

# Chelmsford Camera Club

**Annual General Meeting for the year 2011/2012  
held at Moulsham Mill, Chelmsford at 19.30  
on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012.**

## **Those Present:**

Alan Cook, Alan Shipperlee, Alan Watts, Alec Fraser, Andrew Pickess, Ann Burley, Arnold Cleaver, Barry Collin, Barry Henshaw, Bill Coles, Brigitte Whiteing, Bruce Gray, Clare Price, Colin Birch, Derrick Cutts, Dorothy Chorley, John Goodacre, John Shears, John Story, John Wheeler, Konrad Borysiuk, Melvyn Frewin, Mike Brown Pat Frewin, Paul Griffiths, Peter Herries, Phil Voyez, Ray Bacon, Richard Stevens, Sheila Birch, Steve Langridge, Tom Peacock, Tony Cockrell, Tony Mansfield.

## 1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies received from or on behalf of Dave Steward, Veronica Rice, Nick Burley and Trevor Burley.

## 2. **Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

There being no objections, the Minutes of the previous AGM were approved by the Meeting and signed by the President, Barry Collin.

## 3. **Matters arising from those minutes**

A demonstration of cleaning SLR sensors had been volunteered by Barry Collin but in the event there was no requirement as this had not requested by any members.

## 4. **Treasurer's report and presentation and approval of the annual accounts**

### **Treasurer's Report: Andrew Pickess**

The Club's membership dropped to 83 members plus 5 honorary life members. We lost some members again during the summer break and only attracted 8 new members during the season. We are averaging 48 members each Wednesday evening (50 to Christmas, 45 since), a drop of 1 on last season. 17 (32 last year) other potential members came along, 15 only once and failed to join the club.

A drop of 8 members doesn't sound very much but that could cost the club £240 in subs, £420 in weekly fees, and £210 in raffle takings a total of £870.

The club remains financially viable, and the committee has set a reserve of £5,000 that the club funds should not fall below, we are now within £500 of that target. We have ended the year with a deficit (£721) for what is now three seasons in a row and with much of next year's expenditure already committed with regard to judges and speakers we need to take action to ensure that this situation is reversed for the following year.

Judges and speakers show an increase of £280 due to some excellent speakers and judges that Melvyn has arranged for us and increases in travel costs. No equipment was purchased and there weren't any significant changes to any of the main income or expenditure headings during the year.

There is a proposal on the agenda for no increase in the annual membership fees, but a re-introduction of the £1 fee for the Thursday practical evenings.

I would like to thank Keith Tufnell for auditing the accounts and Keith has indicated is willing to audit the accounts again next year.

I have a detailed breakdown of the accounts available if any one has any questions.

*Points arising from the above:*

Andrew Pickess gave a brief outline of the Accounts and invited questions from members.

Tom Peacock asked why the cost of cup engraving had increased. There are several factors- new cups now included which means more engraving, also the cost per letter has gone up.

John Shears remarked that overall costs had remained approximately level. AP agreed and explained this was due to loss of members.

Tom Peacock commented that the age profile of the Club is "advanced" and asked how do we attract younger members?

In discussion about how knowledge is passed on to new/younger members, Ann Burley commented that we learn a lot from judges! Bruce Gray and Barry Collin remarked that there was little response by members to offers of mentoring from Committee volunteers. Tom Peacock commented that we don't teach people how to work the menus on their cameras. Clare Price stated that she has in fact benefited very much from mentoring (by Pat and Melvin). Clare's previous club ran lots of practical /tuition sessions and they were poorly attended. Barry Collin had also mentored Ann Vine in mounting prints.

Andrew Pickess reported the Committee decision to drop the Camera World £10 voucher from the raffle next season. Steve Langridge suggested a cash prize of £10? instead.

Ann Burley questioned whether it was necessary to subsidise the Annual BBQ and why should members not pay in full? Andrew replied that we have introduced the charge which has reduced the subsidy and the BBQ is a popular attraction.

Richard Stevens remarked that the Bell Centre evenings are "fantastic" and should be continued even if there was a cost to the club.

