

MARCH CAMERA CLUB

Annual General Meeting at the Red Cross Hall @ 7:30pm Thursday 28/04/11

Summary of minutes:

1. **Apologies** from Stan Canham, John Amps, Eric Stromberg, Sarah Doyle, Tony John
2. **Minutes** of last AGM agreed
3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Chairman's report:** Allan Howe reviewed the season's programme and thanked those involved in running it.
5. **Secretary's report:** Chris Ley reviewed the web site, e-communication, and some of the changes that had happened. He also looked forward to forthcoming events and next season.
6. **Treasurer's report:** The accounts were presented. A net profit of £87.68 has increased the club's balance to £1908.61.
7. **Int. Comp. Secretaries' report:** A total of 352 prints (by 17 members), 295 projections (by 16 members) and 4 slides (by 1 member) were submitted. Reductions in the totals reflected the fact that there were three fewer competitions this season.
8. **Ext. Comp. Secretary's report:** The club has "found its level" again this year and did not fare well in general. One highlight was coming first in a four-way battle in the print section (beating Wisbech, Peterborough and Deeping).
9. **Publicity Officer's Report:** N/A
10. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2010/11:**

Chairman	Allan Howe
Vice Chairman	Cliff Marsh
Secretary	Chris Ley
Treasurer	Mel Harris
Int. Comp. Secretary	Richard Hull
Digital Images Secretary	Alan Blower
Ext. Comp. Secretary	Pat Ringham
Publicity Officer	Richard Anker
Committee member	Debbie Millington
Committee member	John Band

11. **AOB:**

- a) Subscriptions for 2011/12 were raised to £40 / £70 - the £1 weekly sub remains the same.
- b) Proposed rule changes were agreed (other than to stop allowing slide entries) – effective immediately.
- c) It was agreed that a proposed set of aims and objectives for the club first be discussed at Committee level in view of the constitutional implications.
- d) An in-house factual newsletter will be started.
- e) A proposal to alternate prints and projections yearly for some competitions was rejected but a proposal to add the category "Action" to the annuals was accepted.

Away Day will be on **Sunday 3rd July 2011** at The Black Country Museum
Club BBQ (again kindly hosted by Lydia) will be on **Friday 8th July 2011** at FenOak

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Minutes:

The meeting was chaired by Allan Howe and was attended by 19 members including all the outgoing Committee. An agenda, 2010/11 financial balance sheet, and 2011/12 programme were distributed. After the Chairman's welcome items on the agenda were addressed:

1. **Apologies:** Stan Canham, John Amps, Eric Stromberg, Sarah Doyle, Tony John
2. **Minutes** of the AGM of 29/04/10 were agreed
3. **Matters arising;** there were none.
4. **Chairmans report:** This was the second season of external judging and it seems to be working very well. Highlights of the programme were evenings with Epton, Paul Beastall, Bill Day, Andrew James, Dave Hodgson, Jane Goodall, Andy Hanson and Jim Hartje. Club members Terry Boniface and Chris Ley were thanked for their evenings and all the Committee members for the work done in running the Club.

Particular thanks go to Richard Hull and Alan Blower for the amount of work they undertook in preparing for the internal competitions and to Pat Ringham whose work in preparing for external competitions largely goes unseen and is so important because this represents the Club outside March. Colin Baker was thanked for making the print display stand on show at the AGM and also the secure cupboards in the Hall. Last but not least thanks went to Janice Clotworthy who had been an excellent catering manager throughout. Allan closed with best wishes to all members for the summer break.

5. **Secretary's report:** Having won the Chairman's Challenge for the second year running this season was all downhill for me after that. However, the web site continues, is well supported by all club members (thank you all), and is still getting favourable comments. I trust people have been able to access club documents on line (minutes, rules, submission guidelines, competition timetable etc) – and also are getting e-mails satisfactorily? Please can I have e-mail addresses confirmed and also call for more images for members' web galleries?

