

**Chelmsford Camera Club**  
**Annual General Meeting for the year 2016/2017**  
**Held at Moulsham Mill, Chelmsford at 19.30**  
**on Wednesday 24th May 2017.**  
**Minutes**

**Those Present:**

Alan Watts, Alec Fraser, Alison Johnson, Andrew Pickess, Ann Burley, Annie Ringland, Barry Collin, Bob Pollard, Brigitte Whiteing, Clare Price, David Bladon, David Clark, David Heath, David Whiteing, Elaine Butcher, Heather Tabor, John Bedwell, John Story, Jonathon Banks, Katerina Glover, Konrad Borysiuk, Mark Taylor, Melvyn Frewin, Mike Crack, Mike Rose, Pat Frewin, Paul Griffiths, Pauline Drew, Peter Hildebrand, Peter Tachauer, Ron Gregory, Roy Chapman, Stephen Wilkinson, Steve Birch, Steve Langridge, Stuart Whiteley, Tim Ahern, Tom Peacock, Tom Plucinski, Tony Cockrell, Trevor Edwards, Trevor Sadowski, Vladimir Docekal

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Sally Freeman, Jim Purtill, Nigel Brewer, Veronica Rice, Mike Leonard, Bruce Gray, Trevor Burley

**2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th May 2016.**

Proposed by:                      Seconded by:  
Clare Price                              Greg Keeling

The minutes approved were signed by the President as a true record.

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

a) PDI picture is low on the screen and difficult for some to see- can it be made as high as possible. DH agreed to follow up on Club nights when PDI being shown. Necessary adjustments have been performed. **Action: Complete**

b) Introduction of a members' panel to give feedback on judges- this has been in successful operation over the last season and is administered by Colin Birch. However, the main conclusion was that individual members have very different views on how well a judge performs. **Action: Complete**  
In clarification, CB stated that identities of individual panel members are not known to each other and the list is held only by CB

c) Sharing of answers to requests by individual members for Theme clarifications- Noted and discussed in Committee, but superseded by subsequent Committee decision that no guidance on Themes would be given. **Action: Discontinued**

MF explained that due to the danger of misinterpretation, Theme titles are now being restricted to a single word. Members asked whether judges were fully briefed in advance about themes and an affirmative answer was given

d) Spontaneous creation of new award categories, eg "commended" and consequent Photographer of the Year points, on the wish expressed by a judge: Agreed by Committee that this will not happen in future. **Action: Complete.**

e) Barry Collin's comments on the Annual Awards were discussed in Committee and the result of the discussion was the list of Rules as promulgated during the season. **Action: Complete**

**The options decided upon for Annual Awards categories were "wild life" "portrait" and "open"**

f) Barry Collin's comments on projector calibration have been heeded and intensive work has been carried out during the season, led by David Heath. This has proved to be complex but the outcome has been deemed satisfactory, as described in the PDI secretary's report included in these minutes. **Action: Complete**

**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 £170  
Rounded end of year bank balances are:

Current a/c	£4930
Savings a/c	£3945
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8875</b>

### **Analysis:**

Income was down on last year by £425 – 7%

This was as a consequence of membership falling from 90 to 85, resulting in reduced membership fees, weekly attendance payments, and raffle takings. Additionally, because the 4Cs panel of 6 competition was poorly attended this year, we only broke even instead of making a surplus, as we have in previous years. This was probably as a result of dissatisfaction with last year's controversial winning panel – Russian Suprematism.

Expenses were up slightly on last year by £112 – 2%

The main reason for this was increased expenditure on speakers and judges. This was a conscious decision by the Committee in an attempt to attract higher quality in these two areas.

### **Membership:**

At the end of the financial year we had 85 members including 4 Honorary Life members. This is 5 below our agreed upper limit and it's clear, as mentioned earlier, that a reduction in members automatically impacts our income in a number of areas. The 3-month exhibition in the museum is bound to create interest in the Club and, hopefully, additional members. Also, we know that the 2-week exhibition in the library foyer results in a few membership applications.

