

Brighton and Hove Camera Club
Annual General Meeting
Methodist Hall, Portland Road, Hove
Tuesday 3 May 2016

President: Paul Stillman, Vice President: David Eastley,
Secretary: Tony Crowther, Treasurer: John Francis

Minutes

1 Welcome and Apologies

The President, Paul Stillman, welcomed the attending members. The Secretary advised that apologies had been received from Bob Webzell.

Paul Stillman informed the meeting of the recent death of a former member Geoff Pettitt at the age of 93. Geoff had been a member for many years and, during that time, had held several official positions including Secretary and Programme Organiser.

2 Minutes of the AGM of 5 May 2015 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 or approval. Claude Lester proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and this was seconded by Steve Boyle.

3 President's Review (125th Report to Committee)

Paul Stillman presented his report ...

“As I look back at the first year of my time as President I can recall a lot of high points, and I suppose inevitably one or two lows. The year started after the AGM in May, with the Summer Programme. A lot of people go to great lengths to arrange this, and the result was an extremely varied mix of events which started with a visit to a bathroom showroom and ended in a gallery of African photographs in Rottingdean. The former was the Roca gallery, designed by the architect Zaha Hadid, who sadly died very recently, and is an extraordinary building. In between came a visit to Farley Farm House, former home of Lee Miller, visits to London Docklands, Henley Regatta and Regents Canal, as well as old favourites like the London Salon and the annual walk between the piers.

Then in September the new season got underway. One of the great strengths of our club is the programme of meetings on a Tuesday evening, and the high calibre of the speakers we enjoy. This year has been no exception. The topics were as varied as ever and included landscape, sports, travel, fashion and macro photography, all to a very high standard, as well as the more ‘traditional’ mix of social, documentary and street. It is difficult to highlight any single evening. For me the sports photography was amazing, just for the skill of the photographers, and the evening spent with Antony Penrose, reflecting on the extraordinary life of his mother Lee Miller, was deeply moving. The contrast between the two illustrates the breath of the presentations we enjoy.

The print and projected image competitions have evolved slightly this year, in my opinion

for the better. When entering any competition it makes sense to attempt to anticipate what the judge is likely to favour but that can narrow the field, and so we introduced appraisal only evenings, with no scoring. The variety of images entered was immediately apparent, and the number of entries increased accordingly. There are no glittering prizes for winning, so the main purpose of entry should be to obtain constructive feedback on our own work, and to show to the club the image making we enjoy, and in very many cases are remarkably good at. And for at least one round each year we ask the audience to provide the voting. No judge pleasing here, a rather lighter hearted evening but still a chance to see and appreciate a selection of the work many members are engaged in.

Member's Evenings, when a few of the club present a short portfolio of perhaps a special interest, a project, or a mix of their current work, provides an opportunity for us all to share what attracts our friends and colleagues and perhaps to find inspiration ourselves.

Away for the Tuesday programme is the entry group, originally devised to create a small separate group of people new to the club and allow them to learn practical skills and confidence in their creativity. This has been a very successful year, with a cohesive collection of photographers, new to the club but often with highly developed skills and interests of their own. Our thanks go to Audrey Marshall and Jo Teasdale.

The workshop programme was designed to examine some of the practical skills of modern photography, but has in part at least metamorphosed into a succession of Masterclasses from those in the club who have developed a particular aesthetic style or technique. And finally we are fortunate to have several distinction panel members at the Royal Photographic Society, who generously offer tutorials to those preparing submissions.

We have consciously attempted to broaden our horizons, by encouraging entry to competitions and exhibitions outside of the club, including this year 10 acceptances at the London Salon of Photography by Kim Hutchinson, Jean Gerrard, Harvey Shelley, Maggi Tillotson, Agness Clark, David Gerrard and Jo Teasdale, who received a Salon Medal. We had 12 photographers in the annual SPA competition, including Agness Clark, Claude Lester, Colleen Slater, David Gerrard, David Wilsdon, Jean Gerrard, Jo Teasdale, John Francis, Nigel Symington, Sumitra Sribhashyam, and Wayne Grundy. Maggi Tillotson received the PAGB Ribbon.

