

# Chelmsford Camera Club

## Annual General Meeting for the year 2015/2016 Held at Moulsham Mill, Chelmsford at 19.30 on Wednesday 18th May 2016.

### Minutes

#### Those Present:

Alec Fraser, Alison Johnson, Andrew Pickess, Annie Ringland, Ben Dayer, Bob French, Bob Pollard, Brian Purdy, Brigitte Whiteing, Bruce Gray, Charles Shearer, Chris Hackett, Clare Price, Colin Birch, Colin Slemp, David Bishop, David Bladon, David Clark, David Heath, David Steward, David Whiteing, Elaine Butcher, Greg Keeling, Heather Tabor, John Goodacre, John Shears, John Story, Jonathon Banks, Konrad Borysiuk, Les Mann, Mark Taylor, Melvyn Frewin, Mike Crack, Mike Rose, Pat Frewin, Paul Griffiths, Peter Tachauer, Ron Gregory, Steve Birch, Steve Murray, Tony Mansfield, Trevor Sadowski, Vladimir Docekal. (43 in total)

#### 1. Apologies for Absence.

Bill Coles, Tom Peacock, Chris Holt, Steve Langridge, Richard Stevens

#### 2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th May 2015.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Clare Price and seconded by Tony Mansfield.

The minutes were accepted by the members and signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

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

**EGM request from 2014:** The decision **not** to hold an EGM was made by the Committee early in the season in the light of the vote taken at the 2015 AGM, by which the members confirmed their wish that the current approach of not separating colour and monochrome competitions in the League would continue. **Action Closed**

**Appointment of new auditor:** Barry Collin who is a qualified accountant has agreed to be the auditor for the current year. He is willing to continue in this role for 2016-2017. **Action Closed**

Approval of this appointment was proposed by Greg Keeling and seconded by Heather Tabor.

#### **Committee to look at the rules to implement the 2015 AGM vote to prevent demotion to level 3:**

Rules have been amended, deleting the requirement for Level 2 members to re-qualify each season to remain in Level 2. **Action Closed**

#### **Committee to consider how to encourage more entries into the Panel of 6 competition:**

Rules for the Photographer of the Year were amended to award more points for panel entries, regardless of the score achieved. Also previous panels are now allowed to be re-used. **Action Closed**

#### **Committee to consider why no level 3 prints were received for the Annual Awards:**

Encouragement was given and training offered to new members, but sadly once again no Level 3 prints were received for the 2016 Annual Awards. **Action: Committee to follow up**

#### **Split of theme marks suggested by Barry Collin:**

This was looked at in the first Committee Meeting of the season and rejected on grounds of being too complex to run on the night. **Action Closed**

**Move of screen to fit the new room layout:** This was successfully achieved in time for the first meeting of the 2015-6 season. **Action Closed**

**Disabled access to first floor:** This was taken up with the Mill management as part of the dialogue in booking the Conference room for Club meetings for the 2015-6 season. However the request was declined. No reason was given at the time, however it was implied in the booking literature that it has not been possible to create disabled access to all floors due to the Grade 1 listed status of the building. **Action Closed**

#### 4. Treasurer's report and presentation and approval of the annual accounts. (Mike Crack)

40 copies of the audited year-end accounts summary have been left on the seats

It shows a surplus of just over £700

Rounded end of year bank balance are:

Current a/c	£4760
Savings a/c	£3945
<b>Total just over</b>	<b>£8700</b>

#### Analysis:

Income from the three main sources (membership fees, attendance, raffle) was very similar to last year – actually, down by about 1%

The main reason for a reduced surplus was the increase in expenses from £4896 to £5248 – an increase of £352 or about 7%. Most expense categories were similar to last year, except for the following three categories which account for most of the increase:

- Speakers expenses – up by £140. The Committee had agreed to spend more on speakers this year; we believe this has resulted in better quality, more interesting, talks.
- Supplies for weekly refreshments – up by £200. Looking at previous years, it's clear that last year's costs were unusually low. This year's costs are broadly in line with previous years – about 15p per head per week.
- Equipment purchase/maintenance up by £100. Antivirus, power lead for computer, RCDs, batteries etc.

