

ABERGAVENNY CAMERA CLUB.

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 held on Monday 12th December 2016 in St Michaels Hall Abergavenny.

1. Attendance.

David Straker (DS) Chaired the meeting . 15 other members were present.

Apologies were received from K. Prandy (Competitions Secretary) and H. Rudgard (Secretary). R. Roberts (RR) Treasurer acted as secretary.

2. Chair's Opening remarks.

DS welcomed members to the meeting and informed them that the reports from the committee members would be supported by power point presentations presentations at the meeting.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2015.

The minutes of the previous AGM were posted in the Camera Club members Drop Box on 17th December 2015 with members being duly notified. No notification of any error or omission was received.

There being no matters raised at the meeting the Chair asked that the minutes be adopted.

Julie Morgan proposed and John Tucker seconded the Adoption of the minutes which was agreed by all members present.

4. Committee Reports.

4.1 Chair's Report. 2016

2016 has been my first year as ACC Chair. It's an odd role and I've been doing my best – I hope it's been ok for everyone. I'm passionate about the club and will keep doing all I can to help anyone and everyone.

Chairing means being the face of the club, cheerleading and communicating. However it doesn't mean doing everything – we're a club first and foremost and it needs others to be involved. In particular I'd like to thank the committee for everything they do. Thanks also to you for turning up week after week, taking photos, entering competitions and making the club what it is.

I'm still getting into the role, and am always open to ideas, so if you think we should be doing things differently, please come and talk with me.

My biggest concerns at the moment are three Ms: membership, member nights and money.

We're not a big club and I do worry that we continue to have enough members to keep the club going. This means making sure you are enjoying yourself and get what you want from the club. It also means finding new members, then keeping them. Please do keep promoting the club and encouraging people to join. Also do go and talk to newer members. If you don't know their name, even if they have told you before, be bold: just ask. I have to do this often.

Recently we had to change a member night because there weren't enough people volunteering to have a go at standing out front. It's ok – I know it's not everyone's cup of tea. It also means we are limited in what we can do together.

The cost of running the club doesn't go down. Speakers and judges have to be paid, as do St Michaels for this splendid venue. The only way we have to pay for this is the money you pay. It's important that you understand the finances of the club and see this as being good value.

Next year I'd like to get out more, including connecting with other clubs as much as possible. I've gone along to a number of external competitions, which is always interesting. It's also a good thing to get to know the people out there.

I also still do the Programme, Website and Technician roles. While the Camera Club is very important to me, I also have roles in Team Abergavenny and with a couple of national organisations, plus a fairly big garden. Bottom line: I'm theoretically retired but get up and work all day and still don't do half of what I want to do. If anyone can help by taking on any of the further roles in the club, I'd be very grateful. In particular the Programme Secretary role. Or the Chair, for that matter.

David Straker - Chair.

4.2 Treasurer's Report.

The treasurer (RR) reported on the cashflow for the year, presented the balance sheet and showed a pie chart illustrating the details of income and expenditure.

Presentation of Accounts 2016

Income for 2016	-	£1858.85
Comprising mainly of:-		
Membership Fees -		£1105.00
Door takings		£667.55
Raffles		£25.50
Our expenditure however		£2124.84

It can be seen that we currently have a **deficit of £265.99**

We still have some income outstanding (Tonight's door money). I would estimate at the year end the **deficit** will be approx.- **£225.00**

Our main expenses are Hire of this Hall and Speakers and Judges, including some Hall hire charges carried over from 2015. This year we have bought some equipment, a Spare projector lamp, Remote Flash Triggers, and Photo entry Software, at a total cost of £129.00.

Payment for affiliation to the Welsh Photographic Federation (WPF) costs £257 (£7.00 per member), and Public Liability Insurance £46.00.

Last year we increased the club night door charge to £2.00. However attendance was down by an

average of 4 members per night. So there was an increase of £280.00 v last year but the predicted increase in income was not attained..

In past years we have had a celebrity speaker. This boosted club funds. Consequently club funds are healthy and can sustain this deficit. The current Bank Balance is £3517.

4.3 Programme Secretary.

DS presented a summary of the 2016 Programme and the Meetings Programme for 2017. Various formats for Member Nights were highlighted. Members will be surveyed regarding their preferences and for additional suggestions. The programme is published on the Club web-site.

4.4 Competition Secretary.

First, my apologies for not being here to present this in person; I hope to be getting along to club meetings fairly early in the new year.

There were five internal competitions this year: three open, one on the theme of 'Up-Close', the other on 'Contrasts'. The first open competition attracted entries from the greatest number of members – 15 submitting prints and 14 PDIs, but by the end of the year the number of people submitting had declined to 7 for prints and 11 for PDIs. I think this suggests that five competitions of the same kind may be one too many, so for next year we are trying the experiment of making the second competition of the year a panel competition. That is, entries take the form of a set of images, between 3 and 5, that bear a relationship to one another. Early in the year we will have a speaker explaining how to construct a panel and we are lucky to have as a judge Leigh Woolford, who not only has experience of judging panels, but actually enjoys it.