Individually, several members have achieved their own successes. Amongst them is Colin Miller who has had three images selected for the London Independent Photographers Exhibition. Nick Eastham currently has one of his on a beer mat after it was selected for the Brighton Tap Exhibition. Lorraine Heaysman has a photograph included (and commended) in the Take a View Landscape Photographer of the Year 2015. And Michael Palmer achieved his ARPS, no mean feat in itself, but with a panel now circulating the country as inspiration to us all, and featured both on their website and in the RPS Journal.

Jo Teasdale had four images published in the British Life Portfolio book, three of which were highly commended, and Wayne Grundy has two in the RPS International Exhibition. In all, an impressive haul although I am sure there are numerous other achievements I have missed. If that is because you haven't told us then do share them so that we can celebrate too, and if it is my mistake I offer my humble apologies.

Inevitably I suppose, there have been moments of anxiety too. Many camera clubs experienced a substantial increase in their numbers with the advent of digital photography a decade or so ago, and equally are now seeing a downturn. We have not been spared

this, and it was alarming in the early part of last season when recruitment and renewal was sluggish. In the end we have approximately twenty fewer members than last year, not a great number perhaps but carrying with them a significant reduction in the income we rely on to produce the high standard of our programme. To compensate by decreasing the calibre or frequency of our outside speakers could very easily reduce our programme to – dare I say it – that of several of the smaller clubs around us, which we do not want to see but which is why at today's AGM we have an unpleasant decision to face. We need a hopefully modest increase in our funding, either from an increase in subscription, more separate fees paid at the door, or in combination. I wish there was another way, but if there is it has eluded your committee during several of our meetings.

It would be remiss of me to finish without expressing on behalf of all members my sincere thanks to all those who make this club work. Tony Crowther, Norman Atkinson and David Eastley are leaving the committee today and I'd like to offer them my sincere thanks, I hope you will join me. But not just the committee members, also the wider group of people prepared to give up their time to manage the events I have mentioned in this report. Along with the team who handle the technology of print display and image projection, our refreshments, and even the mundane tasks of setting out chairs before each meeting. After that we have exhibitions, the summer programme, the website, mystery portraits, treasure hunt and much much more. Forgive me if I mention no one by name, there are a lot of people we depend on and again I would live in fear of omission.

By contrast though, we do sometimes struggle to find the people power to run this club. From simply arriving a little early to help, to joining the committee. I can only speak for myself. I have enjoyed every aspect of this club, but this increased as I became more involved, and spent more time with like-minded people enjoying the satisfaction of making it happen. We all have busy lives, some to the point where even a little time is at a premium, but I believe all who have tried would agree if that if you can find some way of contributing, you will not regret it.”

4 Treasurer's Report

John Francis presented the club accounts and, after advising the meeting that paper copies were available, made the following comments,

“Our subscriptions show a decrease over last year, as we have ended the year with 15 fewer paid up members. This means that we have not achieved our aim of building up our reserves ahead of renewing the projector and laptop. We are hoping the projector's little hiccup a few weeks ago was just a blip and not a sign that it is starting to give up the ghost. When we do replace the projector, the laptop will also need replacing as our current one has insufficient power to drive a projector with a more modern specification.

“Rental expenditure was as expected, but attendances at the masterclasses for which we had to hire rooms were lower than in previous years so left us with more of a deficit. However, the two Distinctions Workshops did meet more of their costs than those which we ran last year.

“Administration costs are a bit higher this year as we upgraded the website hosting service, ahead of the launch of the new website, which needs more power than the previously. You may have already noticed a better response from the current site.

“We are overdue for an increase in our room hire costs, both here at the Methodist Hall and at the English Language Centre, and, taking into account the need to keep our reserves in a reasonable condition, the Committee is recommending an increase in the subscription of £2 making a total of £52.”

