

**Brighton and Hove Camera Club**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting**  
**3 June 2014**  
**Peter Charnaud's Place**

**Members Present**

Peter Charnaud (President)	Jerry Webb (Vice President)
Tony Crowther (Secretary)	John Francis (Treasurer)
Norman Atkinson	David Gerrard
Colleen Slater	Paul Stillman
Jo Teasdale	David Wilsdon

**1 Welcome and apologies for absence**

David Wilsdon advised the committee that Juliana Mulvany wished to stand down from membership and that he would be prepared to attend whenever issues relating to the Competitions Team were under discussion.

Since the outcome of agenda item 7 (Survey Results) may have had a bearing on the planning discussions, it was decided to address that first.

**7 Survey Results**

Jerry Webb pointed out that, although the survey had been very useful, it was returned by a little less than a quarter of the club members and therefore any action taken by the committee should be undertaken with caution. It was noted that the general response was positive and therefore there was probably little cause for substantial change in our offer.

Several members had suggested that competition judges should always be external and that there should be a number of competitions that were themed. The committee decided to attempt to find external judges for all competitions and to run one of the projected image competitions as a critique of submitted images that would not be graded but that may encourage more experimental work. This would occur later in the season. There would then be four print and four projected image competitions that would be graded in the current manner.

JW  
DW

The Masterclass idea was discussed and, partly in the light of the difficulty of getting presenters to repeat their talks every year, we would put together a series of evening and weekend events that would encourage participation in photographic activity. These could be genre-based (e.g. landscape or macro) or examine specific photographic opportunities or challenges (e.g. night photography or photographing people). Jerry Webb, Jo Teasdale and David Gerrard agreed, in principle, to each lead such a group. Paul Stillman will propose a programme of this kind of activity.

PS

It was noted that several respondents to the survey appeared to offer a willingness to become more involved with the practicalities of the Tuesday evenings, including setting-up the room and helping with teas and door duties. Peter Charnaud felt it may be possible to determine from the returned questionnaires who these

members may be and agreed to follow this up and approach the people concerned. PC

It seemed clear that the opportunity to work towards Royal Photographic Society (RPS) distinctions was an important feature of joining the club for several members. The committee discussed of the best way of ensuring this was maintained and it was noted that our main advisors in this area, Bill Wisden and Trevor Gellard, were likely to want to withdraw from the task in the next few years and it was important that the club considered how we would be able to continue. It was acknowledged that Steve Boyle and Tony Bowall were available and that it may be possible to persuade Bob Webzell to join them. Peter Charnaud agreed to speak to Steve Boyle about the matter. PC

The Summer Programme was seen by the respondents as a missed opportunity and we should make stronger efforts to ensure it actually happened. The issue of members simply not turning up was mentioned and one person pointed out that there was no way of removing your name from the website lists once it had been added. Peter Charnaud agreed to speak to John Hazard about whether this might be changed. Peter also said he would ask if the names and contact details of the organisers of the various events could also be included on the website. PC

Jo Teasdale reported on the planning of the new members' evenings. Initially there would be a strong emphasis on the value of the print and members would be encouraged to bring in prints rather than digital images on memory sticks or tablets. When it was suggested that many members did not have their own print facilities David Gerrard volunteered to allow new members to use, for an agreed cost, his printer under his supervision for club purposes. David would speak to Jo and to Audrey Marshall about the viability of this. DG  
JT

## **2 Actions from previous meeting**

Repair of Display Stands – Jerry Webb reported that he had discussed this with Steve Boyle who had agreed to do the necessary work. Norman Atkinson agreed to help transport them to Steve's workshop. JW  
NA

Experienced “Event” Photographers – Paul Stillman confirmed he had identified the event photographers he was seeking and that some club members did participate in the Fringe Festival photo event.

Brighton and Hove Arts Council – Peter Charnaud confirmed that he had sent the BHAC the change of Contact Person in the club.

## **3 Treasurer's Report**

John Francis presented a Final Balance Sheet and a preliminary budget spreadsheet. These had been e-mailed to the committee prior to the meeting. John pointed out that the Final Statement would be presented to Bob Webzell for audit following this committee meeting. John pointed out that despite membership being a little lower this season the sum being carried forward was larger than last year as there had been no major expenses. This didn't mean there would be none in the coming season and John expected some investment in projection equipment may be needed.

The budget projections were based on “guesstimates” of speakers' and judges' costs and of expected increases in the hire charges for the venues. Jerry Webb JW

agreed to forward the speaker estimates to John as soon as possible.

#### **4 Brighton Festival Fringe 2014**

Paul Stillman confirmed that some members had participated in photographing events during the Fringe Festival but there were far fewer than originally showed interest which was rather disappointing.

#### **5 Finalising 2013/2014 Programme**

Jerry Webb confirmed the programme, which had been e-mailed to the committee, was virtually complete and would be finalised within two weeks. The entry charges will also have been agreed. The final document will be ready for proof reading by the committee within three weeks. Jerry said he would take responsibility for getting the document printed and it was agreed that a print run of 350 would be appropriate.

JW

Norman Atkinson said he would update the renewal letter for existing members and send it to Jerry for printing at the same time as the programme.

NA

Jerry agreed to send the programmes and letters for mailing to Peter Charnaud.

PC

#### **6 Preparation for 2013/2014 season**

Jerry Webb agreed to put information to attract new members onto social media but asked for other ideas to promote the club during the summer to ensure potential members found us in time for the September start. Jo Teasdale suggested an open day, a photo-jumble or the distribution of information on a business card or flyer.

JW

The lack of a Front of House person again this year was considered not a serious issue but Peter Charnaud said he would try to find someone who may be willing to collect volunteer names and then send e-mail reminders just prior to each meeting.

PC

Tony Crowther agreed to ensure bookings were made with each of the venues we used.

TC

Jerry described his ideas for the first club meeting. This time it would be run completely by members but would have a "variety" feel with many different aspects. This was still in the planning phase but Jerry would advise the committee of the detail before the next meeting.

JW

Jo Teasdale said the plans for the entry group were advanced and there would be a separate programme published by her and Audrey specifically for the group. Jo would ensure that she had up-to-date membership information from Norman Atkinson. Jo was unaware of any "buddy" scheme but would consider its implications.

JT

The committee didn't consider there was a need for a specific "courtesy team" but Peter Charnaud and Jerry committed themselves to ensure external visitors were treated with care.

PC  
JW

#### **7 AOB**

David Gerrard pointed out that Jean Gerrard was no longer monitoring the

attendance figures and that this had proved a means of providing very useful information. Norman Atkinson agreed to take over this task in 2014-2015.

NA

David Gerrard asked whether there was any back-up plan that could be put in place if a speaker dropped out at the last moment. Jerry Webb said he had an archive presentation or if there was more notice an evening could become a Members' Showcase or he may even be able to find an alternative speaker. Paul Stillman reminded the committee that the SPA had a CD presentation of the last group show. David confirmed he had ordered it to be sent to him.

**Date of next meeting**            7.30 on Tuesday, 26th August 2014 at Jo Teasdale's place.