### **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 have recommended to the Committee that there should be no change to the membership fees for the 2017/18 season.

### **Discussion:**

Questions were asked by:

**Kate Glover:** why the drop in coffee food and drink. MC explained this was due to an expense claim outstanding.

BBQ and Christmas are listed under social events. It had been noted by the Committee that food was lacking in quantity at the Christmas social.

**Barry Collin:** Commented that "Mike Crack does a superb job as treasurer and is to be congratulated. The club funds are in good hands". Members agreed.

Raffle profit: 23 members per week on average buy tickets, resulting in £476 surplus in the raffle and £170 overall surplus in the year. Barry Collin recommended 4 prizes per week as fairer to buyers, more tickets might be purchased. Mike replied that this might unacceptably reduce the level of surplus.

AP commented that the percentage buying raffle tickets had not changed when the number of prizes was reduced previously by discontinuing the Camera World voucher.

CP asked if annual membership fees can be paid by BACS bank transfer. MC replied that Cash or cheque are the only methods at present but he was actively investigating electronic payment with a view to introducing this method also.

Action: MC to investigate electronic payment in time for this summer's renewal.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Tom Peacock, seconded by AP and approved unanimously.

### **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).

#### **a) Secretary (Alec Fraser)**

This being the Club's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary year we had decided not to put on any particular celebration. However we were approached last summer by the Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society to help with their annual Charity Calendar to supply pictures for each month plus a cover photo. The joint collaboration was very impressive and we were justly proud of the result.

Chelmsford Museum approached us early this year as due to another organisation dropping out, they had a vacant 3 month slot in their 2017 exhibition programme. This was offered to us free of charge and was too good

an opportunity to turn down. We were able to respond quickly and the result is about 100 of our stunning images on the Museum's walls. The formal opening by the Deputy Mayor, in the presence of some Council and photographic dignitaries, notably Daphne Hanson -the EAF President- provided a boost to the Club's profile. The order for Print boxes is open again but so far there has been little interest.

### **b) Programme Secretary (Colin Birch)**

We have had some very good speakers this year. People like Des Clinton, who came over from Ireland, Tom Mason on wildlife, Ann Miles on monochrome, Hugh Milsom on landscapes and Roger Hance on just about everything all helped to make it a good season.

Judging is a hard job to do and judges often come in for criticism. I paid special attention to how well they performed and found that there was often disagreement between members on how effective they were. Next year there will be several new judges so we can look forward to a fresh approach.

Next season's programme is complete and includes Damien Demolder, past editor of Amateur Photographer, Russell Savory on wildlife, Chris Upton from Nottinghamshire, Colin Westgate, hip operations permitting, and a return visit by Viveca Koh. Ron Tear will judge our Annual Awards, and Richard Walton 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.

If you can recommend a good speaker then please let me know and I will see if I can fit them into the programme.

### **Discussion on CB's Member panel to evaluate judges' performance:**

Judging the judges is even more subjective than the judging itself. Marks given by panel for the judge were unrelated to their personal scores for their work. Moreover the marks for any particular judge varied wildly across the panel.

There are however a couple of judges who will not be returning.

In response to a question CB stated that there is no objective comparison of judges carried out by the EAF. Do we need to do anything further? Judges don't get paid. Many have retired and we are getting fresh and freshly trained judges coming through. Some of these have been invited for next season.

Tom Peacock: do some judges prefer particular topics:

CB replied that some judges do have preferences but they try to put them to one side and there is usually a disclaimer when they say the marks reflect their personal views.

CB Marks received for images have no bearing on marks the panel member gave the judge.

Alison asked how many judge evaluators there are on the panel? CB answered that there are 12. Alison asked if any analysis of the panel Judgements was possible such as cluster chart? Distribution chart? CB answered that the results are not a representative sample as not all judges are present on any particular evening.