Alan Watts commented that the sound system seems too elaborate. Members spoke about "all in one" audio systems. Andrew Pickess stated that the opportunity will be taken for the present system to be overhauled before the start of the next season without spending money.

Barry Collin spoke about the new screen planned to be installed by the Club in the Conference Room during the summer break to which CCC will have exclusive access. This was now necessary because of the poor state of the old screen, which will remain in place behind the new one. Barry explained that there is general usage of the present screen because the Mill had contributed half of its cost.

Clare Price asked what more the Club could do in order to try and break even financially.

The Joe Cornish event in October should realise a few hundred pounds profit. Tom Peacock asked if the cancellation of the Will Cheung talk had caused a major impact- however in reply AP stated that this had been planned to more or less break even.

Tom Peacock asked if we co-ordinate a tour for a speaker between clubs to save money? Melvin stated that we sometimes succeed with this but not often, eg Steven le Prevost was "shared" in this way but Chelmsford had to pay for his hotel accommodation and drive him to Stansted.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Clare Price, seconded by John Shears and Carried, nem con.

Thanks were expressed to Andrew Pickess and also to be passed on to the auditor. It was proposed and agreed that the auditor should receive a bottle of wine paid for by Club funds.

## 5. Officers' reports:

(Proposed by the President that the reports be dealt with in their entirety and then voted upon at the end of the final report).

### 5.1 Secretary's report: Alec Fraser

Having been "recruited" into the job at short notice last year has meant a steep learning curve, and I would like to thank Annie, Barry, Bruce, and the rest of the Committee for their help and patience this last season.

Apart from the normal duties of taking minutes of Committee and AGM meetings I have received lots of potential membership queries by telephone and also by email through the Club website, and have answered almost all those received (gremlins caused some to go missing at first) and encouraged them to visit on Club evenings.

Reception have been warned when we were expecting visitors/new members and I have tried to talk to them all on arrival, in addition to the constant good work by the shepherd(ess). Thanks to Marion and all those members who make this a friendly and welcoming club.

Lots of other information constantly comes in and the important stuff goes on the notice board- some filtering is necessary.

Annie's initiative of tracking print box orders has also been continued.

*(There were no comments or questions on this report)*

### 5.2 Programme Secretary's report: Melvin Frewin

The 2011-2012 season included a selection of prestige speakers, which included Patricia Jones, Steven Le Prevost, David Keith Jones and Gavin Hoey which, I hope you, the members, enjoyed seeing.

We had two cancellations by judges or speakers; generally I feel that the speakers proved to be excellent which resulted in a good balanced programme. Some of the judges proved to be a mixed bag with varying degrees of success.

The committee has again agreed to allow me to spend more money for prestige speakers for the 2012 – 2013 season, which I have done.

These include "Extreme Landscapes" with Hugh Milsom. FRPS. MFIAP & Pat Broad. LRPS, "Close up Macro & Nature Photography" by Daniel Bridge". "Simply Passion & Good Fortune" by Paul Foley. FRPS.MPAGB.EFIAP., Gavin Hoey, & to celebrate the clubs 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary the "**Return of Joe Cornish" at the Cramphorn Theatre on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

(There will be no club night at the Mill on that evening) The tickets are on sale from the Cramphorn Theatre box office.

**Due to the huge increase in fuel prices virtually all of the Judges and Speakers have increased their fees again this year by approx. 50%, which will put an even larger burden on club funds than the previous season.**

I have invited a varied list of judges for the new season some who you will have seen before and some new ones to the club.

There will be seven practical evenings on a Thursday at the Bell Centre, Baddow. The subjects for the evenings will be displayed on the club website.

The new programme for 2012 – 2013 season is complete and it is hoped to have copies printed ready for the annual BBQ on the 11<sup>th</sup> August.

Should any member have any ideas they would like to put to me as to regards lectures or demonstration evenings please let me know and we will try to implement them in future seasons if possible.