#### Recommendation:

Although the surplus is less than last year's it's still a surplus. So, with a healthy balance in our bank accounts, I recommend no change to the membership fees for the 2016/17 season.

**Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Ron Gregory, seconded by Andrew Pickess and carried unanimously.**

#### 5. Officers' reports:

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

##### a) Secretary: Alec Fraser

As usual there is little for the Secretary to report.

A healthy number of new member enquiries have been received and passed to Clare, the New Members Secretary. It has been a pleasure to meet new potential members when they first venture into the Club.

The new room layout for meetings, tried for the first time at the 2015 AGM has been a success. This, coupled with the fact that we have not had quite the same pressure caused by overcrowding on Club nights, has made it possible to say for the first time in several years that we are not seeking alternative accommodation for the Club! The Conference Room at the Mill has now been booked for Club nights for the 2016-2017 season. The Welcome Letter to go out with the renewal invitations for next season is being drafted for Committee approval.

Print Box orders have been lower this year, not an indication of reduced member activity as we have seen a high volume of excellent work!

##### b) Programme Secretary: Colin Birch

This has been my first year as Programme Secretary after taking over from Melvyn. It was a gradual takeover as I organised the judges for this year while Melvyn did the speakers. As it was his last year, I think he pulled out all the stops and gave us a really interesting programme: highlights such as Jim & Fred Price, Malcolm Bumstead, Roger Hance, Pauline Fowler and Viveca Koh spring to mind. Judging is a hard job to do

and judges often come in for criticism. A couple have been added to the black list but most did a good job for us.

Next season's programme is complete and includes Des Clinton who is coming over from Ireland, Gordon Bramham on wildlife, Colin Westgate showing us how he produces his winning pictures, Hugh Milsom on landscapes and a return visit by Roger Hance. Daphne Hanson, President of the EAF, will judge our Annual Awards, and Clive Tanner from Kent will judge the 4Cs interclub panel competition.

The new programme will be available in time for the barbecue and Jackie Bale has again agreed to do the artwork.

Before I took this on I hadn't really appreciated just how much work there is to do. Apart from finding and booking the visiting speakers and judges there is something to do every week such as reminding the visitors, thanking them for their efforts, and sorting out any problems that might arise. Melvyn's help has been invaluable in all of this so I would like to thank him for his support.

### **Discussion:**

Annie Ringland commented that the PDI Theme judge Peter Espley had remarked that some images did not fulfil the Competition theme brief, and had been sarcastic in some of his remarks. Although he was briefed in advance to mark from 5 to 10 he had not done so, and some images had received very low marks.

Bruce Gray agreed with Annie. Charles Shearer disagreed, commenting that judging is subjective and in his opinion Peter Espley is a good judge- in fact the best we have seen for a long time. Why not use the full spectrum of marks? There should be feedback, positive or negative, on all judges to the Committee. If a judge is substandard the Club should tell PAGB.

Club President Melvyn Frewin, who had been the previous Programme Secretary remarked that notification to PAGB was a serious matter and we only do this if absolutely necessary. Peter Espley's behaviour in judging was well known, in fact he had been blacklisted in Melvyn's book for 8 years but this had not been notified to Colin Birch the current Programme Secretary.

David Heath, the PDI Secretary, said that there can be valid reasons for low marks and that while sarcasm is a valid reason for banning a judge, the range of marks awarded by him is not.

Colin Birch replied that he continues to use his own judgement on selection of judges, based on member feedback.

Heather Tabor said that regarding the themes for this competition, there had been confusion between website and programme. While this had been picked up before the competition night and had been corrected by email, she had unfortunately not picked up this email and her marks were adversely affected.

Ann Burley said that regarding the themed Print Competition, there had been a lack of clarity on the definition of "Windows and Doors" which had led to confusion, unpleasantness and unfairness on the night. PF had apparently said that one window or one door would do, but other members were not aware of this. AB stated that in her view PF could have clarified it better to members in advance, and to the judge on the night. PF said that she made it clear that plural would also be applicable.

MF stated that this misunderstanding had been noted by Pat and the Committee, that care had been taken to select single word themes this year, and that the theme definitions will be carefully checked to avoid any ambiguity. **Action: PF**

### **c) Print Competition Secretary: Bill Coles**

*(Bill Coles had given his apologies and the report was read in his absence by the Secretary)*

### **League**

There were six League competitions this season, five of which counted at the end of the season to give the final positions in the League, by removing the lowest score from each participant. A total of 43 members submitted either colour or mono prints.