CB: stated that the EAF Judges Workshop is open to all members, strongly recommend that members try it.

Tom Peacock asked: could we have a standard print to be judged by all judges?

CB replied that we would not be able to do anything with the results of that, judges usually state that their marks reflect their personal views, it would not be statistically significant, and judges would find out about it eventually.

Other Questions: BC asked if Ron Tear is designated as a Natural History Judge? If not we should not have him?

Tony Mansfield: "In this present company" is an expression used often by judges. CB explained that the Club always asks that judging is done against others at a given level (1,2,3). BC stated that this practice is OK.

### **c) Print Secretary (Steve Birch)**

#### LEAGUE

There were six league competitions during the 2016/7 season. The scores from the best five rounds are counted at the end of the season to give the final positions in the league. During the year 41 members submitted a total of 478 prints.

- Level 3 was jointly won by Trevor Edwards and Stephen Murray who both move up to Level 2 along with Trevor Sadowski, Chris Hackett and Les Mann
- Level 2 was won by Tom Plucinski who moves up to Level 1 along with Stephen Birch, Jonathan Banks, Thomas Fenwick, Heather Tabor, Dennis Clarke and Elly Dorman.
- Level 1 was won by Pat Frewin.

For the 2017/18 season there will be 25 members in Level 1 compared to 21 this season, 16 in Level 2 compared to 15 and 0 in Level 3 compared to 5 based on current membership at the time of writing this report.

#### THE BURLEY CUP

The competition for the best panel of three was well supported with a total of 25 panels – slightly lower than last year.

The competition was won by Phil Voyez with the panel entitled “Alice and the Mad Hatter”. Pat Frewin was second with “Rose Trio” and Brian Purdy with “Chess Men”.

Four members received highly commended awards – Tony Clark (“Evangelists”), Stephen Birch (“Flour Dance”), David Clark (“Reflection”) and Melvyn Frewin (“Birdcage Sunflower”).

#### THE CYRIL CHORLEY MEMORIAL TROPHY

This competition for the best panel of six attached a total of 13 panels – again lower than last year.

The competition was won by Alison Johnson with the panel titled “Wild Frogs from the Dark Depths of the Ecuadorian Rainforest”. Second was Pat Frewin with “Molten Glass” and Pat was also third with “Ragged Victorians”.

Two members received highly commended awards – Melvyn Frewin (“Jurassic Trees in Mist” and “Rocks, Spital Beach”) and Trevor Sadowski (“Inside The Tower Gates”)

#### ANNUAL AWARDS

There were 174 images submitted for the annual awards – 25 less than last year – from 21 members. Despite the lower number of images, the entry was of a high quality and our Judge for the evening – Daphne Hanson – certainly had a challenge selecting her choice of the top photographs.

Print Title	Class	Photographer	Award
Rose Lily	C1	Pat Frewin	Highly Commended
Chapel Maria Zum Schnee	C1	Barry Collin	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Meerkat Family	C1	Pat Frewin	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Flying High	C1	Trevor Sadowski	Best Entry Colour Print
Inch Strand at Dawn	C1	Bruce Gray	1 <sup>st</sup>
Dominoes Dispute - Havana	C2	Alison Johnson	Highly Commended
Falling on Deaf Ears	C2	Ann Burley	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Don't Mess With Me!	C2	Pat Frewin	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Mirror Mirror On The Wall	C2	Stephen Birch	1 <sup>st</sup> / Best Overall Colour Print
Nesting Storks	C3	Pat Frewin	Highly Commended
Sri Lankan Orphans	C3	Alison Johnson	3 <sup>rd</sup>
African Jacaqua on Lily pads	C3	Alison Johnson	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Cheetah Cubs in Training	C3	Colin Birch	1 <sup>st</sup>
River Cottage	M1	John Story	Highly Commended
Croft Window	M1	Ann Burley	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Serpentine	M1	Bruce Gray	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Willy's Place	M1	Trevor Sadowski	Best Entry Mono Print 1 <sup>st</sup> / Best Overall Mono Print
Bauchaille Etive Mor	M1	Colin Birch	Highly Commended
Behind Bars	M2	Tom Plucinski	Highly Commended
My Tuba's on Fire	M2	Greg Keeling	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Man With Pipe	M2	Tom Plucinski	2 <sup>nd</sup>
The Secret	M2	Trevor Burley	1 <sup>st</sup>
Ermine	M3	Annie Ringland	Highly Commended
Fancy a Swim?	M3	Trevor Sadowski	3 <sup>rd</sup>