#### *Points arising from Programme Secretary's report –*

There is an ongoing Committee action to invite Tony Rye to give a talk when this can be fitted in. Melvin confirmed he will bear this in mind and although the 2012-2013 programme is now complete, this will not be forgotten.

Colin Birch noted that the first practical evenings of the Summer programme at the Bell centre are 21st June, and 19th July. Topics will be emailed to members.

### **5.3 Print Secretary's Report: Colin Birch**

#### **League**

There were six competitions in the league this season with 34 people submitting colour prints and 25 submitting mono prints. The average entry for a competition was 75 prints. Two competitions were themed with 'Creative' and 'The Market' as the chosen themes. This year, the Advanced and Premier sections were judged separately. This worked well and resulted in more clarity in the closely fought competitions.

#### **League Mono**

Premier	1 <sup>st</sup>	Barry Henshaw	47.5 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ann Burley	46.5 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bruce Gray	46 points
Advanced	=1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike Brown	45 points
	=1 <sup>st</sup>	Ray Lawrence	45 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Veronica Rice	43.5 points
Entry	1 <sup>st</sup>	Bill Coles	46.5 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Andy Jones	46 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alan Watts	8.5 points

Dennis Clarke moves down to Advanced, no one moves up to Premier as the threshold of 47 points was not achieved, and Bill Coles and Andy Jones move up to Advanced.

#### **League Colour**

Premier	1 <sup>st</sup>	Bruce Gray	47.5 points
	=2 <sup>nd</sup>	Trevor Burley	46 points
	=2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pat Frewin	46 points
Advanced	1 <sup>st</sup>	Clare Price	47.5 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barry Collin	47 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mike Brown	46.5 points
Entry	1 <sup>st</sup>	Dave Steward	47 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Alan Watts	42.5 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thomas Fenwick	16 points

Derrick Cutts and Jackie Bale move down to Advanced, Clare Price and Barry Collin move up to Premier, and Dave Steward and Alan Watts move up to Advanced.

#### **Burley Cup**

The competition for the best panel of three prints drew an entry of 17 panels. It was won by Colin Birch with a panel entitled Pink Veined Amaryllis. Pat Frewin was second with Salt Crystals and Ray Lawrence third with Tawny Owl.

#### **Panel of Six**

The Cyril Chorley Memorial Trophy for the best panel of six prints was won by Tom Peacock with a panel entitled Macro Light Painting and featuring a model car. Second was Malcolm MacGregor with Leopard Life and third was Bruce Gray with Oyster Dredging Match. The competition was well supported with 13 panels entered.

#### **Annual Awards**

There were 200 prints submitted and they were judged by Barbie Lindsay who praised the standard of entries. Cup winners with their winning prints were as follows:

Mono Prints	Class 1	Bill Coles	Hadleigh Castle
	Class 2	Andy Jones	The Contender
	Class 3	Veronica Rice	Mating Lions
	Best Entry Level	Bill Coles	Hadleigh Castle
	Best Mono Print	Bill Coles	Hadleigh Castle
Colour Prints	Class 1	Trevor Burley	Paying Respect

Class 2	Ann Burley	Little Orphan
Class 3	Ray Lawrence	Kestrel (falco tinnunculus)
Best Entry Level	Dave Steward	Battlesbridge Sunrise
Best Colour Print	Trevor Burley	Paying Respect

Following a vote by the members, the President's Cup for the Best Image of the Year was won by Bill Coles with his picture of Hadleigh Castle.

### Galleries

I would like to thank members who loaned their prints for the displays at Broomfield Hospital and Essex County Council.

I would also like to say thanks to all members who participated in all the competitions and to Sheila who manned the laptop and helped to organise them.

#### *Points arising from this report:*

Ann Burley asked about themes for next season: for Print Themes- Does the definition of "Landscape" exclude seascapes? What about "intimate" landscapes? Tom Peacock requested that a clearer definition of landscapes be provided.

Action: Print Secretary

### **5.4 Digital Projected Image Secretary's Report: Tony Cockrell**

#### **League**

The season consisted once again of six competitions, two of which were themed subjects "On the Beach" and "Creative".