The meeting was asked to approve this recommendation. Its adoption was proposed by Wayne Grundy and seconded by Claude Lester. The meeting voted in favour 100%.

John went on to say that he was concerned about the way that we deal with the evenings where we need to make a charge to cover particularly high speakers’ fees and where we have charged members on the door. This has meant people remembering to bring change, or fiddling with large notes, or, occasionally signing IOUs. He suggested a means of simplifying this for the coming year, when there will be four paid evenings. Rather than asking members to pay separately for each of the four evenings we add a supplement to the subscription which, next year, would be £9, giving you four paid evenings for the price of three. We will be expecting lifetime members to pay the supplement, in the same way as we expect them to pay on the door. A lively discussion ensued but it was clear that the meeting was not happy with the suggestion so it was not put to the vote. Instead the Committee was asked to reconsider the options for covering the costs of the more expensive speakers.

John then discussed the procedures for auditing the accounts. In accordance with the Club constitution, the accounts will be audited, after the year end, when they are complete and Bob Webzell had very kindly agreed to do this again.

John asked the meeting to accept the presented accounts. This was proposed by Penny Bailey and seconded by David Gerrard.

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

The Secretary advised the meeting that David Eastley, Norman Atkinson and he, Tony Crowther, were standing down from their positions on the committee. This meant there were three posts to be filled; those of Vice-President, Secretary and one member.

Nominations for these had been received as follows,

Vice-president	Steve Boyle ARPS	Nominated by: Paul Stillman Seconded by: Tony Crowther
Secretary	Tracy Wadey	Nominated by: Tony Crowther Seconded by: Jo Teasdale
Committee Member	Tony Bowall FRPS	Nominated by: Paul Stillman Seconded by: David Gerrard

As there were no competitors for any post the meeting agreed to consider the three nominations *en bloc* and the vote showed 100% acceptance with no rejections or abstentions.

It was noted the committee may choose to co-opt members as and when it was appropriate to matters in hand.

Therefore, the **Committee for 2016/2017** will be,

President:	Paul Stillman LRPS
Vice President:	Steve Boyle ARPS
Life Vice Presidents:	Bill Wisden MBE Hon. FRPS Steve Boyle ARPS
Treasurer:	John Francis LRPS
Secretary:	Tracy Wadey
Elected Members:	Tony Bowall FRPS David Gerrard ARPS Jo Teasdale ARPS

The other Officials for the year 2016/2017 are,

Front of House:	Colleen Slater ARPS	Jo Teasdale ARPS
Distinctions Advisers:	Tony Bowall FRPS Bill Wisden MBE Hon. FRPS	Steve Boyle ARPS
Entry Group Team:	Audrey Marshall ARPS	Jo Teasdale ARPS
Membership Secretary:	John Hazard	
Competitions Team:	Bill Brandt David Wilsdon ARPS	Adele Harwood
Website Team Leader:	Wayne Grundy ARPS	
Exhibitions Team:	Chantal Lonsdale	Maggi Tillotson ARPS
Programme Team:	Steve Boyle ARPS David Gerrard ARPS	Agness Clark Jo Teasdale ARPS
Projection Team:	Nick Eastham ARPS	Tony Knight LRPS
Archivist:	Peter Charnaud ARPS	

6 Competition Results

Entry Group Print Competition

1st (Joint)

Adrian Mills
Thomas Edward Bishop
Russell Turburville

3rd

Print Competition

1st (Joint)

Audrey Marshall
Michael McAlister
Michael Palmer
Jo Teasdale

Projected Image

1st
2nd (Joint)

Jerry Webb
Agness Clark
Jean Gerrard

7 The New Website

Wayne Grundy presented a preview of the club's new website the he had developed with a team of members including David Gerrard, John Hazard, Phil Robinson and Allison Verrall. Wayne stressed the importance of updating the site and giving precedence to the images over text. He also emphasised the interactive nature of the site and the way in which the members would be able to update and contribute to the site without the need, as at present, for a single "webmaster" to be in sole control of the addition of information and images. He then demonstrated how the various features of the new site had been selected and developed to satisfy the range of needs of the club. These included personal galleries, archives, links to social media, competition entry, administrative documemntation and contact facilities. But above all it offered a dynamic public face to promote the club and its members to the outside world.