Level 3 was won by David Clark who moves up to Level 2.

Level 2 was won by Charles Shearer, who moves up to Level 1 together with Elaine Butcher, Collin Galley, Pete Tachauer, Annie Ringland, and Bruce Gray.

Level 1 was won by Alison Johnson.

There will now be a total of 24 members at Level 1 in the 2016-17 season, compared to 18 in the current 2015-16 season, 15 members at Level 2 compared to 20 in 2015-16 and 4 members at Level 3 compared to 5 in the 2015-16 season, based on information at the time of writing this report.

### Burley Cup

The competition for the best panel of three was well supported with a total of 31 entries.

It was won by Pat Frewin with a panel entitled Last of the Summer Roses, Charles Shearer was second with Birds in Flight and Heather Tabor third with The Yuccas. Four authors were awarded Highly Commended, Brian Purdy for Flight, John Story for Hazy, Alison Johnson for African Jacana on Lily Pads and Melvyn Frewin for Compendium of Colour.

There were four Commended, Colin Birch for Cheetah Family, Brian Purdy for Action Men and Alison Johnson for Life in Windows & Doors - Cuba.

### Panel of Six

There were 17 entries submitted for The Cyril Chorley Memorial Trophy.

First place went to Andrew Pickess for his panel The Passing of a Sunflower, second place to Charles Shearer for Puffins and third to Bruce Gray for Living with Past Trouble.

A total of three Highly Commended were awarded, Ray Lawrence for The Richard Fitch Memorial Race, Melvyn Frewin for Maltese Cunumdrum and Brian Purdy for Action Men.

### Annual Awards

There were 199 images submitted, 57 more than the previous year, which was a challenge for the judge Naomi Saul, but gave us some excellent prints on the annual awards evening.

Print Title	Class	Photographer	Judge Comment
Oxburgh Hall	1	Pat Frewin	H/C
Organ Pipes	1	Bruce Gray	H/C
Icelandic Coast at Dyrholaey	1	Bruce Gray	H/C
Pears	1	Annie Ringland	H/C
Dovercourt	1	Annie Ringland	H/C
Ickworth House	1	Pat Frewin	3rd
Rings and Chai	1	Ann Burley	2nd
Addiction	1	Charles Shearer	1st + Best Mono
Down and Out	2	Melvyn Frewin	H/C
My Friend Mukund	2	Greg Keeling	H/C
Having Fun	2	Pat Frewin	H/C
Scrap Merchant - Cuba	2	Alison Johnson	3rd
Glum, Glum and Glummer	2	Pat Frewin	2nd
Bag Lady	2	Pat Frewin	1st
Burchells Zebra Feeding - wild - (Equus Burchelli)	3	Alison Johnson	3rd
Warthog	3	Colin Birch	2nd
Pied Kingfisher Preening (Ceryle Rudis)	3	Alison Johnson	1st

### Galleries

I would like to thank Members who have loaned their prints for display at the Broomfield Hospital, a new selection will be displayed early 2017.

Many thanks to all those who participated in the internal competitions, the standard of the prints was praised by the judges.

Many thanks to Sheila Birch who manned the laptop and logged the scores on League judging evenings, and to those who helped me in displaying the images for judging.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the membership, for your support over the past four years, while I've been Print Secretary. I have been on the Committee now for the past six years, my first two years as Publicity officer.

I have decided now is a good time for me to stand down as Print Secretary and let someone else take over. Whoever takes over the position of Print Secretary, I will be available to help them in much the same way as the help I received, when I took over from Colin Birch.

#### **d) PDI Competition Secretary: David Heath**

As usual, this year there were six PDI competitions which counted towards the league positions. In every case, the number entered was too many to be judged and so only the first and second preferences were put forward. This gave, for the first five competitions which were open, an average of just over just under 80 entries to be judged. The last competition which had the three themes Neglect, Weather and Creative, produced 93 entries to be judged, which could not be pruned down, (and the number of which led to some judicial grimacing!) For each league competition (including the themed competition), an individual's highest entry score could be counted towards the overall league score. The entries were separated into levels for the first five competitions but the entrants from all three league levels were judged together within each theme in the sixth (themed) competition. At the end of the season, each individual's score was the sum of the five highest scores from the six competitions. In all levels the maximum possible score was 50 points. The winners in each level were as follows.