The average number of images entered for each competition was 69 and members entering averaged 27.

Premier Level	1 <sup>st</sup> Colin Birch	48.0 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Barry Collin	47.5 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Veronica Rice	46.5 points
	Bruce Gray	46.5 points
Advance Level	1 <sup>st</sup> Brigitte Whiteing	46.5 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Greg Keeling	46.0 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Clare Price	45.5 points
Entry Level	1 <sup>st</sup> Dave Steward	50.0 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Marnie Smith	43.0 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mike Brown	41.5 points

As can be seen from the results a very closely fought competition, and congratulations to Dave Steward on scoring maximum 50 points.

Entry Level members moving up to Advance Level :-

Dave Steward  
Marnie Smith  
Mike Brown

Advance Level members moving up to Premier Level :-

Brigitte Whiteing  
Greg Keeling  
Clare Price

Steve Langridge  
Isabella Knight

Premier Level for 2012 – 2013 Season :-

Collin Birch, Barry Collin, Veronica Rice, Bruce Gray, Malcolm MacGregor, Ray Lawrence, David Bishop, Annie Ringland, Andrew Pickess, Brigitte Whiteing, Greg Keeling, Clare Price, Steve Langridge, Isabella Knight.

### **Annual Awards**

Nineteen members entered this season's competition.

Class 1. 75 images 19 members

Class 2. 20 images 7 members

Class 3. 32 images 13 members

Total 127 images

Down by 2 members and 38 less images from last season.

### **Awards**

Class 1. Creative / Pictorial	3 <sup>rd</sup> David Heath 2 <sup>nd</sup> David Heath 1 <sup>st</sup> Dave Steward	Joy They shall grow not old Number 33 is Running Second
Class 2. Portrait	3 <sup>rd</sup> Steve Langridge 2 <sup>nd</sup> Greg Keeling 1 <sup>st</sup> Greg Keeling	Katie B Heidi singing at the Junction Studio Portrait
Class 3. Record / Natural History	3 <sup>rd</sup> Veronica Rice 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dave Steward 1 <sup>st</sup> Mike Brown	Curious Maasai Giraffe Northern Gannet with Nest Material Dolphins in Queen Charlotte Sound
Best Entry Level	Dave Steward	Number 33 is Running Second
Best DPI Overall	Dave Steward	Number 33 is Running Second

Before closing I would like to thank Brigitte Whiteing for her help in recording the league scores and Andrew Pickess for sorting out the problems with projector and laptop.  
Look forward to seeing more new faces entering the DPI competitions next season.

*Points Arising from this Report:* Tony added that for the 2012-2013 season the themes for PDI will be "creative" and "song or film titles" There were no questions from members.

### **5.5 External Competition Secretary's Report: Pat Frewin**

We have had a very good season, gaining 6 – 1<sup>st</sup> positions, 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> places, and obtained 5 individual awards, out of the 12 competitions that we entered.

#### **Results:**

**PAGB PDI Championships:** - 9<sup>th</sup> of 26 clubs in the Plate Competition. 19<sup>th</sup> out of 36 clubs Nationwide.

**Colchester 8 x 8 Competition:** This is new this season, having to submit 8 prints from 8 different authors. Chelmsford came 1<sup>st</sup> of the 8 clubs + Best Print award for “Young Monk, Kyaukme” by Ann Burley.

**Benfleet Battle:** ( 10 mono & 10 colour) Chelmsford beat Benfleet scoring 175 to their 171.5 marks. We also won the Best C/Print for “Paying Respect” by Trevor Burley.

**ICON Inter Club:** - ( 9 prints) – Chelmsford came 1<sup>st</sup> of 5 clubs. Winning by a clear 11 marks.

**Baddow Print Competition:** - Chelmsford came 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 9 clubs, losing by ½ a mark.

**CAPS Print Competition:** - ( 6 prints) – Chelmsford came 1<sup>st</sup> out of 7 clubs. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year we have won this award. The Best Print was awarded to “Young Monk, Kyaukme” by Ann Burley.