Northern Raccoon in the Wild (Procyon lotor)	M3	Alison Johnson	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Focused on the Kill	M3	Alan Watts	1 <sup>st</sup>

Thank you to all the members who participated in the internal competitions – the standard of the prints across all levels was of a high standard.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance during my first year in this role with special thanks to those members who assisted me with the scoring and displaying of the prints during competition evenings.

Discussion:

Annie Ringland asked regarding promotion or demotion at end of season if there is a “relegation zone”. This was answered in the affirmative as members not achieving the required marks must be demoted.

Trevor Sadowski remarked that there were no “beginner” prints submitted for the Annual Awards .

Tom Peacock asked why nobody in L3 has entered prints. SB replied that we must hope we get new members who will participate in the coming season.

Andy Jones asked will 2 or 3 prints be accepted for print competitions as members need to be told. SB responded that this decision was at the discretion of the print secretary.

Pete Tachauer asked: could there be any minimum attendance by members at Club evenings in a season in order to be allowed to enter competitions? MF replied that certain members enter the building on Club nights solely to drop prints for competitions and don't even pay fees for the evening. The Committee are aware of this practice and will take an action for this to be discussed in the coming season.

**d) PDI Secretary** (David Heath)

### **PDI League Competition**

The entries for each league competition averaged 80 when first and second preferences only were submitted.

The final competition (themed) was entered by just 28 people for a total of 84 images. The usual rules for the league competition applied, i.e. an entrant's best mark for each competition was retained and the best 5 of these 'bests' was used to determine the final league position.

The final results were - ('P' Indicates promoted to next level)

#### **Level 1**

<b>Winner –</b>	<b>Veronica Rice</b>	<b>49.5</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Steve Langridge</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Ray Lawrence</b>	<b>48.5</b>

#### **Level 2**

<b>Winner –</b>	<b>Stephen Birch</b>	<b>49 (P)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Elly Dorman</b>	<b>45.5 (P)</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Ron Gregory</b>	<b>45 (P)</b>

#### **Level 3**

<b>Winner –</b>	<b>Trevor Edwards</b>	<b>46 (P)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Trevor Sadowski</b>	<b>42 (P)</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Mike Leonard</b>	<b>28.5</b>

### **The Themed Competition**

The themed competition contributes to the league completion, but is also a standalone competition.

The themes for this year were Warm, Lines and Triptych, and three people achieved the maximum marks (30).

The judge reassessed their 9 images and gave the following final order

<b>First</b>	<b>David Heath</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Steve Langridge</b>
<b>Third</b>	<b>Tom Plucinski</b>

## **The Annual Awards**

The number of entries for the Annual Awards has varied over the years. Two years ago it was 148, last year 180 and this year 143. Class 3 – wildlife - had 35 entries, Class 2 - portraits - had 42 entries and Class 1 – everything else - had 66 entries. The results were as follows.