In July we took part in Cwmbran's Jubilee Cup. This was meant to be a five-way competition, but in the event only four clubs took part. Abergavenny came joint third with Cwmbran with a total score of 172. Bridgend were second with 174 and Western Valley won with 178. Our only other external competition was with Hay-on-Wye. This was meant to be a three-way with Ross-on-Wye, but at the last minute Ross dropped out. Although we ran Hay close with the projected images - 169 points to 173 - we lost out badly on the prints - 145 points to 177. I don't think the total scores of 314 as against 350 truly represent the difference in quality between the clubs..

Our performance in WPF competitions has been reasonable for a club of our size. In the Memorial Trophy for prints in January we came joint twelfth out of the 24 clubs entering. The full score sheet for the Barrian Cup was never made available, but the combined score of 86 from our four prints compares well with the winning total of 90 from the fourth-placed club. In Pixels, which is for

projected images, we came joint nineteenth out of the 41 clubs from the whole of Wales that entered.

Although not strictly a competition, it is worth pointing out that a total of five members had images selected for the Welsh Salon: three prints and seven PDIs.

Finally, the themed competitions for next year are, in April, 'Textures' and, in November, 'Seasons'.

Ken Prandy - Competition Secretary

4.5 Membership Report and proposals for the **Subscription to be levied in 2017.**

DS and RR reported on the Meeting attendance records for 2105 and 2016 which were shown graphically.

Reminding members that the Club expenditure in 2016 again exceeded the sum of subscriptions, door charges and raffles by £266, various options were put forward for the 2017 subscription.

The projected year end balances in 2017 from the different proposals were presented in spread sheet format. After discussion it was agreed that the Annual Subscription should be increased to £55 for the coming year. Existing members will be able to pay the **subscription for 2017** in one of three ways:

1. A one-off payment of **£55**, or
2. a split payment of **£35 in January** followed by a **balance payment of £20** after the summer break, or
3. a payment of **£35 in January** plus a **'door' charge of £2 at each meeting** attended.

The cost of coffee/tea at the meetings would be covered within the above payments.

The figures presented earlier suggested that it will be necessary to use money from the reserves to balance the year 2017. Accordingly it was agreed to hold raffles at each meeting, and more importantly, to make a determined drive to increase membership. Greater Media exposure and opening a Face Book site were suggested as means of seeking/encouraging new membership.

4.6 Web up-date report.

After redeveloping the site last year, it's been more of a maintenance activity this year. I had a big update in July and another in November to keep competition images up to date. It takes a few hours to do one competition. I've also added links to useful pages from time to time, such as for editing techniques and assorted tutorials. I've not kept up with the Notices page, and have not had any comments about this so may remove it – what do you think?

I've also had a few positive comments from people in other clubs.

Next year I'd like to complete the members section. I started this year but need photos of everyone to complete this.

David Straker - Webmaster

5. Election of Committee.

Conway Staley notified the Committee that he was unable to continue as Membership Secretary. Ken Prandy (Competitions secretary) had informed the Committee that he would step down from the Committee at the end of 2017. Julie Morgan, the previous Chair, had offered to rejoin the Committee. The Chair called for nominations from the members present. No new nominations were put forward.

The following elections were then made:

Chair, David Straker - proposed by Tony Carter, seconded by Dennis Eldridge;

Programme Secretary, David Straker- proposed by John Tucker, seconded by Jonathon Crowe;

Treasurer, Reg Roberts - proposed by John Tucker, seconded by Eleri Straker;

Membership Secretary, Julie Morgan - proposed by David Straker, seconded by Dennis Eldridge;

Press Liaison, Dennis Eldridge - proposed by Arthur James, seconded by Tony Carter;

Ken Prandy and Humphrey Rudgard, who were unable to attend the meeting, were re-elected as Competitions and Committee Secretaries respectively.

All elections were carried nem. con.

6. Club Awards.

Highest scoring images for the year

Points have been totalled from all competition entries during the year. The sums of the scores are:

a. Prints

Third place Julie Morgan 126.5 points; second place Tony Carter 138 points; first place Reg Roberts 141.5 points.

b. DPIs

Third place Reg Roberts 129.5 points; second place 179.5 points Julie Morgan; First place Bronwyn Neal 141.5 points.

The award of Best Pictures of 2017

a. Print

1st Prize, Brexit Sunset -Reg Roberts, 2nd Prize - Cafe Crepe Affair – Tony Carter, 3rd Prize Light Snow – Reg Roberts.

b. DPI

First Prize: Golden Hour Mist – Reg Roberts, Second Prize: Delicate – Julie Morgan, Third Prize: Flight across the falls – David Straker.

Newcomers Awards

Excellence awards were presented to Ffion Hopkins and Kally Dufty.

Chair's Award.

DS made his award this year to Paul Payek for his support of donations to the Club.

7. Any other Business and Closure.

There being no other items of business and no additional items raised in response to his solicitation, the Chair thanked members for their support and attendance. After advising that **The date of the next AGM will be 11th December 2017**, the meeting was closed.