##### **Level 1**

**Winner – David Heath -50** (runner up Colin Birch with 49)

##### **Level 2**

**Winner – Charles Shearer – 50** (runner up Peter Tachauer with 48.5)

##### **Level 3**

**Winner – Chris Holt – 46** (runner up was Les Mann with 44.5)

At the start of the season there were 21 level 1 competitors, 16 level 2 and 6 level 3. At the end of the season there were no relegations from level 1, 7 promotions from level 2 and 1 promotion from level 3. This will lead to, assuming there is no change of entrants, the next season starting with 28 competitors in level 1, only 9 in level 2 and 5 in level 3. This was discussed at the last committee meeting, but it was decided to leave the criteria for promotion and relegation unchanged.

The Annual Awards produced a large number of entries, 180 this year compared to 148 last year! Class 3 – wildlife - had 46 entries, Class 2 - portraits - had 39 entries and Class 1 – everything else - had 95 entries. The judge, Naomi Saul, chose many of these 'for comments' and 'Highly Commended', a total of 31 for 'comments', 21 for 'Highly Commended' as well as 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> in each class. As the competition was judged on the same evening as the prints, it was quite a busy time but a most enjoyable evening.

The results were as follows:

#### **Class 1**

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Bruce Gray** (Giant's Causeway)  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Bob Pollard** (Dylan Van Baarle – 2014 Tour of Britain Winner)  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Tom Plucinski** (Dovercourt Lighthouse)

#### **Class 2**

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Alison Johnson** (Stilt Fisherman – Sri Lanka)  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Charles Shearer** (Scarlet Live in Concert)  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Pat Frewin** (Man's best friend)

#### **Class 3**

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Alison Johnson** (Volcano Hummingbird in the wild)

2<sup>nd</sup> **Colin Birch** (Cheetah Family)

3<sup>rd</sup> **Veronica Rice** (Following in mother's footsteps)

The best entry from a level 3 competitor was from **Chris Holt** (Queueing at the Golden Temple)

**The overall PDI winner** for the 2015-2016 season was

**Alison Johnson** for (Volcano Hummingbird in the wild)

This entry also won the 'Photograph of the year', which was voted on by the members from the best mono print, the best colour print and the best PDI

At the end of last season, there were complaints about the projector settings. In particular, these included it not reproducing the levels of blacks that people had seen on their computer screens. The system was recalibrated and some more detail could be seen in the blacks (in particular, a light disembodied head reclaimed some of his dark body.) However this year there have been several complaints that the PDIs are too bright and this is undeniably so (the projector also seems to emphasise the yellows). One problem is that the projector is a high end device and is really suited for a longer throw and larger screens. The problem is compounded by the new chair arrangements this year. We will carry out another calibration and see what, if any, internal changes can be made in the close season. We trust that these will improve the over-brightness problem. However it is difficult to see what will improve the yellow balance.

**Action: DH/CB** to check calibration again and adjust as required

Tony Mansfield

Picture is low on the screen and difficult for some to see can it be made as high as possible. DH agreed

**Action: DH** to follow up on Club nights when PDI being shown.

#### **e) AV Trophy Report: Andrew Pickess**

This year there were 9 entries to the competition, the same as last year and the Judge Keith Leedham was impressed with all the entries.

HC Charles Shearer with his first ever entry on "Judges"

3<sup>rd</sup> Andrew with "UCI World Championships"

2<sup>nd</sup> Alison with "Botswana"

1<sup>st</sup> Colin with "Scotland"

It would be really good if we could get a few more entries next year you saw how easy it is at the Members Evening.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> August we have been invited to show our work to the Essex AV Group, so will be contacting AV workers to make arrangements.

#### **f) External Competition Secretary: Pat Frewin**

We have again had a successful season:

We have achieved - 6 Wins - 3 second places - 4 Best Print or Image awards and 1 Meritorious Award. In the Baddow Mono Competition we took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd best print awards.

