, and was accepted unanimously.

It was also agreed that a club member could be nominated as the Guardian by the Junior's legal parent or guardian on any particular club night, but that the chairman on the evening must be notified. If the Junior Member leaves before the end of the evening then that must also be similarly notified.

The chair then proposed that the 2008-2009 annual subscriptions should be:

Members £27. Family Members £44. Senior Citizens £22. Unemployed and Junior/Student

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Members £10, Overseas Members £10,  
and that the weekly attendance fee should be £1.60.  
This was seconded by Malcolm MacGregor and passed unanimously.

### **8. Presidents Remarks – Barry Collin**

Paul has thanked many who rightly deserve our thanks and I would like to add my thanks to Paul for his second year as Chairman, and also to his wife Sue for all those teas, coffees and tasty biscuits provided on committee evenings.

Th has been a great year for successes both for individual Members and for the club: Veronica Rice has gained a CPAGB distinction, and many members have gained acceptances and medals in National and International Exhibitions, and in this connection particular mention must be made to the Burley family.

Also I was pleased to see some new names succeeding in the lists for both League and Annual Awards.

Yet again, the Club has won 8 out of 13 external competitions, and in 3 of those the club won Best Print or Slide. Our thanks go to those Members who submitted pictures for selection and to Pat Frewin for her untiring work as External Competition Secretary and for taking along all our entries to clubs all around the area.

No club can exist without a programme, and I congratulate Arnold for another varied and interesting season. He has already arranged the speakers for our 2008-2009 programme and handed over to Melvyn Frewin, the new Programme Secretary, who is arranging next seasons judges and is already working on the 2009 / 2010 season.

Dennis Clarke is now retiring as a committee member after 10 years serving the club, including 3 years as chairman and 4 years as treasurer. I thank him for his work and wish him well in the future as a backbencher.

Let's not forget those Members who all sit on reception, sell raffle tickets and make the teas. And I would like to thank Pat and Melvyn Frewin for hosting last summer's BBQ and for inviting us to another one in 2008.

We have continued to gain quite a few new members, which again is due in no small way to the warm and friendly atmosphere that greets us on our arrival, fostered admirably by Sheila Binns.

so, I wish the club well in the coming year and hope to see you all here again in a year's time after another successful season.

### **9. Proposal to judge all Slide competitions in one category.**

There are now only 10 members entering slide competitions, and under current rules there would be 7 Premier and 3 Advanced.

It was agreed that the Premier Plate would be the only award and the Advanced and Entry level trophies would be retired.

It was also agreed that this should be reviewed annually in light of the dwindling number of slide entrants.

### **10. Election of the President and Vice Presidents.**

President:  
Barry Collin (Proposed by Paul Beko)

Vice Presidents:  
John Daniels (Proposed by Veronica Rice)  
Pat Freeman (Proposed by Bruce Gray)  
Peter Lemin (Proposed by Arnold Cleaver)  
Terry Ruggles (Proposed by Barry Collin)

Seconded en-bloc by Arnold Cleaver and accepted unanimously.

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### **11. Election of Officers and Ordinary Committee Membership**

Chairman - Paul Beko - Proposed by – Dennis Clarke  
Vice Chairman - Bruce Gray - Proposed by – Paul Beko  
Secretary - Veronica Rice - Proposed by – Paul Beko  
Treasurer - Andrew Pickess - Proposed by – Barry Collin  
Programme Secretary - Melvyn Frewin - Proposed by – John Fildes  
Print Competition Secretary - Colin Birch - Proposed by – John Fildes  
External Competition Secretary - Pat Frewin - Proposed by – Dennis Clarke  
Projected Image Competition Secretary - Bruce Gray - Proposed by – Veronica Rice  
Exhibition & Publicity Officer - Jackie Wall – Proposed by – Bruce Gray  
Committee Member - Sheila Binns - Proposed by – Andrew Pickess  
Committee Member - Arnold Cleaver - Proposed by – Veronica Rice  
Committee Member - John Fildes - Proposed by – Barry Collin  
Committee Member - Ann Vine - Proposed by – Paul Beko

Seconded en-bloc by Peter Herries and accepted unanimously.

### **12. Election of Honorary Auditor**

Ron Gregory has indicated that he is willing to continue in this role. Proposed by Dennis Clarke and seconded by Jack Miles, and accepted unanimously.

### **13. Any Other Business**

Arnold Cleaver reminded members of the Summer Outing to Sudbury on the 6<sup>th</sup> July.

### **There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm**

The AGM was followed by the presentation of the "Nice Cup" by the President. Awarded for Meritorious (sic) service to the Club; so named after Ron Nice erstwhile manager of the Chelmsford Camera Shop.

Traditionally given to a Member who has given service well above the call of duty. It is not awarded every year, because often it would be unfair to single out one individual from many who work hard for the Club.

The President, Chairman and Secretary have the pleasant choice of who should receive the award, and we are unanimous this year in honouring Melvyn Frewin for his hard work in organising the Andy Rouse event at the Cramphorn Theatre. Not only was it hard work, but a very successful evening for everyone attending, and of course it made a tidy sum for Club funds.

Rarely, it falls to the President, on behalf of all Members, to present Honorary Life Membership to someone for very special service to the Club.

The committee are unanimous in awarding this rare honour to a current Member - someone who was on the committee when I joined in 1991 but had joined the Club long before that, and has certainly served on the committee for most years since that date as well as many years before; in that time undertaking some of the more arduous tasks that befall members of the committee.

For 'Recognition of Support and Loyalty as Member and Officer' therefore, it gives us great pleasure to present this to Valerie Miles who, we hope, we shall continue to see as an Honorary Member for many years to come.

The league trophies were then presented to this year's winners.