

Brighton and Hove Camera Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting
20 November 2014
Colleen Slater's Place

Members Present

Peter Charnaud (President)
Tony Crowther (Secretary)
Norman Atkinson
Juliana Mulvany
Paul Stillman
Tony Knight

Jerry Webb (Vice President)
John Francis (Treasurer)
David Gerrard
Colleen Slater
Jo Teasdale

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

There were no absentees and Tony Knight, representing the Projection Team, was welcomed to the meeting.

2 Actions from previous meeting

Briefing for the Critique meeting

Juliana Mulvany confirmed Ken Scott, the commentator for the critique evening on 25th November, had agreed to not awarding grades for the images presented. Jerry Webb stated that, in addition, he would speak with Ken Scott to ensure he was clear about what the club required.

JW

Participatory judging on 20/01/15

Peter Charnaud felt it had been too early to advise the members of this innovation but felt that an announcement on the last meeting before Christmas would be wiser.

PC

Change of Workshop leader

Paul Stillman confirmed Damon Hart had agreed to take the mounting workshop and it would go ahead as planned next week. Members attending would be advised by Paul to bring appropriate card for the exercises

PS

Discounts for members at printers

Jerry Webb said he had spoken to some printers but there was a reluctance to offer discounts for small orders. Furthermore the issuing of "proof of membership documentation would be burdensome for the club

External speakers' costs

John Francis confirmed he had received the information he required for budget planning.

Spare 2014/2015 programmes

Norman Atkinson confirmed he had forwarded these to Peter Charnaud

<u>2013/2014 images for Archive</u>	David Gerrard confirmed he had taken all the received items to The Keep. He said there was one further item, a print, that had yet to be sent to him. He was confident this would be forthcoming very soon.	DG
<u>Potential exhibition venues</u>	Peter Charnaud confirmed the Dome would be happy to have us return and would be amenable for us to set our own exhibition theme. We need merely to approach them with a suggestion of date and subject. Jerry Webb reported that he had no response from his approach to the Sallis Benney Gallery at the University of Brighton. He was pessimistic about getting any but said he had become aware of the rather high charge demanded for hire of the space. He suggested this was around £1500 per week	JW
<u>After-meeting social venue</u>	Peter Charnaud said the choice of venue was not critical but the already poor staff attitude at the current place was getting worse and he hoped that the members may be more open to change after experiencing The Westbourne where the Christmas party was to be held	
<u>Sussex Fed – Competition rules</u>	Tony Crowther confirmed he had responded to the request for feedback regarding the change of the competition rules by the Sussex Photographic Federation	

3 Treasurer's Report

John Francis presented the accounts to November 9 with the advice that though the finances seemed healthy it was still very early in the year. Further, he pointed out that one of the club's more costly speakers had not yet put in his invoice.

There followed some discussion on possible purchases this year. It was felt as a matter of course some monies should be reserved for software updating but it appeared that the only likely imminent requirement may be for the new Mac version of Powerpoint once it had been launched. Tony Knight was asked to consider how much should be allocated annually to this software maintenance and was asked to advise one of the committee.

(TK)

4 Budget Planning

John Francis also presented a draft budget for the year 2015 – 2016. This was discussed briefly and there was an acceptance that £2300 could be safely allocated for external speakers and £300 for the fees of the external judges.

5 Review of 2014-2015 Season Planning

The consensus of the meeting was that the club was in good shape; the new season had been promoted via Facebook and we seem to have attracted a similar number of new members as last year. Some had indicated that the 7.30 start was difficult as they were commuters. It was felt that running meetings later would be difficult for visiting speakers so 7.30 was the best compromise we could offer.

It was felt the first meeting went well and that new members enjoyed the balance of a wide range of quality work and the light-hearted presentation. It was felt this approach should be maintained in some way for the opening and closing meetings of each season.

Peter Charnaud considered the front-of-house system was working well with the sole exception of the rather random way that chairs were left around the hall after meetings. He said he would ensure the matter was clarified after next Tuesday's meeting.

PC

Jo Teasdale expressed concern about the pre-planning of the Summer Programme and suggested this needed to be agreed with leaders, venues and dates by the time of the AGM at latest. Jo agreed to sound-out members for ideas and would endeavour to get some to commit to particular events.