The results are as follows:

##### **4 C's Panel Competition: Roger Force**

12 Clubs took part, showing 21 panels.

Colchester PS came 1st with "Russian Avant Garde, Suprematist works" by Tony Bramley.

Swavesey came 2nd with "Winter Wildlife" by Sarah Kelman.

Chelmsford came 3rd with "Humming Birds in the Wild - Costa Rica" by Alison Johnson.

There were 4 H/C certificates awarded.

It was a good afternoon, and all the helpers worked really hard, but it would have been nice to have some support from our members.

##### **Colchester 8 x 8 competition - Naomi Saul**

8 clubs take part, showing 8 prints from 8 separate authors.  
Chelmsford won by .5 of a mark, Colchester coming 2nd.  
We also won the Best Print - "Flies in my Shed" by Brian Purdy.  
Thanks to Barry and Bruce for their support. \_

#### **Benfleet Battle: - Ron Tear**

The final score was: Chelmsford 183.5 marks, Benfleet 180 marks. Overall we scored 8 tens.  
The Best Mono print was awarded to "I think I love you" by Don Thomson (Benfleet)  
The Best Colour print was awarded to "Schoolgirls, Kashmir" by Trevor Burley (Chelmsford).

#### **Baddow Print Competition: - Vic Hainsworth**

This competition is for 6 mono prints from 6 different clubs.  
Chelmsford came 1st with 53 marks, a lead of 6 marks.  
We also won the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Best prints, and a cheque for £25.  
Many thanks for the support of the 12 members who came to watch.

#### **CAPS Print Competition: - Dave Wilcox**

This competition comprises of 6 open prints from 5 clubs that attended.  
Chelmsford came 1st, beating Baddow by 11.5 marks.  
The Best Print was awarded to "Schoolgirls Kashmir" by Trevor Burley.  
This is the 9th consecutive year we have won this trophy.

#### **EAF PDI Championships:**

25 PDI Images are submitted for this competition. Chelmsford progressed to the 2nd Round and came 10th out of the 31 clubs in the East Anglia region.  
Alison Johnson received the David Gibbon's personal selection award for "Volcano Hummingbird in the Wild".

#### **Essex Inter Club Competition: - Peter Adams**

6 PDI Images from 9 clubs.  
A very close competition. Chelmsford tied with Photofold, but we won on count-back, having the 3 highest scores.

#### **Braintree Shield:- Peter Hopp**

6 Mono prints from 11 clubs.  
Colchester beat us by .5 mark. Excellent prints were shown.  
Thanks to Barry, Bruce, Bill and Pauline for their support.

#### **EAF Print Championships:**

25 prints from 21 clubs.  
Chelmsford came 11th of the 21 clubs competing. This is the first time ever that we haven't made it to the 2nd Round.  
Beyond Group won the trophy, with Cambridge 2nd and Ware 3rd.

#### **Maldon Challenge : - Barbie Lindsey**

This is 8 Mono prints and 6 PDI images from 13 clubs  
The overall winner was Colchester with 122.5 marks, and Chelmsford 2nd with 121 marks.  
"Volcano Hummingbird in the Wild" by Alison Johnson received a Meritorious Award.  
Thanks to Barry, Colin, Sheila, Clare, John & Hilary for their support.

#### **CAPS PDI Competition - John Wooliams**

This competition is for 3 themed images and 4 Open images, from 5 clubs.  
Chelmsford came 1st with 67 marks, and Photofold with 63 marks.  
Thanks to Colin for covering the competition, and to Sheila, Bill, Brian and Colin Galley, for their support.

#### **Harlow 6 - Way Battle: - Ray Kimberley**

This competition is for 10 prints from 6 clubs.  
Ware came 1st with 175 marks, and Chelmsford came 2nd with 171 marks.  
Thanks to Colin for covering the competition, and to Sheila and Bill for their support.

Many thanks to all the members for supplying their work for our External competition.  
The standard continues to be excellent, which reflects in our results. It is a shame that more of you don't come to the events, as you would enjoy and benefit from seeing other club's work.  
I would like to thank Colin for covering some of the competitions, in my absence.  
Lastly my thanks go to David for supplying me with CD's after every competition, to give me a library of work to use for future competitions.

