

Chelmsford Camera Club
Annual General Meeting for the year 2017/2018
Held at Moulsham Mill, Chelmsford at 19.30
on Wednesday 23rd May 2018.
Minutes

1. Those Present:

Alec Fraser, Alison Johnson, Andrew Pickess, Andy Donn, Ann Burley, Annie Ringland, Bob Pollard, Brian Purdy, Brigitte Whiteing, Bruce Gray, Chris Hackett, Clare Price, Colin Birch, Colin Galley, Colin Slep, David Bladon, David Clark, David Heath, David Whiteing, Elaine Butcher, Elly Dorman, Gary Woods, Greg Keeling, John Shears, John Story, Katerina Glover, Konrad Borysiuk, Les Mann, Mark Taylor, Martin Ventris-Field, Melvyn Frewin, Mike Crack, Mike Leonard, Mike Rose, Nigel Brewer, Pat Frewin, Patrick O'Meara, Paul Griffiths, Paul Morgan, Pauline Drew, Peter Hildebrand, Sally Freeman, Steve Birch, Steve Langridge, Tim Ahern, Tom Peacock, Tom Plucinski, Tony Mansfield.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Alan Watts, Sandra Way, Peter Tachauer, Steve Wilkinson, Tony Cockerell Heather Tabor Jonathon Banks

3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th May 2017.

Minutes were approved and signed

Proposed by: John Story

Seconded by: Patrick O' Meara

4. Matters arising from those minutes.

- PDI Height of Image on Screen for visibility has now been improved. **Action: Complete**

- Monitoring of judges – this action was carried out in the early part of the 2017-8 season **Action: Complete**
Main result was that there was no consensus on how judges compared
(Except that everyone thought that Sarah Kelman was excellent)
Results were passed to EAF
CB keeps a note of those who will not be invited back
There is a turnover of judges and some new blood
In response to a question it was stated that CB takes the decisions.

- The generation of new award categories on the fly, which had happened at the judge's insistence at one competition during the 2016-7 season, will not be done in future **Action Complete**

- Comments made concerning competition rules made by BC were discussed in committee The results were promulgated via newsletter and subsequently incorporated in the rules **Action: Complete**

- PDI quality (image resolution) Discussed in Committee as described in PDI report
It had been decided to stick with the existing resolution for the time being.
Action: complete

5. Treasurer's report and presentation and approval of the annual accounts.

Year End Accounts at 31 March 2018

The total sum in our bank accounts is £8063

The Income & Expense sheet shows a deficit of £814. This follows three consecutive years which have shown a surplus.

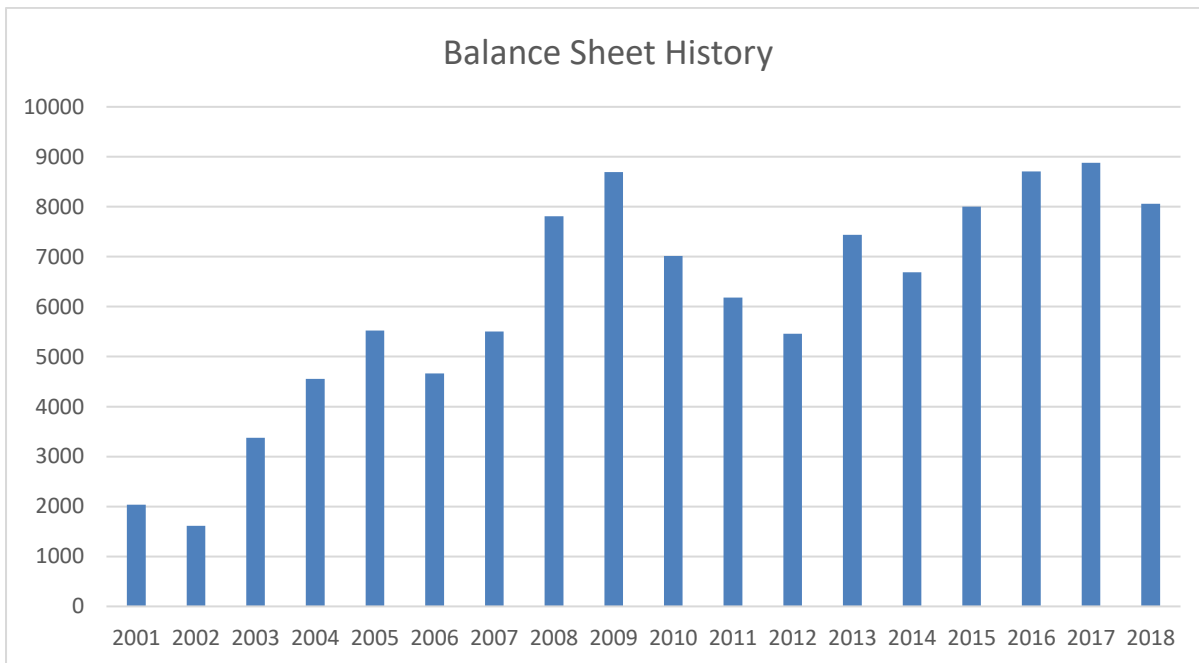
Income is up by about £300 - primarily because increased membership from 88 to 94 has resulted in greater income from membership and attendance fees.

Expenses are up by about £1270 – primarily because we purchased new equipment and held an exhibition at the museum. Also, attendance was down at the Thursday meetings at Baddow - these have always run at a loss.