JT

Norman Atkinson pointed out that the giving of new members a code attached to their membership numbers (A or B) was of no current benefit as there were no activities that excluded any member. The affix was historic and only caused problems as they had to be changed when a member decided to move from the entry group to main group. It was agreed that from next season all members would have a number only. Peter Charnaud agreed to speak to John Hazard about these changes.

PC

6 The Old Market Exhibition

Thanks were recorded for Maggi and Chantal for getting the show together but, despite their efforts, the exhibition was considered to have been only moderately successful. There was significant disappointment that only 47 photographs were able to be displayed and that the lighting was rather poor for viewers. In addition there were extremely limited opening hours and often only members of the public who were actually attending events at the venue were able to gain access. It was suggested that the club should endeavour to get involved in the Photo Fringe and that a much longer lead time is necessary. Jo Teasdale proposed the setting-up of a sub-group of some kind to plan and deliver our next exhibition within the Photo Fringe.

In the meantime Peter Charnaud reiterated that The Dome was willing to have us back and would permit our choice of theme. He offered to speak to Maggi about such a sub-group and about approaching the Dome for an exhibition early in 2015

PC

7 Website

John Francis raised his concerns about the website not being up-to-date. It seemed clear that no-one had taken responsibility for advising John Hazard of changes as they occurred. John Francis pointed out the continuing presence of

photographs of officials on the website long after they had ceased holding those posts. It was proposed that a single person should be charged with being the prime liaison with John Hazard in regard to the issues that were subject to change on an annual basis. Jerry Webb volunteered pointing out that since he incorporated all the changes in the programme booklet, he was best placed to have the largest amount of current information. Jerry agreed to examine the website as it stands at present and advise John Hazard of the changes that were needed. The committee thanked Jerry for taking on this task.

JW

8 Safe Storage at the Methodist Hall

Following the supposed loss of some club equipment and canteen supplies the committee felt it timely to consider how our possessions were stored at the Methodist Hall. John Francis had suggested that a new large lockable storage container should be purchased. Ton Knight, as a member of the projection team, had agreed to attend the meeting for this item. Tony felt that the existing storage arrangements were completely adequate for the technical equipment. He pointed out that, due to the damp problem at the hall, it was unwise to leave the items there over the summer and these were usually held by members of the team. He suggested our only problem was the storage of the canteen supplies and that there was plenty of space in the current equipment box for these. Peter Charnaud agreed to advise the front-of-house team.

PC

9 AOB

Peter Charnaud outlined a situation that had arisen concerning a recent member who had not renewed his subscription this year but who wished to continue contributing to the work of the club. Peter said he had written to him to encourage his return and said that many members would like to see him rejoin but, until that happened, the club could not accept offers of help that would encourage a “drop-in” mentality and possibly degrade our membership numbers. It was clear this would not happen and Peter sought the agreement of the committee in maintaining this position. The committee agreed.

John Francis proposed that somewhere on the website was a list of the software the club was currently using to enable those presenting to the club to adjust their presentations accordingly. This was provoked by a difficulty one of our own members had in showing a presentation developed on a more recent version of the software than the club possessed. Jerry Webb felt this had been a one-off and the maintaining of the information on the website was an additional task that we really didn't need.

John Francis also pointed out that in a recent print competition some members had brought in prints but had not supplied accompanying jpgs for projection. There was a deadline on the submission of the jpg which seemed to imply a deadline on entering the competition. We were asked to consider whether the submission of prints unaccompanied by jpgs should be allowed, particularly given that there is opportunity for later submission of “catch up” entries. On the recommendation of Jerry Webb and supported by Juliana Mulvany, representing the competitions group, it was proposed that initially we would attempt “gentle persuasion” rather than prohibition.

Peter Charnaud and Jerry Webb both announced their intention of standing down from their positions as President and Vice-President. Both insisted they would wish

to continue working in other capacities for the club but felt that, after two years, they had "done their bit". In particular Jerry said he would happily continue as programme secretary. The committee expressed their sadness at their decision but understood their reasons.

David Gerrard reminded the committee that there had been a decision last year that the committee would act as long-list selectors of prints for the Archive and asked whether any images from the first print competition were worthy of being considered. Furthermore David asked if the selection of such prints could be a regular agenda item for future committee meetings. This was agreed. David also agreed to remind the committee of this duty before every print competition.

TC

Date of next meeting 7.30 on Thursday, 22th January 2015 at David Gerrard's place.