#### **g) Exhibition and Publicity Officer: Bruce Gray**

The annual exhibition at Chelmsford library atrium was generally well received by the public but there were issues of poor lighting and images damaged by pigeon droppings. A search for an alternative venue was discussed at committee but no obvious alternative choice found.  
There has been a change to the library administration this year and on my last visit I was pleased to note that the lighting is now much improved and I have been assured that the pigeons have been banished

We have re booked use of the atrium from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August until Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> of August for the 2016 annual exhibition. Under the revised administration we were obliged to change from a Sunday set up to a Saturday set up to avoid a charge for security guards.

Good luck to all members hoping to have work selected for the exhibition. I am unable to attend the club BBQ this year but a list will be circulated at the event asking for volunteers to man the exhibition.

#### **h) Webmaster: Andrew Pickess**

Usage of the site:

- Visits: 8,781
- Page views: 28,682
- 34% of visits by mobile device
- Most popular page is the programme
- League tables viewed 3500 times
- Competition Galleries viewed 3775 times

This is a camera club but very few members have a gallery of their images only 19 the same as last year

There are 217 images in the galleries

Dated:

2013 to 15 – 77 (35%)

...

2007 - 35

I ask each year at the AGM for members to send me images for a gallery, can't really see the point of having these any more.

#### **Discussion:**

Heather Tabor asked how gallery images should be sent. Andrew replied that this could be done by email.

Peter Tachauer asked if members' Flickr sites can be linked. Andrew replied that we do this already. Either method is fine.

In reply to a question from Colin Birch Andrew replied that the oldest images, ie those dating from 2007 will now be deleted.

D Steward asked how often the competition galleries are updated. He had observed delays as long as one month. AP replied that the Print gallery relies on upload by members of their images scoring 10. Also on a recent update of the website, the League history was intentionally not transferred, so only the current year is shown.

#### **i) Chairman: Pat Frewin**

This has been my first year as Chairman. It has been hard work, but I have enjoyed it. It is very rewarding to see what a happy, friendly and enthusiastic club we have.

I would like to thank the committee for their excellent hard work, they are a great team to work with. Thanks to Clare for filling in as Vice chairman, in my absence.

I am sorry that Bill and Bruce are retiring from their posts, but thank them for all their hard work. We now welcome Greg and Steve to take over their roles. We are very grateful to Mark for capably filling the sound system post and to David Clark for making an admiral job of the tea and reception rotas. Without him you wouldn't have your tea breaks!

We must congratulate Melvyn for once again giving us such an excellent programme of speakers for last season, and look forward to a full and varied programme next season from Colin.

Once again many members have gained distinctions this season, having had success in ARPS, CPAGB, DPAGB, and BPE. I hope this continues next season, as many of you are capable of reaching the levels required. Please take advantage of the mentors we have available within the club.



We were very proud that one of our members, Barry Collin, has received the APAGB award from the PAGB. This is a great honour, and the first ever in our club.

We had great success at the EAF Exhibition this year, having 21 acceptances across our club members. This is the most we have ever had, plus Steve Birch gained a Selectors award. So well done to you all, and we hope to repeat it next year.

The workshops at the Bell Centre will continue next season, and the events will be in the new programme and on the web-site as soon as they have been organised.

We have our usual programme of events taking place during the summer break, so check out the web-site for information. There are a few different events organised. Don't forget to buy your BBQ tickets from Mike, so we know how many to cater for.

I hope you have all enjoyed the last season, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year. It would be helpful if you paid your fees early, so we know how the membership numbers are running. You can give your fees to Mike or any of the committee during the break, at any of the summer events. Enjoy your summer break.

**Acceptance of Committee Reports** was proposed by John Story, seconded by Jonathan Banks and carried unanimously.

**6. Year 2016/2017 subscriptions.** "The Committee proposes that the 2016/2017 subscriptions should be held the same as last year. Which was: 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 £2.00 and the evening workshops £1.00."

**Acceptance of the motion** was proposed by John Shears, seconded by Brian Purdy and carried unanimously.

## **7. Membership Renewal**

Existing members are requested to rejoin by the end of the summer break as we are close to our maximum membership and would like to be able to offer places to new members in September.