New Barbecue	£200
New PA system	£380
Replacement colour calibrator	£170
Museum Exhibition	£160
Net cost of SIG meetings at Baddow	<u>£198</u>
	<u>£1100</u>

The equipment purchases and the museum exhibition are “one-offs”, and it’s reasonable to assume that the new equipment we’ve just bought will not need to be replaced in the near future.

This deficit comes after a number of years showing significant surpluses, and the chart below shows that the Club’s finances are still in a healthy state. Therefore, I propose no change to our membership fees for the 2018/19 season.



Income & Expenses for Year Ending 31 March 2018

Income	2016/17	2017/18
Membership fees	2125.00	2385.00
Attendances Wednesday	2958.00	2994.00
Attendances Practical	130.00	94.00
Raffle Collection	793.00	923.00
Less Raffle prizes	317.07	312.76
Bank Interest	1.98	1.98
Other Income	71.00	0.00
Panel of 6 Comp	-51.45	-89.48
Total Income	5710.46	5995.74
Expenses		
Rent Mill	1701.00	1918.08
Rent Bell Centre	204.00	282.00
Judges Expenses	638.45	550.00
Speakers Expenses	944.00	980.00
Insurance	315.83	313.49
EAF, PAGB etc	226.67	227.67
Coffee, Food and drink	107.21	194.97
Club Social Events	250.59	288.66
Donations	59.15	53.00
Engraving and Cups	135.10	240.98
Equipment Purchase/Maint/Repair	111.41	742.32
External Competitions	220.08	134.75
Other Expenses	22.88	114.83
Museum Exhibition		161.08
Website	100.30	139.09
Postage and Stationery	171.88	173.90
Programme Printing	255.00	225.00
Printing and Photocopying	76.65	69.80
Total Expenses	5540.20	6809.62
Surplus/-Deficit for the year	170.26	-813.88
Balance at start of year	8706.56	8876.82
Balance at end of year	8876.82	8062.94
Bank Current A/c end of year	4930.22	4114.36
Bank Savings A/c end of year	3946.60	3948.58
	<u>8876.82</u>	<u>8062.94</u>

Hon. Treasurer: **M. CRACK**

Original signed by Treasurer

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report and the Accounts:

Proposed: Greg Keeling

Seconded: Andrew Pickess

6. Officers' reports: (These had been emailed to members so were not read out at the meeting. Proposed by the President that the reports be dealt with in their entirety and then voted upon.)

a. Club Secretary's Report: Alec Fraser

As most of you will know, the Club Secretary as well as receiving much of the external correspondence, is the first point of contact on our excellent website for new membership enquiries. The rate of queries about joining the Club has kept up well throughout the season and apart from the website itself, we have had a good external publicity profile from last year's participation in the Chelmsford Star Co-op 2017 Calendar and our two separate exhibitions in the Chelmsford Museum and the Public Library.

There was an unexpected boost as the Co-op requested permission from our authors to use some more of their images in this year's calendar, although it was supposed to be an open competition this time.

This year's recruitment has resulted in a welcome surge of fresh talent as demonstrated by the excellent standard of competition work in the Level 3 group.

It's time to start writing the Welcome letter to introduce the programme for next season. I look forward to seeing many of you at the BBQ and the other summer events.

b. Print Secretary's Report: Steve Birch

LEAGUE

There were six league competitions during the 2017/8 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 49 members submitted a total of 490 prints.

- Level 3 was won by Nigel Brewer with 99 points. Runner up was Sally Freeman with 94 points.
- Level 2 was won by Elaine Butcher with 97 points. Runner up was John Story with 93 points.
- Level 1 was jointly won by Alison Johnson and Trevor Burley with 99 points. Runner up was Mike Crack with 97 points.

Three members were promoted from Level 3 to Level 2.

One member was promoted from Level 2 to Level 1.

Four members were relegated from Level 1 to Level 2 as they did not gain sufficient points due to not entering the required number of rounds.

Next season, Level 1 will reduce from 25 to 22 members. Level 2 will increase from 16 to 22 members. Level 3 will have 5 members based on current membership.

The end of season league table accompanies this report.

THE BURLEY CUP

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

In first place was Pat Frewin with "My Lady's Boudoir".

Second place went to Alison Johnson with the panel "Hummingbirds of The Andes" and third place went to Pat Frewin with "Yacht Trio".

Five members were highly commended - "Church Door Detail" by Bruce Gray, "Harwich Infra-Red" by Melvyn Frewin, "Maldon Mud Race" by Brian Purdy, "Local Cricket" by Mike Crack and "The Scallop, Aldeburgh" by Phil Voyez.

THE CYRIL CHORLEY MEMORIAL TROPHY

This competition for the best panel of six attracted a disappointing 9 entries.

In first place was Brian Purdy with the panel "Faces on the Farm".

Second place went to Alison Johnson with the panel "Hummingbirds of The Andes" and third place went to Pat Frewin with "My Lady's Boudoir".

Three members were highly commended – Colin Birch with "North Atlantic", Sally Freeman with "Spring White" and Pat Frewin with "World War 2 Maltese Motorbike".

ANNUAL AWARDS

There were 198 entries submitted for the annual awards. The results will be added to this report at a later date.

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 and we certainly challenged the judges this year.

Finally, I would like to thank those members who have assisted me with the scoring and displaying of the prints during the competition evenings.

c. PDI Secretary's Report: David Heath

PDI SECRETARY'S REPORT END OF 2017-18 SEASON

As last year, only the top two preferences from each competitor were shown in each competition. This gave approximately 80 images to be judged each night. The exception to this was the themed competition where 3 images per person were used and led to 120 images to be judged. 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.