Wayne and his team were thanked for the time and effort they had expended on this project. Wayne said the new website would be live by the Autumn but that members should continue to use the existing website, especially for this year's Summer Programme.

8 Entry Group's Images from this Season

Jo Teasdale, 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.

9 Film Day Images

Peter Charnaud had run an open-ended Brighton walk-about where those interested could bring film, rather than digital, cameras and take photographs under one of three general headings; Busy Brighton Scene, Portrait of a Stranger and a Low Light image. Peter then showed examples of the pictures taken and, although there were no prizes, Wayne Grudy was named as Film Photographer of the Day!

10 Treasure Hunt Awards

David Gerrard presented the outcome of this year's Treasure Hunt which took the theme "St George's Day". The participants were divided into teams and were asked to take one photograph for each of a set of related subjects. Jerry Webb had been co-opted as a judge for the event and "winning team" was identified for each of the subjects. The pictures produced by the teams were shown to the meeting.

Subject

- 1 St George
- 2 The English on Holiday

Winning Team

- The Fire Breathers
- A Knight, A Knave

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|---|----------------------|
| 3 A Maiden in Distress | - and Two Maids |
| 4 A Roy Orbison Song | - A Knight, A Knave |
| 5 A Shirley Temple Film | - and Two Maids |
| 6 A Shakespearean Phrase | - The Crusaders |
| 7 A George (Formby, Harrison or Michael) Song | - The Dream Team |
| | - The Fire Breathers |
| | - Ali Squared |

The Overall Winner was A Knight, A Knave and Two Maids

11 Archived Prints

Peter Charnaud explained the task of submitting various items to the Sussex Archive indicating that usually at the end of each season the club would lodge a selection of prints and the minutes of our meetings. This would continue but, as we had retained jpg copies of all the images submitted to our competitions throughout the year, he would also include in this year's material a CD containing all those images.

12 The Summer Programme

Jo Teasdale reminded the members that, although there would be no formal Tuesday evening events until September, they were encouraged to meet up on Summer Tuesdays with others from the club at the Hove Place pub on First Avenue, Hove, any time after about 8.00 p.m. often in the garden at the rear. Jo then showed an AV presentation she had prepared as an introduction to the various events promised for the period May to September. This illustrated a range of opportunities for members to get together for photography. Members were reminded that further information on all these was available on the website, via the diary page, and where it was possible to sign-up.

13 Mystery Portraits

Leo Jago explained the "Mystery Portraits" project, one of the Summer Programme "events" and a draw was made of all members who had put their names forward for the project.

The following pairs were drawn:

David Peck - Maggi Tillotson
 Sumitra Bhashyam - Ali Benjamin
 Chantal Lonsdale - David Gerrard
 Juliana Mulvany - Wayne Grundy
 Tony Bowall - David Wilsdon
 Emma Sutherland - Jo Teasdale
 Jean Gerrard - Penny Bailey

14 Next Year's Programme

Jerry Webb, the leader of this year's Programme Team, had put together a presentation of the highlights of next year's programme. This included visits to the club of many professional photographers in a variety of genres.

The list of visiting presenters included

Harry Borden, Jarek Kubicki, David Stewart, Richard Peters, Ian Berry, Olivia Arthur, Alexis Maryon, Dougie Wallace and Chrissie Westgate as well as our own members, Jo Teasdale and Jerry Webb

The meeting was extremely impressed and thanked Jerry and the team for their work in putting this together.

15 AOB

There were no issues raised and the meeting was concluded at 21.50.