The newsletters were regrettably removed from the site following EAF advice (and this is to be discussed later). Publicity has diminished (in the press mainly) since Albert resigned and I hope this post is filled tonight. Ending on a positive note I am now looking forward to the club BBQ, Away Day and enjoying next season's programme (especially the Chairman's Challenge!).

6. **Treasurer's report:** The accounts for year 2009-10 have been audited and agreed. The accounts for 2010-11, still to be audited, show a net income of £87.68 this season which has increased the Club's balance to £1908.61. Income and Expenditure and a Balance sheet were presented. The weekly £1.00 payment was noted to be adequate to cover the room hire at present.

There was a discussion about Trustee Insurance which is now included in the EAF subscription. Whilst this, in theory, gives some protection against the costs of any legal

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action against the club it does not guarantee that the Trustees would not also be at risk financially. It was made absolutely clear to those present that the Trustees are liable for any personal opinions expressed by any member of the club, irrespective of any disclaimers, and that those “not afraid to speak their mind” must be aware of this at all times.

7. **Internal Competition Secretaries’ report:** A total of 352 prints were submitted by 17 members. This was 60 prints down on last year (a reduction wholly accounted for by having three less competitions). A total of 295 projected images were submitted by 16 members and 4 slides by one member. This was 57 images less than last year.

Richard Hull explained how much time it took to get the panel and annual competitions organised and reinforced how important it is to submit entries on time. Alan Blower apologised for some hiccoughs on competition nights (some due to Microsoft and some due to human error).

There was a discussion about sticking to the rules for submitting entries and it was agreed that it is clear enough when they should be submitted and that they should be applied as they currently stand.

Individual competition winners were announced and the Eddie Venni Photographer of the Year was Richard Hull.

8. **External Competition Secretary’s report:** Recollected reporting the Club was “punching above its weight” last year and confirmed that it has “found its level” again this season. We came 17th in the Interprint (St Ives), 9th in the Pat Goode (Wisbech) and 9th in the Brotherhood (Peterborough).

There were fewer small club battles (two 4-way and one 3-way) but we came last in them all. A good variety of work was taken out to externals; for example, in the three-way battle with Hunstanton and Wisbech eleven members’ work was represented. The one highlight was coming first in the print section of a 4-way battle beating Peterborough and Deeping.

Following requests it was agreed to provide more feedback on the Club’s actual entries and more detailed results.

9. **Publicity Officer’s report:**

N/A

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10. Election of Officers & Committee for 2011/12:

Allan Howe stood down from the chair whilst nominations were taken, for the next year's Chairman, by Richard Hull. Allan Howe was voted back unopposed, retook the chair and then the following were elected (all unopposed):

	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Allan Howe	Richard Hull	Cliff Marsh
Vice Chairman	Cliff Marsh	Richard Hull	Alan Blower
Secretary	Chris Ley	John Band	Alan Blower
Treasurer	Mel Harris	Allan Howe	Richard Hull
Internal Competition Secretary	Richard Hull	Chris Ley	Cliff Marsh
Digital Secretary	Alan Blower	Allan Howe	Debbie Millington
External Competition Secretary	Pat Ringham	John Band	Debbie Millington
Publicity Officer	Richard Anker	John Band	Terry Boniface
Committee member	Debbie Millington	Allan Howe	Mike North
Committee member	John Band	Terry Boniface	Peter Bennett

12. AOB (after a break for refreshments):

- a) **Subscriptions** (Mel Harris) In view of the likely increased costs of room hire and judges/speakers fees Mel lead a discussion on either increasing the annual subscription or the weekly fee (or both). It was decided to vote only on increasing the annual subscription to £40.00 / £70.00 and this was passed.

