

Brighton and Hove Camera Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting
11 January 2016
Dave Gerrard's Place

Members Present

Paul Stillman (President)	David Eastley (Vice President)
Tony Crowther (Secretary)	John Francis (Treasurer)
David Gerrard	Jo Teasdale
Norman Atkinson	

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

No apologies received

2 Actions from previous meeting

<u>Reminding Peter Charnaud of feedback on archive activity and involvement of Bill Wisden</u>	Considered not relevant at present
<u>Contact Projection Team regarding replacement screen</u>	Old screen to be considered as adequate for interim use while any necessary replacement screen is on order. No need to purchase replacement screen when storage situation is far from ideal
<u>Update of website information</u>	Deferred to item 4
<u>Establishment of development team for new website (JH)</u>	Deferred to item 4
<u>Promotion and sale of tickets for Christmas Party</u>	29 tickets had been sold and the event was successful but considered rather costly by some attendees. The committee felt that if that were the likely future attendance them it perhaps could be held in the English Language Centre next year. This will be explored when preparations for next season are taking place
<u>Establishment of Events page on the club's Face Book site</u>	Not relevant; item misunderstood by meeting secretary

3 Treasurer's report

John Francis had prepared future projections of the Club's finances based upon falling membership and cost-of-living increases in subscription and room hire costs. These suggested a £1500 shortfall in the next season (2016/2017). John recommended a reduction in the net cost of speakers by £500 next season and £1000 in 2017/2018. This was accepted and Paul Stillman agreed to advise the Programme Team of this.

PS

John pointed out that we had 20 fewer fully paid-up members this season than last and any new members

arriving in the next few weeks would pay only a partial subscription. John said our exhibition costs had been £115 over budget – this was mainly due to the costs of the Private View. A brief discussion of the exhibition costs suggested that, assuming we continue to hold our annual exhibition at Jubilee Library, we could exhibit for just 2 weeks and have a Private View or, for the same outlay, we could have a 3 week exhibition with no formal Private View. The committee felt the 2 week show with Private View was preferable.

The committee discussed the inventory John had produced for the insurance company and it was agreed that the old print stands currently being stored by Norman Atkinson in Littlehampton were no longer worth retaining and Norman was asked to dispose of them.

NA

4 Website Update

Tony Crowther introduced a report of the current situation regarding the website update based on messages from John Hazard. This stated that a team had been formed and that it had had one meeting. The meeting had produced a list of requirements of the site and had allocated tasks to some of the members that had attended. Some of these had been undertaken but several hadn't. Among those that had was the purchase of a template from Wordpress that was considered appropriate for the Club. This had been uploaded to a development area of the current website. John Hazard had no reason to believe the work was beyond the skills of this group. However, the group had failed to identify a Project Leader and John considered the likelihood of the work being completed without such a person to be unlikely.

The committee expressed its thanks to John for getting the project off the ground but was concerned that it may become moribund without some leadership. Paul Stillman agreed to speak to members of the team to see if a project manager could be found. (The group comprises; John Hazard, John Francis, Wayne Grundy, Alison Verrall, Phil Robinson, Sumitra Sri Bhashyam, Jerry Webb, David Gerrard)

PS

5 Programme 2016/2017

6 Budget 2016/2017

This item was considered as part of Item 3

7 Frame Storage

The committee considered the frame storage issue and decided that the best option was to dispose of the old Library trolley following an auction of the books to members and negotiate with the Methodist Hall management to use the space "saved" for the frames. John Francis agreed to speak to Felicity about this.

JF

8 Competitions and Judges

It was felt that, in future, we should employ external judges only for all our competition evenings. David Eastley said he would prepare a list of possible judges who covered the SE area and give it to Adele Harwood on the competition team. Hedid point out that many of them may well have bookings for next year and, possibly, the year after. We needed to work fast on this matter.

DE

The structure and approach to competitions was, quite heatedly, discussed. It was felt that a new approach that would be worth exploring for next season was the critique of all images by the judge and the award, at the end of the evening, of just three awards; Gold, Silver and Bronze to the eveng's three best images. This would require a rewrite of the existing "Guide for Judges" which David felt to be inadequate in any case. He promised to send copies of equivalent documents from other clubs.. John Francis agreed to produce a draft of such a document for our new scheme.

DE

JF

9 Membership and Publicity

The committee considered it vital that some effort be put into attracting new members and to examine reasons for not retaining more of those that visit for just e few sessions. This needed the new website to be up and running and, more importantly, a Publicity or Recruitment Manager. Paul Stillman agreed to announce this at a future club meeting

PS

10 Workshops

After some discussion it was decided that there would be no formal workshops next season other than for the Entry Group for which there would be a nominal entry fee for non-Entry Group members (probably between £3 and £5)

The workshops could be replaced by one or two specialist "Members' Evenings" where maybe two members, one before and one after the break, could present their work. Also we could explore the idea of meeting, say once a month, locally for a practical photo assignment.

**11 Committee
Membership 2016/2017**

Three members of the current committee expressed their desire to stand down, Norman Atkinson (Membership Secretary) and Tony Crowther (Secretary) had both done about five years on the committee and David Eastley had agreed to take on the Vice President role for just a year. It was important that replacements were found for these positions. Paul Stillman stated he would raise the matter with the members at a meeting soon.

PS

12 AOB

Paul Stillman proposed that lectures in our programme that were given by external speakers should be promoted outside the club to other photographic organisations and a charge be made for admission. He suggested £3 more than the price offered to members.

David Gerrard asked whether we could revisit the notion of increasing the subscription so the current external lecturer entry charge would not need to be collected. John Francis felt we could offer members the chance to vote on this at the AGM. He felt that we would need to add £2 to the subscription anyway so we could give the meeting the choice of a new subscription of the current subscription plus £2 and retain the £3 external speaker's charge or the current subscription plus £8 and remove the external speaker's charge altogether. Tony Crowther was asked to add this to the AGM agenda.

TC

David Gerrard also suggested we run an Open Day, probably in September, to encourage new members. The committee was in favour of this but pointed out it would need an organiser and location.

Norman Atkinson pointed out that the current "Introduction to BHCC" is seriously out of date. The committee agreed that it was not a helpful document but that an updated version could be helpful. David offered to produce a draft rewrite for eventual publication on the new website. Norman was asked not to distribute any of the remaining copies he had.

DG

NA