### **Class 1 (Open)**

<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Tom Plucinski</b>	<b>Canning the Sweetcorn</b>
<b>3rd ..</b>	<b>Stephen Birch</b>	<b>Battersea Light Trails</b>
<b>2nd ..</b>	<b>Pat Frewin</b>	<b>Otter Feeding</b>
<b>1st ..</b>	<b>Greg Keeling</b>	<b>Tour de France</b>

### **Class 2 (People)**

<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Bob Pollard</b>	<b>My Son</b>
<b>3rd ..</b>	<b>Stephen Birch</b>	<b>Halloween</b>
<b>2nd ..</b>	<b>Alison Johnson</b>	<b>Workers with Oxen</b>
<b>1st ..</b>	<b>Tom Plucinski</b>	<b>Boy with Hat</b>

### **Class 3 (Wildlife)**

<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Alison Johnson</b>	<b>Fish Eagle with Nesting Material</b>
<b>3rd ..</b>	<b>Steve Langridge</b>	<b>Stonechat</b>
<b>2nd ..</b>	<b>Colin Birch</b>	<b>Crowned Plover</b>
<b>1st ..</b>	<b>Veronica Rice</b>	<b>Cheetahs on the Lookout</b>

This year the Novice Cup for the best level 3 entry was won by **Mike Leonard** for ‘**Shovellers in Flight**’.

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

**Veronica Rice for ‘Cheetahs on the Lookout’**

And this entry was forwarded to the award for the ‘Photograph of the year’ (which includes the best PDI and best mono and colour prints)

## **General Comments**

Up until the Annual Awards competition, there had still been problems with the calibration of the projector. We now believe that the problem has been solved and that it was due to the differences in calibration for the ‘Duplicate’ and ‘Extend’ modes for the computer screen and projector (which FFP uses). I’d like to thank Colin and Andrew for helping me out with a particularly troublesome and temperamental Colormunki which I have threatened to enter for the wildlife competition next year.

## **Discussion:**

Clare Price asked if there was a need to purchase a new Colormunki. CB replied that a lead has been replaced and it now works.

Tom Peacock suggested that another talk by the Color Confidence representative would be helpful for new and existing members

CB proposed that the use of the device could be covered on a Members evening.

Barry Collin remarked that for the Annual awards wildlife material had been entered in class1, should not have been accepted. Also captive animals were shown in wildlife section. we should ask members to confirm status of subjects.. DH said that this should be made clear on the entry form

## **e) AV Trophy (Andrew Pickess)**

This year there were only 4 entries to the competition.

HC David & Brigitte Whiting with “The Beautiful People of Madagascar

3<sup>rd</sup> Andrew with “Southwold”

2<sup>nd</sup> David & Brigitte with "Pere LaChaise Cemetery"

1<sup>st</sup> Andrew with "London Calling"

It would be really good if we could get a few more entries next year.

Tom Peacock asked: "is it time the AV competition is dropped due to lack of support?"

Action: Clare Price to raise at next committee meeting.

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

We have had another successful year, gaining 5 wins (one being a tie), 1 - 2nd place, 2 Best Print Awards, and 1 Meritorious Award.

Our most successful achievement was coming 5th out of 33, and 4th out of 26, in the EAF PDI and Print Championships. This is outstanding, considering we are up against all the clubs in the East Anglia Region.

The results are:

#### **4 C's Panel Competition - Clive Tanner**

8 Clubs took part this year, submitting 16 panels.

1st was Ipswich PS, 2nd - Clacton CC, 3rd - Shillington, and H/C to Halstead (2) and Swavesey.

#### **Colchester 8 x 8 Competition - Paul Radden**

Eight prints required by 8 authors from 8 clubs.

Colchester came 1st, with Chelmsford 2nd.

Chelmsford won 2nd best image - "Late Night Departure" by Steve Birch and

3rd best image - "Lioness and Wildebeest squaring up" by Veronica Rice

#### **Benfleet Battle - Andy Smith**

This competition is for 10 mono and 10 colour prints from both clubs.

Benfleet won by 180 points to Chelmsford's 177.5

The Best Mono print was awarded to Benfleet, and the Best Colour print to Chelmsford for "Twilight Zone" by Pat Frewin

#### **Harlow PDI Battle - Graham Parry**

This battle is for 20 PDI's from both clubs.