**Cambridge Digital Competition:** - This is a new competition this season and Chelmsford did very well to come 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 37 clubs in the East Anglia region.

**Essex Inter Club:** ( 6 digital images) – Chelmsford came 1<sup>st</sup> of 9 clubs, a very good result.

**EAF Print Championships:** (25 prints) – Chelmsford came 7<sup>th</sup> out of 25 clubs in the East Anglia region.

**EAF PDI Championships:** (25 digital) – Chelmsford came 9<sup>th</sup> out of 38 clubs taking part. 9 club members came with us, which is a very good turnout to support the club.

**Braintree Shield:** (6 Mono prints) – Chelmsford came 1<sup>st</sup> of 12 clubs. This is a very good result as there was a lot of excellent work shown.

**CAPS Digital Competition:** - (7Digital) – Chelmsford came 2<sup>nd</sup> of 8 clubs. The Best Image was awarded to “Dogged Determination” by Ray Lawrence.

**Maldon Challenge:** (8 Mono prints + 6 PDI) – Unfortunate result for this competition, only being placed 10<sup>th</sup> out of 14 clubs. On the plus side Andy Jones received a Meritorious award for his print “Carpenter, Jamaica”.

I am pleased that this season I have been able to use numerous new members’ work for the external competitions, and some of these have received recognition for their good images. I thank all the members that provide me with their work, and all the cooperation I get from them.

My thanks go to Colin & Sheila who cover some competitions while I am away and to Tony for his help on the PDI competitions.

I am pleased to say I have had a lot of members who regularly come and support the club, which is great, and looks very good for the club.

Lastly I would like to thank Barry & Bruce for their excellent service as President & Chairman. They will be greatly missed.

Your task over the next few months is to find some images for the CAPS PDI competition. The themes are: The Coast, Up Close, and Street Photography.

#### *Points Arising from this Report:*

Tony Mansfield asked why do we not line up the internal themes with CAPS? Pat replied that we could change but CAPS comes too late for the preparation of the Chelmsford CC programme and the winning club chooses the themes for the next year. Ann Burley asked why do we not change? President Barry Collin stated that as the committee has chosen the themes for the year according to established procedure, the chosen themes will remain in place for this season. In future it would be possible, if so decided, that Members could come up with these themes. Clare Price pointed out that this is the method at Springfield Camera Club.

#### **5.6 Exhibition and Publicity Officer’s report: Bill Coles (notes taken from report delivered verbally)**

Annual Exhibition at Chelmsford Library:

A total of 99 prints were shown last year. This year the dates of the Exhibition are August 12th to 26<sup>th</sup>. This year for the first time the new selection procedure was adopted, selection being done in a Thursday meeting at meeting at the Bell Centre. A panel of 5 judges decided from those put forward by members and the outcome is that the number of prints is similar to last year.

Volunteers to man the exhibition will be canvassed at Pub nights during the summer and at and the BBQ. Bill Coles anticipates taking on a new Committee role next season, and when a successor is in place for the Exhibition role Bill will carry out a hand over. Bill is still planning to continue with the Essex Chronicle reports.

Bill believes that this Exhibition is a good way to get new members, but does need lots of members to man it.

*Points arising from this report:*

Tony Mansfield asked when a rota would be available for manning the Exhibition, for members to sign up. Barry Collin said that there was normally good feedback from the exhibition but this was not being reflected in recruitment of new members. Tony Mansfield pointed out that the high standard of prints on show can actually put people off! Ann Burley: we see lots of exhibitions and we do outshine the others! Tony Mansfield: we should still encourage our own people to come and say 'none of the members was that good to begin with'. Alan Watts: we should use the Exhibition to explain what we do and the benefits of joining. Ann Burley pointed out that there is a notice board at the Exhibition to explain the Club and what it does.

