

Brighton and Hove Camera Club
Annual General Meeting
Methodist Hall, Portland Road, Hove
Tuesday 6 May 2014

President: Peter Charnaud, **Vice President:** Jerry Webb,
Secretary: Tony Crowther, **Treasurer:** John Francis

Minutes

1 Welcome and Apologies

The President, Peter Charnaud, welcomed the attending members and apologies were noted from Ray Gray, Ron Lord, Phil Robinson, Nigel Rose, Liz Seeber, Paul Stillman, Nigel Symington.

2 Minutes of the AGM of 7 May 2013 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last AGM had been distributed by e-mail. The Secretary advised that there were no outstanding matters requiring attention. David Gerrard proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and this was seconded by Steve Boyle.

3 President's Review (123rd Report to Committee)

Peter Charnaud presented his report ...

This has been by any past measure a highly successful year. Membership of the club has peaked at 149 members with 34 new members joining throughout the year

We started the year with Chris Weston portraying his work documenting animals on the edge of extinction. we heard how he dug a hole and hid in it whilst wildebeest thundered overhead - all in the line of a good photo. We have had presentations by Kevin Meredith and reporter and photographer John Pilkington walking the Hindu Kush in the steps of Marco Polo on the Silk road to Mongolia

Since then we have had 2 Magnum photographers speaking at the club, Martin Parr and Mark Power. We have also had Brian Griffin. From Parr we heard personal stories of his meetings with Cartier Bresson, how he was told he was not a proper photographer and from Alison Baskerville what life is like on the front line in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We have also had the picture editors of two national newspapers giving us an insight into working life on the photo desk of the Guardian and The Independent. Roger Tooth and Sophie Batterbury who in a days work have 20,000 – 30,000 images to look at and we had extensive discussions with them on the morality of news photography.

We had four times Sports Photographer of the Year, Eamonn McCabe, with an often hilarious account of his photographing the famous. From McCabe we saw the insides of

writers' studios such as that of Will Self (although he has taken down all his post-it notes according to Womens' Hour last week).

From our own members we have had short presentations of ongoing projects by Gill Golding, Vicky Lamburn, Richard Burniston and Trevor Gellard. We were also particularly pleased to have had a major retrospective presentation by Bill Wisden MBE and recorded this for the film "Bill Wisden the Movie", coming soon to a screen near you.

A few weeks ago the club organised a trip to see the David Bailey exhibition in London. This was a well attended event. And, in this centenary year of the start of the Great War an exhibition was organised at The Dome on the theme of Remembrance. Thanks to Maggie and Chantal for organising that. We also had several successes with external exhibitions most notably SPA.

We have had successes too in the RPS Distinctions with 3 new LRPS awards being given to club members, Petra Butler, Jo Teasdale and Richard Burniston. All credit to Trevor Gellard Bill Wisden, Tony Bowall and Steve Boyle for the advice and coaching.

We conducted a survey of club members to discover what they thought, ideas they had and to seek volunteers for help. This will form a direction for next year and be included in the club archives.

Two weeks ago we had the annual International Treasure Hunt: a good day was had by all - even in Qatar where we had some of our club. The theme was 1950's Brighton. Much socialising and photography was done. In some cases too much socialising and not enough photography happened.

In the masterclasses we got up close very close with Colleen Slater and learnt about biting monochrome with Jerry Webb. We had masterclasses on macro-photography, minimalism, ambiguity, people photography and monochrome. Thanks to all those who conducted those evenings and to Paul Stillman for organising them.

During the year the club has migrated much of its on-line discussion onto Facebook which has become a dynamic interactive forum accessible to all and helping broaden our discussions to members and people outside our club. This has left our website with a challenge . John Hazard has effortlessly risen to that challenge and our website is now become more of a portal to the club . The website has this year introduced a method of uploading all competition entries and storing these for archival and review by anyone. Prints have been selected over the course of the year for Archival at the Sussex Archives. Thanks to David Gerrard for that

Audrey Marshall and Jean Gerrard have done a brilliant job with the entry group and new members. We introduced a buddy system so that new members would be teamed up with someone within the club to make some introductions and get them integrated. This has worked well and will be continued in the next year.

We have maintained our links and been engaged with the RPS, SPA and BHAC and the PhotoFringe.

I would also like to personally thank the following; Tony Knight, James George, Nick Eastham and John Hazard who come week after week to set up screens, stands etc.; All the people who have volunteered for door duty, tea etc.; John Francis and Tony Crowther

for all the administrative work without which this club would not function; Norman Atkinson for keeping track of the membership; Dave Wilsdon, Bill Brandt and Juliana Mulvany for keeping and collating the competitions and organising the commentators.