## **8. Trophy Mono Print Competition**

It is proposed to start this brand new competition. Since the necessary decision to combine the colour and mono print competitions we are getting fewer mono prints. There are inter-club competitions which are dedicated to monochrome; we can't go back to the previous separate competitions, so we have a problem.

The new comp will not be part of the part of the league. Work from members at levels 1, 2, and 3 will be combined. Photographer of the Year points will be allocated according to the marks achieved.

Detailed rules are on the Club website. The date provisionally allocated is November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016.

## **Discussion:**

Members raised the following questions:

Q: Can an existing mono image be re-used? A: No, in order to get new images it must be fresh for this competition.

Q: Can images entered for this competition be used in future comps? A: CB (who has drafted the rules) replied that an image entered for this mono competition can be re-used so long as it does not score 9 or more. See the rules. There will now be 7 print comps. next year instead of 6 as currently.

## **9. President's remarks.**

Season 2015-2016 has been a very busy year for qualifications with members achieving their LRPS/ ARPS distinction with the Royal Photographic Society and CPAGB/ DPAGB with the PAGB this season, also others are due to take various distinctions in the future.

Some members who have been entering National Exhibition level competitions have gained acceptances and their first level of qualification.

We look forward to following their progress in gaining distinctions and hope this encourages other members to follow suit.

Your committee has been kept very busy with the everyday running of the club for 2015-2016 season, with some very heated discussions at committee meetings.

The quality of the images being produced has continued to improve again this season. This work allows Pat Frewin, External Competition Secretary, to enter high quality work in external competitions against other clubs, to achieve the trophies you see on the table tonight. This is also shown by the spread of the Annual Awards Trophies - Certificates across a wide range of members, some of who were in their first year at the club.

I am sorry to hear that Bill Coles & Bruce Gray are standing down from the committee. I take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work they have put in for the club and to wish them every success in the future.

I take this opportunity to thank Mark Taylor who stood in to run the sound and has now taken the duties over fulltime; he has made an excellent job of sorting out the sound equipment, also David Clark who has done an excellent job of organising the reception and tea rota. Thank you to all of the members who have assisted David in his task.

Help is available via the mentoring scheme within the club should any members require it. Please ask any committee member or look on the website for names of the mentors.

I look forward to seeing you all keep up the good work for the 2016-2017 season.

**Themes: PDI PRINT**

Warm	Reflections
Lines	Mono
Triptych	People

**Discussion:**

Regarding Themes, members asked the following questions:

Q: Does the definition of "people" include singular and plural? A: This will be clarified in guidance provided.

**10. Election of the President.**

The President handed over the chair to the Club Chairman Pat Frewin and left the room.

Following a proposal from Colin Birch, seconded by Jonathon Banks, Melvyn was unanimously re-elected to the position of Chairman for 2016-7 and re-assumed the chair of the meeting.

**11. Election of Officers and Ordinary Committee Members.**

Nominations have been received, proposed and seconded for the following persons, who have agreed to take up these roles if elected:

Chairman: Pat Frewin  
Vice Chairman: Clare Price  
Secretary: Alec Fraser  
Treasurer: Mike Crack  
Programme Secretary: Colin Birch  
Comp Sec PDI: David Heath  
Comp Sec Prints: Steve Birch  
Ext Comp Sec: Pat Frewin  
Committee Member Web: Andrew Pickess  
Committee Member Sound: Mark Taylor  
Committee Member Publicity: Greg Keeling  
Committee Member Members Sec: Clare Price  
Committee Member Equipment: Brian Purdy

Vote for acceptance of the 2016-7 Committee *en bloc* was proposed by Brigitte Whiteing, seconded by David Bladon and carried unanimously.

**12. Election of Honorary Auditor.**

Barry Collin has declared that he is willing to continue in this role.

His re-appointment was proposed by Greg Keeling, seconded by Brian Purdy and carried unanimously.

### 13. Any other business.

The following comments on the Annual Awards have been received from Barry Collin:

"1) I thought it strange when the committee decided to combine the Annual Award categories of Record and Pictorial, as they seemed to me to be opposing genres of photography. I understand this was done to make Category 3 exclusively for wildlife. I can see the logic in this as we are seeing so many good images in this genre and it would be unfair to judge, for example, a church interior against a cheetah chase.