Exhibition Posters to be Updated- to be on Agenda for next Committee Meeting

Action: Colin Birch

Benefits of Membership Poster: This will be picked up at next Committee Meeting

Action: Colin Birch

Alan Cooke: Speaking as a new member quality is superb and off putting! Barbie Lindsay at the Annual awards was fabulous value- she deconstructed the pictures and gave advice that a beginner would not think of. His daughter has a good camera which not used much and she could be put off coming by the high standards. He suggested a panel at the Exhibition with simple steps showing how beginners can progress. Action to produce single sheet handout will be allocated at next Committee Meeting

Action: Colin Birch

Tom Peacock: had never had a call though he offered to man the exhibition at short notice. Suggested a sheet with a few points for prospective members with encourage them to come to the Club. TP offers to help. Alan Watts had not heard about mentors- could allocate helpers for new members! Action to organise mentors for new members will be allocated at next Committee Meeting

Action: Colin Birch

### **5.7 Webmaster's Report: Andrew Pickess**

New features this year:

- Scrolling Images on the Home Page
- List of update pages on the Home Page
- A news feed on the Home Page
- A page of links to Speakers websites
- A page listing all those members who have Flickr accounts, if you are a Flickr user then let me know.

I regularly look at other club sites for other ideas.

Usage of the site is quite high:

- Visits: 6,370
- Unique Visitors: 3,522
- Page views: 25,241
- Pages/Visit: 3.96
- of the visitors



- 63% came from a search engine
  - Get as far as typing “Chelmsford Cam” into Google and the site is at the top of the list.
- 11% referred from another site
- 26% came directly to the site

With ever increasing use of mobile technology I'll be concentrating on ensuring the site does work on mobile devices together with a specific mobile site which will have limited functionality but will still link to the main site.

I'll repeat what I say each year, this is your website, it's a photographic website, but only 22 members have a gallery of their images – just email 6 of your favourite images to [webmaster@chelmsfordcameraclub.info](mailto:webmaster@chelmsfordcameraclub.info) and I'll add them to the gallery section.

Any new ideas for the site then just let me know.

*Points arising from this report:*

Andrew commented as follows: improvements to the website include links to flickr pages as requested. Out of 6,370 visits 63% came from a search engine. He has ensured that the site works on mobile devices!

Only 22 members out of 83 have a gallery on the site! Tom Peacock asked if it was possible to provide links to the judges from next year's programme? AP: we are doing it for speakers already, and also as the judges become known and have websites. Judges tend to be more difficult. MF: Judges all get the letter regarding the applicable themes but often don't read it.

## 5.8 Chairman's Report: Bruce Gray

The 2011/2012 season has been another successful season for the club. Membership numbers have continued to fall slightly but are still healthy. In a recent questionnaire to you the members, you were fairly evenly split in what you liked the most between Guest speakers, Competitions and Workshops. Your committee has taken on board what you liked the least, which appeared to be CD exhibition recorded evenings, and next seasons programme will reflect this.

As chairman, I am aware of all the hard work carried out by your committee in ensuring that the club functions smoothly and I would like to thank them all for their hard work and support. Our president, Barry Colin, is retiring from that role this year and I would like to thank him for his past support for me as chairman and for exercising a steadying influence on past committees for as long as I have been a member of the club. I would also like to thank Pat and Melvyn Frewin for hosting what has now become a regular summer highlight -namely the club Barbecue. It causes Pat a few anxious moments each year and Melvyn has to have his apron washed and pressed for his role with the cooking.

It is 3 years since I was first voted to become your chairman and I must state that I have thoroughly enjoyed the role of being at the helm of such a club as Chelmsford. However, the time has now come for me to step down and I am sure that I leave the club in safe hands with Colin Birch as the candidate for your next chairman. I wish the club every success in the future and look forward to enjoying my photography from the back benches next season.

Barry Collin moved the acceptance of the above reports.

Proposer: Tom Peacock. Seconder: Peter Herries.

**Carried nem con**

## **6. Year 2012/2013 subscriptions.**

“The Committee proposes that the 2012/2013 subscriptions should be as follows: Annual membership £30, Concessionary membership £25, Family membership £50; Junior/Student membership in full time education under the age of 21: £10, Overseas Member £10; normal Wednesday entrance fee £1.50 and the evening workshops £1.00.”