When I was asked to take on the role of President, I said I would only if Jerry Webb would be Vice President: I think you will probably now understand why. He may be forever dropping his camera on the ground or into the sea but Jerry is always first to step up to the plate. Thanks then to Jerry Webb for organising this year's programme; the most stunning to date.

To conclude: We remain a group of dynamic, interactive photographers engaged in all aspects of photography from amateur to professional, from beginners to some of the most recognised, able and experienced in the country. Next year we intend to do better still. We are increasing the budget for speakers and Jerry has put together a yet more impressive programme as you will see during the course of this evening. With a year like that and the year that is to come it is no wonder that other clubs look at ours with envious eyes.

4 Honorary Life Membership Award

Peter Charnaud awarded an Honorary Life Membership to Audrey Marshall in respect of her long-standing membership, her commitment to the club and her unstinting support of all its members. Peter pointed out that Audrey had undertaken various formal roles in the club including having been President and the award was well deserved.

5 Nominations for Committee and Confirmation of Officials for 2014/2015

The Secretary announced that he had received no nominations for any of the Committee positions and that the existing Committee would be retained for the coming year.

The Committee for 2014/2015 will be,

President	Peter Charnaud ARPS
Vice President	Jerry Webb LRPS
Life Vice Presidents	Bill Wisden MBE Hon. FRPS Steve Boyle ARPS
Treasurer	John Francis LRPS
Secretary	Tony Crowther
Elected Members	David Gerrard ARPS Colleen Slater ARPS Paul Stillman LRPS
Co-opted members:	Norman Atkinson LRPS Juliana Mulvany LRPS Jo Teasdale LRPS

The other Officials for the year 2014/2015 are,

Front of House	TBC
Distinctions Advisers	Bill Wisden MBE Hon. FRPS Trevor Gellard FRPS Tony Bowall FRPS Steve Boyle ARPS
Entry Group Conveners	Audrey Marshall ARPS Jo Teasdale ARPS
Membership Secretary	Norman Atkinson LRPS
Competitions Team	Bill Brandt David Wilsdon ARPS Juliana Mulvany LRPS
Website Team	John Hazard
Publicity Team	Tony Crowther Jerry Webb LRPS
Exhibitions Team	Chantal Lonsdale Maggi Tillotson ARPS
Programme Secretary	Jerry Webb LRPS
Summer Programme Secretary	Leo Jago
Projection Team	Nick Eastham ARPS James George LRPS Tony Knight LRPS
Workshops Convener	Paul Stillman LRPS
Archivist	David Gerrard ARPS

6 Competition Results

Entry Group Print Competition

1 st (Joint)	Michael Palmer Vita Wiehl
3 rd	David Donati

Print Competition

1 st (Joint)	Colleen Slater Jerry Webb
3 rd	David Gerrard

Projected Image

1 st	Stuart Gostin
2 nd (Joint)	Ray Gray Damon Hart Vita Wiehl

7 Entry Group's Images from this Season

Audrey Marshall, Entry Group Organiser, introduced a presentation of images taken by members of the Entry Group. These showcased the excellence of the group and illustrated its wide range of interest and included photographs by the prize winning Entry Group members.

8 Treasurer's Report

John Francis presented the club accounts and made the following comments,

There are a few points to make on the accounts:

1. The Interim Accounts are on the screen and I have a few paper copies here for you to look at, if you want to.
2. Subscriptions were down (the equivalent of 13½ people paying the full subscription).
3. Rental expenditure will be a higher than last year as the rents went up. We only ran one Distinctions Workshop as there was little demand and we don't want to see costs as poorly covered as they were last year. The other workshops have been well supported and almost covered their costs.
4. Lecturers and competition judges were higher this year than last due to the calibre of speakers that we booked. We were fortunate that so many people were willing to hear people like Martin Parr, Brian Griffin, Eamonn McCabe and John Pilkington as the money paid on the door helped to cover the higher fees charged by speakers of this calibre.
5. Exhibition costs were lower this year as we only had the one.
6. There was no significant capital expenditure during the year as we didn't move premises!
7. We do have a respectable balance on our bank account but this is only sensible as the life of our equipment is obviously unpredictable and it will need replacing at some point in the future.
8. In accordance with the Club constitution, the accounts will be audited, after the year end, when they are all complete and Bob Webzell has very kindly agreed to do this again. If anyone would like to have a look at the records, they are here for you to see.

Questions were sought from the members but none were forthcoming.

Acceptance of the accounts was Proposed by Colin Miller and Seconded by Maggi Tillotson.

The Treasurer continued,

Looking ahead to next year, we can be sure that room hire will increase again; four years ago, we were paying £47 per evening – this year, we are paying £58 per evening, with a further increase guaranteed in September as that is when the Church put their costs up.