Chelmsford won by 379 marks and 356 to Harlow.

#### **Baddow Print Competition - Harold Mousley**

This Competition is between 8 clubs, with 6 prints from each.

1st was Baddow, 2nd - Colchester, 3rd - Braintree, 4th - Chelmsford, 5th - Maldon & Ingatestone, 7th - Springfield, and 8th - Moulsham Lodge.

#### **CAPS Print Competition - Ron Tear**

This battle is between 5 clubs in the Chelmsford area.

1st - Chelmsford 58, 2nd Baddow - 52, 3rd Ingatestone & Photofold - 48, 5th Mill - 46

"Leopard with Kill and Cub" by Veronica Rice was awarded Best Print.

#### **EAF PDI Championships**

We have to submit 25 digital images, these going into 2 rounds.

We qualified to go into the second round and finished up in 5th place, out of 33 clubs.

This is an excellent result. Beyond was the overall winner.

#### **Essex Inter-Club PDI Competition - Malcolm Hardie**

This competition is for 6 Digital images, and between 9 clubs.

We came 5th, with Upminster this year taking the trophy.

The image "The Straw Hat" by Pat Frewin was the runner up for the Best Image of the evening.

#### **Braintree Shield - Harold Mousley**

6 Mono prints are supplied for this competition, between 12 clubs.

The judge was Harold Mousley.  
Chelmsford came 6th, with Witham winning the trophy.

### **EAF Print Championships**

We have to submit 25 prints, split into 2 rounds. We qualified for the 2nd round, and came 4th of 26 clubs. This is an exceptionally good result for Chelmsford.

Alison Johnson achieved 2 - 15's, which is the highest score. Thanks to Clare for her support.

### **CAPS Digital Competition - Colin Strong**

This competition is for 4 Open images and 3 themed images.

Chelmsford came 1st of 5 clubs, with Photofold 2nd, and Ingatestone 3rd.

### **Maldon Challenge - Paul Radden**

This competition is for 8 Mono prints and 6 Digital images, between 12 clubs.

Chelmsford tied for 1st place with Colchester, and Thurrock coming 3rd.

"Cheetah on the Lookout" by Colin Birch was awarded a Meritorious Award.

Thanks to Colin & Sheila for covering the competition, and for the support of Ann Burley and Colin Galley.

### **Harlow 6 - Way Battle - Pauline Martindale**

This competition is for 10 prints from 6 clubs.

Chelmsford came 1st, with Potters Bar -2nd and Upminster - 3rd.

Thanks go to all the members who have readily let us use their work for the External competitions, and it is encouraging that we have also used some of our newer members work.

The support for the club at these competitions has been very low this year. We could do with more of you joining us, as there is a wealth of experience to be gained by seeing other clubs work.

Thanks to Colin for covering the competitions when we have been away, and especially to David for supplying us with all the PDI files from all our internal competitions, and for running the CAPS PDI Competition.

Here's looking forward to success in the next season.

### **g) Exhibition and Publicity Officer (Greg Keeling)**

Last year's annual photographic exhibition took place at County Hall and was well attended during the two week period.

Having an exhibition at Chelmsford museum, to celebrate the clubs 65 years, has provided an excellent opportunity for the club to display members work for a longer period. An article and photograph of the opening evening was published in the Essex Chronicle which promoted both the exhibition and the club.

This year's annual exhibition at County Hall will again be for two weeks despite the councils revised policy of now limiting the use of its space to just one week. A case was put why one week was too short for a photographic exhibition that was accepted by the councillor. It is hoped that this year the cabinet member responsible for the Arts will select his favourite print. This will help the club build closer ties to the county council and an opportunity for further press coverage.

The exhibition will run from 12 to 26<sup>th</sup> August.