Tony Mansfield : Financially we are sailing close to the wind- do we need to put the sub up to get £100 per member? Colin Birch: several things were previously withdrawn which were put in place because we had too much money at the time- we are not in a crisis situation. Barry Collin recalled the Treasurer’s statement that 8 lost members causes the club funds to be down by £800.

Clare Price proposed an increase of an extra £5 to the membership fee. Tom Peacock countered that this was too much and proposed instead that weekly subs should go up by 50 pence.

Sheila Birch: increase of membership fee could discourage people. Andrew Pickess: Increasing Annual Subs by £5 would give £400 extra revenue in a season; putting weekly subs up to £2 would give us £700. Alan Cooke: Why is the proposed subscription for the Bell evenings half the price of the weekly meetings at the Mill? Where would you get 2 hours tuition for £1? Barry Collin remarked that the only cost for these evenings is £18 for the hire of the hall.

**Amendment proposal 1:** All 3 increases: £5 on Annual membership, weekly subs £2, Bell £1

Proposed by Clare Price, No seconder. **Motion failed.**

**Amendment Proposal 2:** Annual sub to remain the same, Wednesday evenings increase to £2.00, Thursdays at the Bell: subs £1

Proposed by Tom Peacock, seconded by Ann Burley. 13 voted in favour, 10 against. **Motion Carried**

**Amendment Proposal 3:**

As for Proposal 2, plus Subs for Bell centre imposed at £2.00 Motion moved by Barry Collin, proposer Richard Stevens, seconder Andrew Pickess.

Voting by members: 3 in favour, 15 against. **Motion defeated.**

Subs for Committee consideration for 2012-2013 will be in line with Proposal 2

Weekly entrance Subs to be set to £2 and Monthly Baddow sessions to £1

Necessary actions to be delegated at next Committee Meeting

Action: Colin Birch

## **7. President's remarks: Barry Collin**

After 14 years as President, I think it's time to step down and make way for someone else. I have served for 20 years on the committee, during which time I have held 33 jobs – which means that for most years I have carried out two duties, such as: four years as both Chairman & Treasurer, five years as both President & Programme Secretary and 3 years as both President & Webmaster. I wish to thank not only all those who have served on the committee during this season, but all the committees I have known over the years; they all do a lot of work for the club behind the scenes, and spend many hours of their free time for our benefit.

I would like to make special mention of Bruce who has made an excellent Chairman over the last 3 years – and whilst being a full-time carer for Eileen.

I looked back over some of my notes and found the club's first digital entry:

26<sup>th</sup> November 1997; Bernard Turnbull was here judging a print competition that evening and my note reads

"2 firsts tonight – digital imaging and wife swapping". Sadly I did not note who the participants were.

Talking of judges: you may think some are poor, but you should have been here in the 90s!

Here are a few of my comments:

"Excruciatingly boring".

"All the usual stuff; uninspiring; much better when told to hurry up; not afraid to say 'breast' and 'nipple'".

"Man with false teeth and few words; wanted to be off home by 9pm; everything was 'nice' or 'quite nice'"

"Old boy in a purple suit, yellow jumper, brown shoes and no teeth; judges to a formula that hasn't changed for 40 years; didn't remember a single title."

And one judge used to say: "You need some ripples in the still water – try throwing your mother-in-law in."

I have hundreds of these – I could write a book – but, to be fair, I've probably picked out a few of the worst. So, I won't take up any more of your time and we'll move on to the elections.

## **8. Election of the President.**

There was one nomination for this position: Melvin Frewin

Proposer: Colin Birch, Seconder: Ray Bacon.

## **Carried nem con**

## **9. Election of Officers and Ordinary Committee Members.**

Nominations as follows:

Chairman: Colin Birch

Vice- Chairman: Pat Frewin

Secretary: Alec Fraser

Treasurer: Andrew Pickess

Programme Secretary: Melvin Frewin

Print Secretary: Bill Coles

PDI Secretary: Tony Cockrell

External Comp secretary: Pat Frewin

Assistant treasurer: Clare Price

Exhibition & publicity: Alan Watts

Committee Member (Sound): Dave Steward

Committee Member (Meet and Greet): Clare Price

Committee member: Alan Shipperlee

All properly nominated and in the hands of the chairman prior to the meeting prior to the meeting as per nominations list.