PDI LEAGUE COMPETITION 2017-18

There will be 4 relegations from level 1 to level 2 but all of these were members who entered less than 5 competitions. There will be 3 promotions from level 2 to level 1.

Level 1 will reduce from 28 to 27 next season

There will be 8 promotions from level 3 to level 2 (no relegations from level 2 with the current rules)

Level 2 will increase to 17 next season.

Level 3 will have only 4 members before the new intake.

After dropping the lowest score the winners of each level are as follows

The winner of level 1 is Alison Johnson with 100 points

Runner up is Steve Langridge with 99 points

The winner of level 2 is Patrick O'Meara with 100 points

Runner up is Clare Price with 98 points

The winner of level 3 is Mike Leonard with 98 points

Runner up is Sally Freeman with 96 points

The full end of season tables are given below.

Level 1

Competition	PDI 1	PDI 2	PDI 3	PDI 4	PDI 5	Themed	Total	Lowest	Comp
Alison Johnson	20	17	20	20	20	20	117	17	100
Steve Langridge	20	20	20	19	20	18	117	18	99
Stephen Birch	20	18	20	20	19	19	116	18	98
Brigitte Whiteing	17	19	20	20	16	20	112	16	96
Nigel Brewer	20	17	19	20	15	20	111	15	96
Bruce Gray	20	20	19	19	16	17	111	16	95
Alec Fraser	20	19	18	20	17	16	110	16	94
Heather Tabor	18	20	17	20	19	0	94	0	94
Pat Frewin	18	19	18	17	20	19	111	17	94
Brian Purdy	20	18	17	19	17	20	111	17	94
Veronica Rice	20	20	18	20	0	16	94	0	94
Bob Pollard	20	15	18	20	20	0	93	0	93
Colin Birch	20	16	19	20	17	17	109	16	93
Tom Plucinski	19	15	19	19	19	17	108	15	93
Mike Rose	17	17	17	20	20	18	109	17	92
Mike Crack	19	18	18	17	17	20	109	17	92
Greg Keeling	18	16	17	20	18	19	108	16	92
David Heath	20	16	19	17	19	16	107	16	91
David Bishop	18	17	19	20	15	16	105	15	90
Peter Tachauer	17	17	18	20	16	17	105	16	89
Kate Glover	18	16	17	19	17	0	87	0	87
Ron Gregory	17	16	18	16	18	18	103	16	87
Jonathon Banks	17	15	19	19	14	17	101	14	87
Elly Dorman	15	16	18	20	16	16	101	15	86
Andrew Pickess	16	16	0	17	15	0	64	0	64
Annie Ringland	20	0	18	0	0	0	38	0	38
Ray Lawrence	19	16	0	0	0	0	35	0	35
Vladimir Docekal	17	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	17

Level 2	PDI 1	PDI 2	PDI 3	PDI 4	PDI 5	Themed	Total	Lowest	Comp
Patrick O'Meara	20	16	20	20	20	20	116	16	100
Clare Price	20	20	19	20	19	0	98	0	98
Steve Murray	19	20	19	20	17	15	110	15	95
David Whiting	18	16	18	20	18	18	108	16	92
David Clark	17	16	20	17	20	18	108	16	92
Tom Peacock	17	14	18	19	17	15	100	14	86
Chris Hackett	17	12	18	17	18	16	98	12	86
Les Mann	17	16	20	16	16	16	101	16	85
Trevor Sadowski	17	15	18	19	16	15	100	15	85
Trevor Edwards	20	17	19	0	0	0	56	0	56
Tony Clark	0	18	17	0	0	0	35	0	35
Paul Starr	19	15	0	0	0	0	34	0	34

Level 3	PDI 1	PDI 2	PDI 3	PDI 4	PDI 5	Themed	Total	Lowest	Comp
Mike Leonard	20	20	18	20	20	0	98	0	98
Sally Freeman	19	20	20	18	19	17	113	17	96
Pauline Drew	20	15	18	20	17	18	108	15	93
Tim Ahern	19	16	16	20	20	17	108	16	92
Rita Thorneloe	0	19	19	19	19	15	91	0	91
Martin Ventis-Field	16	16	19	16	15	19	101	15	86
Steve Wilkinson	18	18	0	19	15	15	85	0	85
Allan Puzey	17	15	17	16	18	15	98	15	83
Peter Rockliffe	0	0	18	20	18	19	75	0	75
Monika Wasilewska	0	0	17	19	18	16	70	0	70
David Jeffery	0	0	0	0	16	15	31	0	31
Gary Woods	0	0	0	0	0	17	17	0	17

THEMED PDI COMPETITION (#6) 2017-18

The themed competition took place on the 4th April and was judged by Paul Radden.

40 people entered the competition, each supplying one image in each of the three themes - Architecture, Silhouette and Colours, which led to 120 images to be judged on the night (36 more than last year).

Overall Themed Competition (marks out of 60)

1st was **Brian Purdy** with 57 marks

2nd was **Alison Johnson** with 55 marks

3rd was **Stephen Birch** with 54 marks

The best image of the evening was by **Patrick O'Meara** with **A Brick Lane Moment** (colour)

PDI ANNUAL AWARDS

The Annual Awards this year was judged by Ron Tear. Over the last 4 seasons the number of entries was as follows.