### **h) Webmaster (Andrew Pickess)**

Usage of the site:

- Visits: 9,140
- Page views: 27,561
- 41% of visits by mobile device + 7% over last year

All members galleries have been removed as images were dating back to 2008.

Will propose to committee another re-design to make the site fully responsive so that one site design will work on all devices, not 2 designs like we have at the moment.

## **Discussion:**

Annie Ringland commented "well done"- AP should be commended for his continued good work resulting in a website of excellent quality. Members applauded.

### **i) Rotas Report (David Clark)**

As the Rota secretary for the past season, I wish to thank every member for their support.

The participation of the members to volunteer for the necessary work on the Wednesday evenings, for the smooth running of the club this past season has been well attended.

There has been some exception from a minority of members to participate on the Wednesday evening, who did not wish to help.

I would like to thank two members in particular for volunteering more than 12 times; they are Tony Clark and Ron Gregory.

## **Discussion:**

Ann Burley requested that decaffeinated coffee be purchased for members who prefer it. **Action: David Clark.**  
Christmas party food: Need to get members to indicate their attendance in advance for the 2017 party. **Action: Clare Price**

### **j) Chairman (Pat Frewin)**

Another year has gone by with lots going on.

Thanks to Colin for a very varied and entertaining programme. Not an easy job to find good speakers.

We have once again had members gaining distinctions. Well done to you all, lets hope we will have more in the future. Special congratulations go to Andrew Pickess for being the first club member to gain his CPAGB AV distinction.

We have had more successes at the EAF Exhibition, where we had 16 acceptances across the print and PDI sections.

We were very fortunate to have been offered the chance to have a free 11 week exhibition in the Chelmsford Museum. This coincided with our 65th Anniversary, so we took advantage of the offer. We had a special open evening, where the Deputy Mayor and leading members of the EAF attended, which was very successful. You still have time to see the exhibition, as it ends on 11th June.

The new format at the Bell Centre, running the Special Interest Groups, has gone very well, and we will continue to use the new format again next season. Check the website for the monthly programme.

We have our usual programme of events for the summer break, so check the website for all the information. At the outdoor photo-shoot in our garden, Steve is hoping to hire a professional model, so be sure to come along on 21st June.

Don't forget to buy your tickets from Mike for the BBQ, as we need to know how many to cater for.

I hope you have all enjoyed this season, and hope to see 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, at any of the summer events.

I have enjoyed being chairman for the last two years, and it has been a pleasure to work with such a helpful and co-operative committee. Many thanks to Clare for filling in as Vice-chairman, while I have been away. We are pleased that Pete Tachauer has joined us on the committee, and all the existing members are staying in their posts, subject to election.

Here's looking forward to another good season next year.

**Acceptance of Officers' Reports:** Proposed by Tom Peacock, seconded by John Storey and carried unanimously.

**6. Year 2017/2018 subscriptions.** "The Committee proposes that the 2017/2018 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 this motion was proposed by, Alan Watts, seconded by Steve Birch and carried unanimously.

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

#### **8. President's remarks.**

Season 2016-2017 has been a very busy year for the club starting with the BBQ & Exhibition in the Library in August. We now have a three months exhibition in the Chelmsford Museum ending on the 11th June.

Your committee has again been kept very busy with the everyday running of the club for 2016-2017 season, with some difficult decisions having to be made through the year.

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 would like to thank Pat Frewin who is standing down as Chairman, for all of her hard work and effort she has put in on behalf of the club during her time as Chairman.

Subject to election by the members, I take this opportunity to welcome Pete Tachauer as the new Vice Chairman to run with Clare Price the new Chairman.

I would like to thank Steve Birch for the way he has taken on the position of Print Secretary and organised all of the competitions very successfully.

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 producing good work for the 2017-2018 season.