This was put to the vote: Proposer Tom Peacock. Seconder: Peter Herries

**Result: Carried, nem con.**

This left one vacancy on the Committee. For which Ann Burley was nominated at the meeting by Bruce Gray and Alan Watts.

Put to the vote- Proposer: Clare Price, Seconder: Ray Bacon

**Result: Carried, nem con**

10. Election of Honorary Auditor.

Keith Walters was proposed by Andrew Pickess and seconded by Melvin Frewin

**Result: Carried, nem con**

11. Any other business.

Ann Burley proposed that Themes for competitions should be abandoned with immediate effect, including the forthcoming 2012-3 season.

The reason was the poor record of judges in comprehending the theme or in sticking to it consistently over the course of an evening's competition judging. This had caused considerable frustration among members at all levels.

Barry Collin stated that it was not a new problem and the Committee had carefully selected themes which were wide to take this into account. In support, Clare Price cited the recent example where the theme was "The Market". The judge was inconsistent, starting with a very narrow definition and changed later in the evening. Tom Peacock asked - can we have a precise definition of the themes eg of a landscape. Tony Mansfield: in the panel of 6 competition the judge had been inconsistent with the treatment of panels rather than any particular theme. He had started by saying that a panel should tell a story, then changed later in the evening, saying that the prints only needed to be related in some way.

Barry Collin ruled that the themes had already been decided for next season and the topic should be taken up in next committee meeting for future reference. He requested the views of the members as to how themes could be applied and consistency enforced. For example, should competition marks be split- 5 marks for theme 5 marks for quality? Ann Burley said that an image should get zero marks if it does not meet the theme. Barry Collin remarked that to achieve that the Competition secretary would have to weed out those that do not fit, the danger being that we could lose members!

Action to consider marking of Themed Competitions- to be on Agenda for next Committee Meeting

Action: Colin Birch

Action to consider future of Themed Competitions- to be on Agenda for next Committee Meeting

Action: Colin Birch

Tom Peacock: There should be a definition of the topic on a website. Derrick Cutts : It is not the place of the Comp secretary to make the decision to reject an image.

Action to produce Definitions of Themes for Website and reference of Members- to be on Agenda for next Committee Meeting

Action: Colin Birch

Ann Burley asked again if it is too late not to have themes for this season. Finally it was put to an informal vote, but to be applied to the following season as a recommendation from the members to the committee.

On a show of hands (no themes included in the league) 12 for, 15 against.

**AOB Unscheduled** : Presentations were made to Bruce and Barry by Colin Birch and Melvyn Frewin in grateful recognition of their long and distinguished service to the Club, which is well known and much appreciated by all the members..

12. Presentation of the Nice Cup for meritorious service to the Club during 2011-2012 season

Barry Collin made the following statement in support of the award:

This year, your President, Chairman and Secretary, have decided to award the Nice Cup to Sheila Birch.

Sheila, who is not a member of the committee, single handed and without being asked, took it upon herself to rescue the organisation of the tea and reception from the time of our Christmas social until the end of the season.

Organisation of our interval refreshments provides an important social aspect of our club meetings and without her intervention it is likely that refreshments at club meetings would now be a thing of the past.

13. Presentation of the League Awards.

**President's Cup for Best Image: Bill Coles "Hadley Castle"**

**Monochrome Prints:**

Entry level: Bill Coles

Advanced level: Mike Brown/ Ray Lawrence

Premier level: Barry Henshaw

Colour Prints: Entry Level: Dave Steward

Advanced Level: Clare Price

Premier Level: Bruce Gray

**DPI:**

Entry Level: Dave Steward

Advanced Level: Brigitte Whiteing

Premier Level: Colin Birch

At 10.05 Barry Collin declared that the business of the 2012 AGM had been concluded and formally handed over his President's badge of office to Melvin Frewin.

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