2014-15	148
2015-16	180
2016-17	143
2017-18	204

This season there were 96 **Open** entries, 45 **People** entries and 63 **Wildlife** entries. The results of this competition will be added to this report later.

EQUIPMENT BOUGHT

The old ColorMunki has been pensioned off as it became too unreliable and frequently 'reset' during a calibration. The new device is called an 'i! Profiler' (from the same manufacturer) and is easier to use and quicker to complete a monitor calibration. There have been no complaints about the colour calibration although one or two people still believe it produces too light an image. This could be due to

- a) the calibration system they use is different from the CCC calibrator,
- b) the difference in ambient light levels at the CCC calibration and their home calibration has a noticeable difference or
- c) they don't calibrate their system at all.

The i1 Profiler has been offered to all members of the club for free calibrations – to be returned at the following club meeting.

d. AV Secretary's report- A Pickess

This year there were 7 entries to the competition.

HC David & Brigitte Whiting with "Cornwall"

3rd Peter Tachauer with "A walk on the wild side"

2nd Colin Birch with "Coffin Route"

1st Andrew Pickess with "The House on the Hill"

Well done to Peter on getting 3rd with his excellent street photography blended with relevant video from New York City. It would be really good if we could get a few more entries next year.

e. External Comp Secretary's Report: Pat Frewin

We have had a very successful year, having achieved 6 wins, 3 - 2nd places, 3 Best print, 1 Best PDI, and 2 Meritorious Award.

The results are:

4 C's Panel Competition - Richard Walton

The trophy was won by Cambridge CC with a panel by Ann Miles.

Chelmsford gained a Highly Commended by Alison Johnson.

Colchester 8 x 8 Competition

8 Prints by 8 Authors. Judge - Julie Hutson

Colchester won with 149 points, Chelmsford came second with 141 points.

Lots of good work on display.

Thanks to Clare, Colin, Sheila, Alison, David, Ann & Trevor for there support.

Benfleet Battle

10 Mono prints and 10 Colour prints. Judge - David Steel

Chelmsford won the competition by 344 marks to 337.

We also won Best Mono - "The Secret" by Trevor Burley

and Best Colour print - Magnificent Hummingbird going for nectar by Alison Johnson.

Harlow PDI Battle Judge - Roy Essery

20 PDI Images.

Harlow won the competition by 344 to our 333

Thanks to Clare, David and Pete for there support.

CAPS Print Competition Judge - Sarah Kelman

New format of now having 8 prints per club.

Chelmsford won 144 marks with Photofold second with 139 marks. 6 clubs took part in the competition.

The Best Print was awarded to "Andean Green Tree Frog" by Alison Johnson

This is 11th Consecutive year we have won this trophy.

Baddow Mono Print Competition Judge - Paul Radden

6 Mono Prints.

Chelmsford came 1st with 106 marks, with Baddow 2nd with 103.5 marks.

7 clubs in all took part. Moulsham Lodge won the Best Print of the night.

Chelmsford received a cheque for £25

Thanks to Pete, David, Colin Galley, Ann & Trevor Burley and Alison for their support.

EAF PDI Championships

25 PDI images have to be entered. We scored enough marks to get to Round 2, and did very well to come 7th of 37 clubs.

Thanks to Clare, David Clark, Steve Langridge, Alison and Elly for their support, and to Colin & Sheila who ran the championships.

Essex Inter-Club PDI Competition Judge - Paul Adams

6 PDI Images have to be entered.

Chelmsford tied with Benfleet CC, scoring 55 each. We were given 1st place, as we had scored two 10's.

Thanks to David Clark for his support.

EAF Print Championships

25 Prints have to be entered. We qualified for the second round, and came 8th out of the 29 clubs that took part.

Thanks to Clare, David, Alison and Elly for their support, and to Colin, who ran the championships, and to Sheila for scoring.

Braintree Shield - Judge - Paul Radden

8 Mono prints have to be entered in this competition.

Lots of very good images on show.

Chelmsford came 2nd with 51.5 marks, with Colchester coming first with 56.5 marks. 11 clubs took part.

"Sisters" by Roy Essery (Colchester PS) won best print of the night.

Thanks to Barry Collin and David Clark for their support.

CAPS Digital Competition - Judge - Gill Adams

7 Digital images are entered - 4 open and 3 themed.

Chelmsford came 1st with 127 marks, with Mill 2nd with 122 marks. 5 clubs in all took part.

Best Image was awarded to "Aurora lighting Diamond Beach" by Sally Freeman (Chelmsford CC).

Maldon Challenge - Judge - Mike Fuller

4 Mono prints, 4 Colour prints and 6 Digital images have to be submitted.

Colchester won with 126.5 marks, Chelmsford was 2nd with 123.5 marks. 12 clubs took part, and there was some excellent work on show.

Best Print - "Sisters" by Roy Essery (Colchester PS)

Best PDI - "Evicted" by Patricia Jacobs (Thurrock CC)

Thanks to Alec Trevor, Colin Galley and Andy Jones for their support.

Harlow 6 - Way Battle, 3rd May 2018 - Judge - David Steel

10 prints have to be entered.

Chelmsford came 1st of 6 clubs, with Upminster and Ware tying for 2nd place.

Thanks to David Clark for covering the competition for us.

Our thanks go to all the members who readily make their work available for use in the external competitions. We have been able to use images from all levels of members, this season, which is excellent for the club's future.

