

**Brighton and Hove Camera Club**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting**  
**6 June 2012**  
**Dave Gerrard's Place**

**Members Present**

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| David Gerrard (President) | John Francis (Treasurer) |
| Tony Crowther (Secretary) | Colleen Slater           |
| Jerry Webb                | Ant Hunt                 |
| Paul Stillman             | Claude Lester            |
| Norman Atkinson           |                          |

**1 Welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Tony Bowall (Vice-President).

**2 Actions from previous meeting**

Job Descriptions – Tony Crowther confirmed he had received the job description for the Workshop and Exhibition Organiser roles. The Summer Programme Organiser post was awaited.

(LJ)

David Gerrard reported that Tony Bowell had agreed to write a description for the Distinctions group convenor and that he had spoken to Audrey Marshall regarding the Entry Group Organiser position.

TB  
(AM)

Library – Ant Hunt reported that following an initial selection of items in acceptable condition some VHS tapes had been taken by interested club members and the remainder had been divided into those that would be offered for sale to members at the next few club meetings and those that were to be retained by the club.

AH  
CL

Early leaving notice – Jerry Webb confirmed he had produced the necessary notice and agreed to produce a printed and possibly laminated version in time for the start of next season.

JW

Archive update – There had been no apparent progress in the selection of images for archiving despite Steve Boyle and Colin Miller having initiated a selection process. Colin had emailed a short list to various people but selection proved difficult due to the quality of the images. A discussion ensued and the committee felt the process had become unreasonably extended and that an alternative had to be developed. The consensus was that once a year, at the end of the winter season a group would convene, possibly at Colleen Slater's home, to select images for archiving from all the images that had received a gold award during the year. To enable this to occur, the projection and competition teams would be asked to flag all gold images so they may be easily tracked for this assessment. David Gerrard felt it may be helpful for the committee to be reminded of the paper initially produced by Colin Miller and promised to recirculate it.

DG

It was unclear as to whether Colin had managed to arrange a visit to the archive.

Mount-cutting equipment – David Gerrard reported that he had not yet purchased the mount-cutting equipment but would do so before the commencement of the new season.

DG

The committee discussed possible procedures for lending this equipment and ensuring its safe return. After discussion it was felt the equipment should not be lent out but should be made available for members to use at the ELC prior to some of the workshop sessions. Paul Stillman and Claude Lester both committed themselves to being available for at least two workshops to supervise this.

Display frame modification – Ant Hunt reported that the successful use of the existing easels at the side of the room at the meeting of 17 April indicated there would be no benefit to modifying the “Lower Hall” display frames. The idea will be abandoned but the frames will be retained in case we find ourselves in new premises where they would be of value.

Briefing document for judges – Jerry Webb reported that the briefing notes had been forwarded to all committee members. Discussion was deferred to be taken with Item 5.

Scheduling of non-photographer judge – Jerry Webb confirmed he had agreed to scheduling Eileen Flynn for the first print competition on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Scheduling of Summer Programme photographs – Jerry Webb had reallocated the agreed date of 23 October 2012 to the presentation of “Recently Gained Distinctions” so there was no longer an opportunity for the display of images made during the summer. It was suggested, however, that two slide shows be produced to be shown during the normal interval at the first five or so meetings. One could be of summer activities and one of the mystery portraits. Tony Crowther agreed to contact Leo Jago about this.

TC

Attendance figures – David Gerrard had not completed his analysis, partly because of anomalies with the data. He would distribute to the committee once completed.

DG

### **3 Treasurer's Report**

John Francis presented a Budget forecast for the current year. This necessarily had to make assumptions about our future membership and probably increases in costs. This suggests we will be running a slight deficit compared to 2011/2012 and may indicate a need to raise subscriptions for 2013/2014.

John confirmed he would have the 2011/2012 accounts audited by Bob Webzell by the end of the summer.

### **4 2012/2013 Programme**

Jerry Webb presented the latest draft of the programme and invited comment. Some typographical issues were raised which Jerry confirmed he would attend to. More urgent were some external speakers events that did not have a title and competitions where the judge had yet to be determined. Ant Hunt said he was working on the

JW

latter and hoped he could complete this by the time the programme had to go to press. Jerry suggested this would be by the end of June. Jerry was advised, that if the speakers who had not provided titles for their talks did not respond to his requests, to visit their websites and generate a broad title based on the nature of their photography.

AH

JW

## 5 Competitions

There was a wide-ranging discussion about whether or not the grading system should be changed and, if so, what to. There was a difficult balance to be made between the truthful assessment of images and the desired purpose of the club in encouraging members to enjoy, learn and improve. Some of the early part of the discussion centred on the meaning of the term "pass" as used by our system and the possible variations of interpreting of it by the judges. Did it mean "just passable", "pass over" or "pass by"? It was noted that all images receiving a pass were given a single point so there was value to members in submitting images. However, the main issues appeared to be around the reluctance of judges to award a pass grade and the not reading of names of those that received a pass.

After much discussion it was resolved to,

- 1 Change the term "Pass" to "Credit"
- 2 Always read out competition entrants' names
- 3 Rewrite "Guidance Notes for Judges" to include these changes and to stress the assumption that in any competition we would assume between 15 to 30% of entrants would be graded "Credit"

Ant Hunt agreed to produce a draft of the revised Guidance Notes.

AH

## 6 Social Media Websites

It was noted that the club had had a Flickr group for a couple of years and more recently had set up a Facebook group. The former had raised no issues but the latter had received some criticism for apparently permitting advertisements and for allowing the upload of images without moderation. Some of these "poor pictures" were seen as reflecting badly on the club's reputation. The committee was charged with addressing these issues. Furthermore, John Hazard, who manages the club's website had raised his concerns about the lack of traffic on the club's site, particularly the forum and the galleries.

The committee considered these matters and, in respect of Flickr and Facebook, felt there was little to be concerned about. They were assured the site was policed regularly by its administrators and inappropriate material removed. The committee accepted that these sites offered the club an alternative means of attracting new members and that many current members found the sites gave them a space to show their images in a way that was less confrontational and that gave them valuable and encouraging feedback .

When the club's own website was considered, the committee was of the opinion that it was vital that this was retained and strengthened in any way possible. It was suggested there should be direct links to the club's Flickr and Facebook pages and, possibly, feeds between the BHCC site, Flickr and Facebook. As far as the Forum was concerned the number of categories needed to be assessed and much old

material be deleted. There was some duplication of information at different places on the site and this could be eliminated.

## **7 AGM Issues**

Tony Crowther reported there had been two issues arising from the AGM one relating to the setting up of the next club exhibition at Café KOBA and the second relating to concerns about the selection of images for the archive. The first had been completed and the exhibition was now open and the second had been dealt with earlier in this meeting at Item 2.

## **9 AOB**

No issues were raised.

**Date of next meeting** 7.30 on Wednesday, 29 August 2012 at Dave Gerrard's place.