<b>Themes:</b>	<b>PDI</b>	<b>PRINT</b>
	Architecture	Atmospheric
	Silhouettes	Street Life (Mono)
	Colours	Scapes

#### **9. 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 David Heath, Melvyn was *nem. con.* re-elected to the position of Chairman for 2017-8 and re-assumed the chair of the meeting. (3 members abstained, all others were in favour).

**10. Change method of marking for competitions:** Mark out of 20 with no half marks. The reason for this proposal, decided in committee is that population of some of the levels in the league is becoming too large. The new marking system would help to even up the levels by being able to use a larger range of points for marking. MF gave a full explanation. This will start from the beginning of the 2017-2018 season.

The performance of this scheme will be reviewed and feedback from members discussed at the 2018 AGM. TP thinks it will not work, and is still prone to manipulation. AB: gets over judges who can't award half marks. TP wants all points averaged out. MF Asked TP to put suggestion in email for consideration by the members.

**11. Proposal to Change Constitution:** To amend Article 9 to increase the number of committee Members from 12 to 13. (The reason is that we need the addition of another member to fill all the jobs required.)

Proposed: Steve Langridge, Seconded Alison Johnson. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

#### **12. 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: Clare Price  
Vice Chairman: Peter Tachauer  
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: David Clark  
Committee Member Equipment: Brian Purdy  
Committee Member Rotas: David Clark  
Election of the above persons to the respective committee positions was carried unanimously.

### **13. Election of Honorary Auditor.**

Barry Collin has agreed to accept the position of Honorary Auditor for 2017-8. Election was proposed by Steve Birch, seconded by Clare Price and carried unanimously.

### **14. Any other business.**

Submitted by Anne Ringland:

#### **a) "Should the Club put a time limit on the age of images."**

This has been debated in committee twice and rejected both times as impossible to police.

Barry Collin stated the EAF position which is that no images over 4 years old are allowed, but there is no way to police PDI, and prints previously assessed and dated by labels on the back could be remounted.

The meeting agreed with the Committee's position and the proposal was rejected.

#### **b) "Should the Club have a sub-committee for selection of images for external competitions"**

Why?

AR stated that this was raised as it is in the constitution.

Paper was passed round.

This approach had been the practice some time ago but not supported adequately. It had not been consistently possible to get the subcommittee members to meet in time. When Pat and Melvyn decided to make the selections themselves, marks started to go up.

Also results had been critically dependent on the panel of judges. So much work was involved by Pat and Melvyn that it was very hard to involve other people.

Pete Tachauer supported continued selection by Pat and Melvyn, but was concerned about succession planning as there was no resource of trained and practiced persons able to continue the work.

CP's view was that some sort of process of mentoring or shadowing should be done.

Ann Burley stated that when there had been a selection committee she and Trevor Burley were in it but it was a complete nightmare. PF and MF are ideal people for this task-someone else could cause them problems.

CP felt that a training process should be possible, and took an action to discuss in committee. AR agrees what we need is a backup. CP related that a sub-committee approach did not work at Springfield Camera Club; SB stated that it had not worked at Ongar. Committee will discuss who will be brought in to assist the selection process by MF and PF plus trainees and how it will be done. Five volunteers emerged for training and this approach was endorsed by the meeting. Direct adoption of a sub-committee process was therefore rejected. More members need to attend the external events. Tom Plucinski asked: Would it encourage members to attend if their work was included? PF says she already puts a list on the table at the club to encourage them to attend. It was suggested that use of an additional hand microphone would be helpful at the next AGM  
Action: MT/AF.

**Presentation of:** The League Awards.

All cups and trophies were duly presented

**Presentation of:** The Photographer of the Year Award.

**Third : Tom Plucinski**

**Second: Pat Frewin**

**First: Steve Birch**

**Presentation of:** The Nice Cup

This was presented to **David Clark** for his quietly efficient work in organising refreshment and raffle prize supplies, plus duties and rotas for the year which has attracted universal praise.

There being no further business, the President thanked members for their attendance and participation, and declared the meeting closed at 22.12