Thanks to Colin and David Clark, who have covered some of the competitions when we have been away, and to David Heath for providing us with all the PDI images from our internal competitions. Thanks also to David for running the CAPS competition.

We look forward to seeing some of you at next years competitions, to give support to the club.

f. Programme Secretary's Report: Colin Birch

We have had some very good speakers this year. People like Damien Demolder, past editor of Amateur Photographer on street photography, Russell Savory on the wildlife at Stow Maries, Colin Westgate on landscapes, Chris Upton on the last colliery in England, Viveca Koh on what you can do with an iPhone plus many others who gave us an interesting evening.

The judges generally did well, too. We ask a lot of our judges and while we may not always agree with their scores, we couldn't do without them.

Next season's programme starts with Sarah Kelman on ocean sailing and also includes Ken Sullivan on underwater photography, Ken Scott from West Sussex on atmospheric landscapes and Peter Milsom on sports photography. David Steel will judge our Annual Awards, and Barbie Lindsay 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.

g. Exhibition and Publicity Report: Greg Keeling

Following the success of last year's event, the Essex County Council cabinet member with responsibility for the arts will be choosing her favourite three images again and making a presentation at County Hall. This year's exhibition will run from Saturday 12th August to 25th August at County Hall outside the library. Any volunteers to help set up/take down the exhibition, as well as cover the stall during the two week period, would be very welcome.

h. Members Secretary and Rotas Report: David Clark

The rotas for the various tasks to keep the club running smoothly on club nights have been well supported by the members who had volunteered. They had all arrived in time to open the club for everyone.

There are certain members who always decline to help out in any way with the running of the club nights, they give reasons that they cannot be there on time, but I have noticed that they arrive in plenty of time on club nights, but always decline any job.

There has only been some cancellation due to illness or work commitments, but they have all notified me in plenty of time to fill their place, which I thank everyone.

New Members

Since the start of the season last September, twelve people have joined, when asked how they had selected the club; the majority had searched the internet for photographic clubs, and looked at their web sites before deciding to join our club.

The following are the new members:

Patrick O'Meara, Paul Morgan, Paul Starr, Peter Rockliffe, Monica Wasilewska, Iain Saunders, David Jeffery, Sandra Way, Gary Woods, Alan Evans, Ian McDonald, Jenny McDonald.

All the new members were impressed with the variety of the club nights. We are still recruiting new members late into the season.

i. Webmaster and AV Report- A Pickess

This year the site was completely redesigned to ensure that it worked on all devices, this also cut down on the administration of the site as I was having to create 2 copies of league tables etc. 1 for desktop devices and 1 for mobiles.

Owing to other pressures on my time it has not been possible to add back some of the features but plan to do those over the summer months.

Usage of the site:

- Visits: 8,991 slightly down on last year
- Page views: 30,573 +11% on last year

Acceptance of all the officers' reports was proposed by: Steve Langridge
Seconded by: John Shears

7. Chairman's Report (Clare Price)

It has been a great honour and privilege to be elected Chairman of Chelmsford Camera Club. When I joined about 8 years ago I could never have imagined aspiring to actually be the Chairman. My first year has been a very busy one, and not without its serious challenges. I've never know time go so fast. I have to thank my fantastic committee for their sheer hard work and commitment, some of them even have day jobs! Peter has been a brilliant vice chairman, he's come straight from the shop floor and fitted in extremely well. I feel we are a team and I council his opinion on all matters.

As the Officers' Reports have focused on our success as a club, I won't reiterate these successes except for a few major ones, namely the launch of our new website. It is still being expanded but has a lovely crisp and clear look to it, it is easy to find information. Also I'd like to mention our success in external competitions due to the expertise of Pat and Melvyn and their dedication to the job. We continue at attract new members, so we must be doing something right.

As a club we encourage members to gain various qualifications, this year has been a good year, we have had Veronica Rice gain her BPE4*, Colin Birch attain his BPE2* and I gained my DPAGB. I know that some of you have entered or thinking of entering for the CPAGB or even DPAGB awards, I wish you lots of luck and hope that more of you will ask for help in starting down these roads. Help is available in house and sometimes outside of the club, Vic Hainsworth has been extremely helpful in the past to many members, including myself. He is a great advocate of people, in all clubs, attaining these qualifications. We have had successes at the EAF Exhibition, where we had 12 acceptances across the print and PDI sections and 3 of these acceptances are to represent the EAF at the PAGB Exhibition.

I do not believe in change for change sake, so any changes, big or small, are done to enhance the club in some way. We have introduced payment of fees by bank credit. We've also introduced image of the night; I know this has really given some joy to the recipients. Also we've amalgamated the CAPs evenings to free up an evening in the program. We've implemented the Data Protection Rules (this was a mandatory change). We have a new sound system, portable and easy to use. Finally we have a new raffle prize – the £5 M&S voucher which appears to be popular.

I need to reflect upon the fact that we have lost one member this year, Don Beckett, a lovely man whose musical talents were not widely known to the members, and of course Heather Tabor is very ill and undergoing Chemotherapy at the moment. John Goodacre is also struggling with various health issues, so hope to see him back shortly.

I have to make two apologies, firstly, last year we said we would only have single word for a theme, in the themed competitions. This didn't happen. However, I do believe that the themes we have chosen will be very useful either in stretching the ability of the photographer e.g. High key, or a topic that is vital for the use in external competitions such as people in their environments and we all like abandoned buildings. Secondly, the newsletter, I loved writing it and filling it with our images but alas I just kept running out of time, so I will try harder next year.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to use the Bell centre again, it is being demolished. I am very sad about this. I am happy for the SIG wildlife group to use my home as a meeting place, and under AOB we will outline an approach as to how we can still perform some of the functions that were carried out at the Bell centre.