However, it became apparent last evening that Naomi Saul, the judge, also found it a problem in judging the two differing image categories against each other.

The situation is likely to get worse when members start to produce really creative work as we see in other clubs and exhibitions.

I suggest therefore that the committee reconsiders the categories and either call category 1 "Open" or revert category 1 to "Pictorial", category 3 to "Record" and open a separate category 4 for "Wildlife".

2) I did not understand why the judge's time and patience was abused looking at images that were inadmissible in the "Portrait" category. The PDI Competition Secretary should at least not have forwarded portraits of animals to her.

3) It is important that the laptop and projector are calibrated properly, not just brightened because someone said images looked dark."

**Action: Pat Frewin** to include discussion of these comments and those of other members on the Annual Awards as a specific agenda item for the next Committee meeting.

Charles Shearer commented that in his view the standard of judging is going down. This year we have had some disappointing judges. The Club should be giving feedback. Could we have a feedback forms? Views expressed by members were in favour of providing feedback, (positive or negative) a few were against: Peter Tachauer expressed his view that the Committee should be trusted to pick judges.

Melvyn stated that this is becoming harder as the PAGB are losing judges. Not only that, but some are too far away. How many are left? There could be as few as 20 to choose from. MF did however agree that flaws do exist- in particular the treatment of level 3 entries by Gordon Bramham was not appreciated.

Colin Birch said that a full range of feedback would be useful, but it would be necessary to tell the judge what the result was.

Alison Johnson remarked that PAGB should have a system of providing feedback to judges. This is done by other clubs (including Benfleet?) The Committee should be allowed to decide the method. Colin Birch explained that within the PAGB, co-ordination of judges is done at EAF level. There is a Judges Secretary who is responsible for overseeing judge performance in the EAF.

MF then put this to the vote and the result was: 8 against, 6 abstentions 29 in favour. **Motion carried.**

**Action: PF** to include in agenda for discussion at next Committee meeting.

Tony Mansfield proposed that the marking system should be changed to award marks out of 20. Ten out of 20 sounds better than 5 out of 10. Judges are allowed to award half marks at present, although some have never done so. There should be a statement given to judges of what we expect them to do. (Including themes)

Melvyn Frewin explained that this is already done: Judges get a letter but often do not look at it.

He stated that in other clubs: two thirds use 10, one third use 20.

MF called a vote, the result of which was: 10 in favour, 14 against with 19 abstentions. **Motion defeated.**

Greg Keeling proposed that once competition themes are published on the Club website, written questions and answers are shared with everyone. There should be a clear deadline for this process, to give members reasonable time to take note and prepare their entries.

**Action: Pat Frewin** to add to Committee Agenda

Bruce Gray: Could we have a year without Rule changes?

Dave Steward: On Panel of 3 competition it was decided to give Commended as a level. Why was this done? Judge was pleased with the entries and wanted to give a certificate. What does it affect? Surely it can't affect the Photographer of the Year?

Colin Birch said that while there are no rules to say that the judge should award commended, on the night there were so many worthy entries he decided to do so. PF agreed that she had allowed this.

Clarification was given that 10 points had been awarded towards the Photographer of the Year for the Commended category on that evening only.

It was the general view of the members that

- Points must not be created on a single evening mid-season.
- There must be equal opportunities for all members in all competitions with all judges
- Points must not be created “on the fly” that is, which are not the result of a rule which has been created, agreed in committee and publicised in advance of a new season
- anything below HC must not get points

Action: Pat Frewin to include in Agenda for next Committee Meeting.

#### **14. Presentation of the League Awards.**

**Prints:** See Print Competition Secretary’s report above.

**PDI:** See PDI Competition Secretary’s Report above.

#### **15. Presentation of the Photographer of the Year Award.**

**Medals were awarded as follows:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Alison Johnson

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Colin Birch

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Charles Shearer who also received the Cup as Winner of the award

#### **16. Presentation of the Nice Cup**

**Clare Price** has been selected to receive this award for exceptional service to the Club over a number of years. The trophy was presented to Clare by the Club President, Melvyn Frewin.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the President at 22.10