We also want to continue to be able to invite speakers of a similar high calibre to those we have enjoyed this year; even some of those for which we made no additional charge on the door asked for higher fees than might have been the case in previous years.

Whilst we have money in the bank, our equipment is ageing and will need to be replaced at some point so it is sensible to start building up funds to enable us to do that. Like everyone else, we are the victims of the throwaway society. When we made enquiries to Epson about servicing our projector, we were told that it would be better to throw it away and buy a new one (better for Epson, obviously, not for us!). It is interesting that the bulbs for the projector cost over £200!

Given what I have said, the Committee has decided that it would be sensible to increase the subs (which have not increased for four years) for next year to £50 per member, with half payable by genuine students. We will continue to make an additional charge of £3 on the door for speakers whose fees are very expensive and also for workshops.

Acceptance of the change to the subscription rate was Proposed by Colin Miller and Seconded by Tony Knight.

Thank you.

9 Summer Programme Events

Leo Jago, Summer Programme Organiser, presented the programme of events and introduced the leaders of each event who described the photographic aspects of the event and gave details of dates, times, meeting points etc. These included

Wiston Steam Rally on July 6 led by Peter Charnaud

London Markets on either August 2 or 9 led by Maggi Tillotson

Wisley Gardens on June 7 led by Liz Outhwaite

London Salon Exhibition led by David Gerrard

Pictures to accompany stories by members of the Rattletales group led by Rob Mettler

Between the Piers Walk led by Steve Boyle

Regent's Canal Walk on a date to be decided between July 17 and 26 led by Colin Miller

Rye or Winchelsea on a date to be decided led by Penny Bailey

Leo also asked for volunteers to manage several of the events which were at the time leaderless. These were

London Embankment Walk

Bluebell Railway

Cocking Lime Works

Highgate Cemetery

10 Mystery Portraits

Leo went on to describe the "Mystery Portraits" project and a draw was made of all interested members putting their names forward for the project.

The following were drawn:

- Damon Hart/David Wilsdon
- Maggi Tillotson/Audrey Nelson
- Wayne Grundy/Jerry Webb
- Penny Bailey/Gerry Nevill
- Richard Burniston/Heather Buckley
- Chantal Lonsdale/Jean Gerrard
- Rod Orrell/John Hazard
- John Luke/Peter Castleton
- David Gerrard/Jeremy Brex
- Christine Grace/Tony Crowther
- Jo Teasdale/David Peck
- Aileen Beddison/Colin Miller

11 Treasure Hunt Awards

Jerry Webb presented the outcome of this year's Treasure Hunt which had been organised by him and Peter Charnaud. It took the theme "Brighton in the 50s". The participants were divided into 9 Teams and were asked to take one photograph in each of a set of categories.

The pictures produced by the teams were judged by Jerry and Peter and the winning images shown to the meeting.

Category		Winning Team
Best in Show	-	Famous Five
Camping in Kemptown	-	Here's Lily
Overhead	-	Bailey's Stardust
Brighton Pier	-	Rock n Rollers
Tourists	-	Exclusively Newbies
Shopping	-	Ant and Claude
A Spot of Lunch	-	Ranters and Ravers
Brighton Pavilion	-	Oh Oh

The Platters also participated.

12 Next Year's Programme

Jerry Webb, the Programme Organiser, presented a taster of the programme for the coming season. He said he had tried to cover a wide range of photographic genres and to introduce some that had not been seen at the club before. The list of visiting presenters included Jason Bell, celebrity portrait photographer, Mike Trow, Picture Editor for Vogue magazine, Andy Cotterill, music scene photographer, Jill Furmanovsky, rock music performance photographer, Tom Stoddart, war and documentary photographer, Jim Mortram, social documentary and Luke Dodd, assistant to Jane Bown to talk about her portraits. In addition, Des Ong (wildlife), Marc Aspland (sports), Simon Roberts (project-based photography), Simon Norfolk (landscape), Viveca Koh (fine art photography) and Paul Foley (landscape) had been booked.

The meeting was extremely impressed and thanked Jerry for his work in putting this together.

11 AOB

The secretary, Tony Crowther, read out to the meeting a letter that had been given to him by Sidney Lipman, a long-standing member of the club. This letter thanked the members of the club for "going to great lengths to ensure that it ran smoothly and with efficiency". Sidney considered it a privilege to be a member.

Peter Charnaud reminded members that although the main season was now over there was an informal meeting at the Hove Place public house on Second Avenue, Hove every Tuesday evening from about 8.30 pm.

There were no other issues raised and the meeting was concluded at 21.10.