During the past few years we have seen a repetition of not identical but very similar images and the members have asked the committee to review the situation. Therefore the committee and I have felt a need to add an addendum to the competition rules to the effect of:-

The Club would like to encourage its members to expand their photography skills and to introduce greater variety to the Club's competitions.

For the enjoyment of the audience and benefit of the club in general, members should avoid using numerous images of similar subjects in similar locations,.

*Images understood as 'similar' would be, for example, those taken at a portrait session (similar lighting, composition and subject), a sporting event or any other topic which offers little variation on the same theme/subject, **or where the audience could not clearly identify how the images differ.***

We kindly ask members to limit submissions of 'similar' images to a maximum of 2 per media over the year (2 in PDI and 2 in print league competitions). The relevant competition secretary will adjudicate if necessary.

We have the summer now to look forward to, the BBQ, our exhibition in the library, we've decided upon some summer events, ones that were popular last year. Hopefully the Audley End visit will be able to take place this year, and of course any *ad hoc* events.

Finally, I want to say that I consider my role as one of a caretaker, I will do the best for the members, listen to them and act accordingly. I will then pass the club on to another caretaker when my term finished.

Members applauded.

Acceptance of the Chairman's Report was proposed by: Katerina Glover

Seconded by: Elaine Butcher

8. Year 2018/2019 subscriptions:

The committee proposes that the 2018/2019 subscriptions should be held the same as last year. 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. Evening workshops under revision.

Acceptance of this Committee resolution was proposed by: John Shears

Seconded by: Colin Birch

9. 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.

10. Special Interest Groups

This topic is in the agenda because

- The Bell centre in Great Baddow which has long been the venue for the monthly member-led Thursday evening practical/tutorial sessions is due to close shortly and will therefore not be accepting bookings for the next season.
- The initial popularity of the Special Interest Group format for this evening, which has been operational for the last season seems to have faded.
- We therefore need to decide whether and in what form these meetings will continue

Clare announced that two members' evenings have been included in the programme for the regular Wednesday Club evenings, in November and February. This approach to learning and information exchange has worked well in the past.

As an alternative venue if needed, AF has checked the availability of the Moulsham Mill conference room for Thursday evenings and it would be available on the first Thursday in the month for the same hourly rate as currently charged for the weekly meetings (£53 per night)

Ann Burley asked why we are considering continuation of the SIG sessions at this cost in view of the recent poor turnout at the Bell. This was very disappointing.

Tony Mansfield replied that the Bell centre evenings had never made a profit (originally these meetings were run at no charge to members)

Tom Peacock informed the meeting that alternative meeting rooms are available within the Great Baddow centre run by the Parish Council and would be at half the normal price if booked by a Baddow resident. He offered to make enquiries.

The Chairman thanked Tom for his helpful suggestion, and Andrew Pickess said he would follow this up as he is also a Baddow resident and was responsible for the Bell Centre bookings on behalf of the Club.

Action: A Pickess

Martin Ventris-Field said that he had found the Bell sessions very valuable.

His only problem was being out on 2 consecutive nights. However, on checking by show of hands with the other members present, none of them had a problem with the Thursday night.

Patrick O'Meara suggested that instead of holding a meeting, the Club could make and place tutorial videos on YouTube.

Mark Taylor stated that considerable skill and huge effort would be required to put such videos together. Further they are not interactive, which is the great benefit of the club sessions.

Tony Mansfield pointed out that there are already many such videos on YouTube

Action: Chairman (CP) to follow up in committee the format and content of future sessions

CP proposes September and October be arranged for the present, at whatever venue is selected.

Action: AF to select and book venue

Action: CP to arrange content for these two sessions

11. President's remarks.

Season 2017-2018 has seen many new members join the club, this has added an extra potential for the club by adding a variety of new skills from different members. Some of those have already had their work accepted for use in external competitions. We have many existing members who have achieved photographic distinctions this season, such as LRPS.ARPS.CPAGB.DPAGB. & BPE awards. Well done to them, and good luck to those who may be seeking distinctions in the future.

The annual BBQ was a great success, as was the Exhibition in the library in August 2017. This was manned by volunteer members of our club, who talk with many potential new members who have seen our images on display, then made enquiries about membership to our club. I take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers for giving up their time to man the exhibition.

I have mentioned before your committee work extremely hard in the background with the everyday running of our club and taking many difficult decisions though a normal season. This is all done on a voluntary basis for which they receive no funds from the club, only out of pocket expenses.

I personally, as President wish to thank them for all of their hard work, which without them the club would not be able to run.

The club always has a very busy schedule each season with a wide range of competitions and speakers, but still manages to maintain a very friendly atmosphere, which I hope is enjoyed by our members. I look forward to seeing this continue for the 2018-2019 season.

Keep producing your good work for the 2018-2019 season and I wish you many 20's for your prints and PDI images.

Themes: PDI

Wide Angle
Mood
Still Life

PRINT

Abandoned Buildings
High Key
People in their environments

12. Election of the President.

The President left the room and was duly re-elected, Club Chairman Clare Price took over the chair of the meeting.

Nomination of Melvyn Frewin to act as President for another term of 1 year was

Proposed by: **David Clark**

Seconded by: David Bladon

Those in favour: 36

Those against: None

Abstentions: 3 counted, a further 9 members failed to vote, (out of the 48 in the room) so will be counted as abstentions bringing the total of those abstaining to 12

The President returned and re-assumed chairmanship of the meeting

13. Election of Officers and Ordinary Committee Members.

(members requested to vote on the whole list)

The following persons having been duly nominated and seconded individually have agreed to stand for the positions indicated below:

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

Approval of the appointment of these persons was proposed by: **Steve Langridge**
Seconded by: **Tom Plucinski**

On a vote of the members present, **election of the above persons to the respective committee positions was carried unanimously.**

14. Election of Honorary Auditor.

Barry Collin was proposed by: **Colin Birch**
Seconded by: **Greg Keeling**

On a vote of the members present, election of Barry Collin to the position of Auditor was carried unanimously.

15. Any other business:

This section was devoted to members' questions which had been notified in advance to the Committee, followed by answers prepared ahead of the meeting jointly by the President and Chairman.

Q1. Bruce Gray - 25 April

Chelmsford used to organise special events eg Heather Angel at the Civic. The club was badly let down about 6 years ago by a guest speaker but should we let this deter us from organising special events in future. I am sure that there are enough club funds to cover any financial risk.

Committee Answer:-

These events are usually held to celebrate club events e.g. the club's 70th birthday would be a good time to hold the next event.

Club doesn't need the revenue that is generated by these events, can be over £1000.

Finding the right speaker to attract a large audience is key.

Needs a dedicated person to project manage which can take up to 18 months from start to finish.

Discussion:

Bruce Gray: Points noted but the Photography Show has a list of top-rated speakers, for example David Noton and David Ward.

Melvyn Frewin: We can and do insure against a speaker not turning up but we can't insure against poor sales of seats. If we pick a high profile venue in Chelmsford such as the Cramphorn Theatre we will need to fill 172 seats. We will be pleased to look at suggestions from members with an 18 month event horizon taking us currently to late 2019/early 2020, otherwise the 70th anniversary in 2022 will be a firm target.

Action:CP to review any member proposals forthcoming to see if they merit holding a Special Event prior to 2022.

Q2 -John Shears - 26 April

Members were recently admonished over mutterings about a judge, who, whatever his merits, had substantially lost a substantial proportion of the audience. My question is as follows.

It is my clear recollection that at the AGM either last year or more likely the year before that the members at the AGM voted in favour that members present at an evening should score the judge. This has never been implemented. This raises two questions

Are the committee entitled to ignore matters voted on and agreed at an AGM? There have been other issues ignored, the issue of a year or two back that the amalgamation of mono and colour was to be reviewed by members half way through the year. As it happens, I think the current arrangement works ok, but that is not the point.

Committee Answer:

CP: There was still no reason to disrespect the judge or me as people were actually talking over me whilst I was thanking the judge.

Scoring of Judges was implemented, organised by Colin and reported back to the members at the 2017 AGM
Answer: The following extract from the AGM minutes 2015/16 '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"

Q3- Trevor Sadowski – 26 April

I would like to ask if the practical sessions are going to continue next season. Personally I have got a lot out of them, in particular thanks to yourself (Mike) and Colin for teaching me good processes for using Lightroom and how to mount photos properly. I think it would be a shame if they stopped but understand the committee need to see at least a basic level of attendance.

Personally I would be up for any days out (work allowing) if that were to be organised instead, we have done a few successful ones with Pauline in the past.

. Committee Answer:

Practical sessions-

There will be 2 members' evenings (Wednesdays) in the program, one in November and one in February, where we can have small groups of people having Lightroom etc tutorials, mount cutting, image appreciation, macro photography etc

However, if this isn't deemed enough tuition (particularly Lightroom) or early enough in the club year, then we can hold a more dedicated evening in e.g. late Sept / early Oct on perhaps a Thursday night (and later on in club year) at the Mill (hopefully). The cost of the Mill, whilst it is more than the Bell centre, can be offset against the reduced frequency of the bookings. Alec has looked into the availability of Thursday evenings, and it is possible to book a series of Thursdays should the meeting deem this a way forward.

Action: CP to pursue possibilities

Outings-

We feel the answer to this is to have either one person (but others could contribute) who researches what is happening in the area e.g. a Forties event at Chatham Docks in September. This information then needs to be disseminated to the interested people.

One serious suggestion has come from Andrew as to how to disseminate the information:-Putting a calendar on our website for one or many to update with future events. He has tried out the technology and it works. Logon and password are needed. The tricky bit is as follows:-

Due to the Data protection act, the club can't give out email addresses to members, but if a group of people at the beginning of the club year exchanged email addresses or mobile numbers (have a what's app group) then these people can communicate with each other to say whether they are attending the coming event displayed on the Events Calendar on the CCC website. Peter does something similar with his Street photography outings, the SIG wildlife group have a What's app group. With this solution a club member is not in charge of the event's schedule, although it would be good if more experienced club members or committee members went along to give the odd piece of guidance.

Bruce Gray: This sounds like a good idea

Action: AP and Committee to consider this proposal and keep members informed of progress.

Kate Glover-suggested that visits to exhibitions should be included. CP declared that this is a good idea and would work well with the group calendar approach outlined above.

Tom Peacock asked if this scheme could be used for trips of more than 1 day.

In discussion it was noted that Pauline had arranged and led some successful trips targeted at newer members and this could in future be integrated into the proposed new scheme.

Action: Committee to consider above suggestions and respond.

Patrick O' Meara asked if a quiz and photo competition could be put on as done in his previous club? CP stated that this would be OK. **Action CP and Committee** to consider implementation of this proposal.

Tom Peacock asked if pub nights could be arranged this way. CP stated that only four events have been arranged for this summer due to poor attendance last year. AP already has an action from Committee Meeting to put these on the Club website.

Q5 Chris Hackett – 2 May

Current competition rules for league promotion/demotion points are too onerous and in my opinion actually inhibit competition. For example in this year's print league 2 only one member made the transition to League 1. For next year I would suggest a simple easily understood top three up bottom 3 down in each league regardless of points scored.

Committee Answer: -*The reason for the high mark needed to get into level 1 was to help reduce its size as we all think that it was getting too big.*

MF said that he and the Committee were completely against the "3 up, 3 down" rule.

Chris Hackett proposed that an immediate vote should be taken.

MF stated that many options had been carefully considered in Committee, including combination of all the levels into one. All alternatives to the present system had however been rejected.

Members felt that combining the levels was not necessarily a good thing- in particular a beginners' group is a good idea, but it must be for beginners only.

Martin Ventris- Field said that as a true beginner, he had found his time in Level 3 to be "valuable and enjoyable"

Tom Peacock said that: we promote ourselves as the premier club in Chelmsford. Better to be a small fish in a big pond. People who join us have made that decision.

Mike Crack said that he receives new member applications and tries his best to allocate people joining the Club to the levels most appropriate for their level of experience.

MF: Existing scheme is now set in place for the coming year and suggestions are welcomed in good time for the 2019-2020 season

Chris Hackett asked why a vote could not be taken at this AGM as we have not started the season yet - what is the mechanism for changing the rules?

DH: stated that 3 equal groups will not be achieved by this method.

MT expressed the opinion that "3 up, 3 down" does not encourage people to get better as they only have to be the 4th least good in their current level to avoid relegation.

CB warned that previous careful analysis of this proposal had concluded that, in summary "3up, 3down" would lead to a "yoyo" effect with members shuttling back and forth between levels in successive seasons, not necessarily related to any change in their level of proficiency.

MF asked for a show of hands as an indication, rather than as a binding vote for change. The result was:

6 in favour

4 abstentions

Remainder: against (48 members in total were present)

The result was overwhelmingly against changing to a "3up, 3 down" process. Therefore this proposal will **not** be carried forward to the Committee for action.

Q6 Chris Hackett Themed competition scores should not be counted towards league positions as they have a separate cup award. Due to the lottery nature of the judge's interpretation of themes the scores awarded can be very divergent and can compromise league positions adversely. For all league competitions the best 4 from 5 should be the deciding factor.

Committee Answer:-

We decided to get the feel of the response to this suggestion from the audience. If there was great feeling that the Themed competitions should be removed from the League then we would instigate a vote actually at the AGM. If there wasn't too much feeling then we would say we'll take it away to the committee and discuss it there for implementation (if actioned) in the year 2019/20.

MF stated that the old scheme from which we were forced to change was: 6 Mono, 6Colour, and 6 PDI competitions

We could always drop the lowest mark under that system. However the Theme Competition now forms part of the 6 competitions in the season, so Themes in the league are needed in order still to be able to drop 1 mark.

We can't add back more comps without sacrifice to speakers or members evenings. Having 5 League competitions only is too much of a risk for most people.

Ann Burley: agreed with CH saying that the Theme Competition was different from other League comps in that the 3 levels were ignored and marking was done as a combined set. Why could the Mono Competition not go into the League instead? Other members pointed out that The Mono Comp also combined the 3 levels.

One purpose of including Themes in the League was to force members out of their comfort zone.

MF then conducted a vote on the proposition as follows:" Remove Themed Competition from the League, leaving 5 League Competitions only, and not be able to drop the lowest mark".

Result was:

12 in favour

28 against

Abstentions declared: none. Actual Abstentions: 8

(Total in room 48)

Therefore the proposal is rejected, and will not be carried forward to the Committee for action.

John Story asked if it would be possible to extend the season by a week to include 6 normal league competitions, so we would still be able to drop the lowest mark

MF said that the Committee will take this away **Action: CP to place on Committee Agenda as part of AGM Actions.**

The following query was received from Les Mann on May 3 – and will not be part of the AOB questions, it was out of time given for questions.

"Could consideration be given to amending the competition rules.

My suggestion is 'that all images print and DPI should be no more than 24 months old' this would help to promote active fresh photography throughout the club."

This query was answered by Mike Crack:

For what it's worth, we discuss competition rules and promotion/demotion criteria regularly at committee meetings. it appears that there's no perfect system - if there were, we'd have found it by now.

Age of images has been discussed a couple of times, with a variety of views on the table - restricting the age of an image for competition received some support. However, after some discussion, we concluded that, even if we wanted to do this, it would be impossible to police.

Presentation of: The League Awards.

See the Competition Secretaries Reports for the names of winners and runners up.

Presentation of: The Photographer of the Year Award to Alison Johnson.

Presentation of: The Nice Cup.

On the recommendation of the President and the Hon Secretary, the Nice Cup was awarded jointly to **Tony Clark** and **Ron Gregory** for their willingness to volunteer for Reception Desk duty, which they have performed cheerfully on many occasions throughout 2017-8 and previous seasons.

There being no further business the 2018 Annual General Meeting was closed at 9.54 pm