- b) **Appendix A** (Albert Horton presented his proposals to change some of the internal competition rules (disallowing slides and removing the "once a print .." rule) and also introducing some rules for external competitions. Following open discussion each was voted upon separately:
 - Removing the "once a print .." rule was passed (14 for and 5 against)
 - Disallowing slides was rejected (11 against and 5 for)
 - Adopting the external competition rules was passed unanimously

- c) **Appendix B** John Rollando presented his proposals that the club adopt a set of aims and objectives that he had drawn up. Following open discussion he agreed with a proposal made by Albert Horton that the new Committee evaluate his suggestions, particularly because of the implicit Constitutional changes that would subsequently need to be put to the membership at a full meeting.

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- d) **Appendix C** Richard Anker found that most of the items that he wanted discussed had already been covered and that in his position as Publicity Officer would be able to produce a factual newsletter for in house consumption.

- e) **Competition Changes (Allan Howe)** Firstly Allan proposed alternating prints and projected images each season for some competitions in which they were judged together (eg the Natural History). This was voted against by 18 to 1.

Secondly he proposed a new category “**Action**” be introduced for the annual print and projected images exhibitions. This was voted for by 16 to 1 with 2 abstentions.

Before the meeting closed the members were informed that the **Away Day** would be on **Sunday 3rd July 2011** at The Black Country Museum (decided by the date and venue that had the most names for it)

Also the members were informed that there will be a **Club BBQ** (again kindly hosted by Lydia) and that this would be on **Friday 8th July 2011** at FenOak. Debbie Millington volunteered herself and Dave to help whilst Chris and Heather Ley have already agreed to the same.

The meeting closed (swiftly) at 10:15 pm

The new Committee will meet at 7:30pm Wednesday 4th May

PROPOSED CHANGES TO COMPETITION RULES FOR 2011/12

New Rule 8 A print once entered, cannot be re-entered as a projected image in the SAME competition.

Rule 9 Projected Images ~~may be slides or~~ will be digital images only ~ slides will no longer be accepted.

~~8.1 Slides must be in a 2"x 2" mount and spotted correctly for projection purposes.~~

~~8.2~~ **9.1** A projected image once entered, cannot be re-entered as a print **in the SAME competition.**

~~8.3~~ **9.2** The Projected Image Secretary will not alter any metadata or reformat or adjust colour space. The author will be advised and can be re-submitted at a later date or within the submitted competition if before the closing date.

~~8.4~~ **9.3** Metadata

The Author:	Full name must be entered.
Document Title:	The Image Title or Name must be entered.
Colour Space:	Set to sRGB.
Pixel Size:	Max 1400 long , Max 1050 High.

Rule 10 For the purpose of rule 8 and 9.1 a competition is

- (a) Monthly competitions (including the Annual competitions for the Owen Driver Shield and Mac Cotterell Trophy);**
- (b) the Panel competitions;**
- (c) Joe Fuller Trophy;**
- (d) Roy Tomkins Trophy**

All subsequent rules in this section to be re-numbered accordingly.

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

- 1. The selection of prints for external competition will be decided by the External Competition Secretary who may consult whomever he considers appropriate from within the Club membership.**
- 2. Images selected will ideally have been entered into the Club's internal competitions but at the External Competition Secretary's discretion other images can be considered from paid-up members.**
- 3. Images selected can be used in whatever media the External Competition Secretary considers appropriate.**

Deletions from existing rules have been struck through. Additions are in bold type

I propose a set of Aims and Objectives be discussed and voted for, to be active from September 2011

AIMS

1. To show in what we do and how we do it, that we are an all inclusive club;
2. To know our membership needs and organise ourselves as individuals and as a club to help meet those aspirations;
3. To organise a varied, quality programme of speakers;
4. To organise a varied programme of open and subject / technique specific internal and external competitions;
5. To have on line all parameters to fix size, pixel density, projector requirements etc;
6. To have on line all such parameters for external competition, coupled with a timetable of such events and submission dates etc and to make available the opportunity for the members entering their work as individuals or as representatives of the Club
7. To actively promote the club locally and engage with other, largely Arts based organisations, to that end.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop the membership numbers and their commitment to regular attendance at events ;
2. To know the varied abilities and aspirations of members and;
3. To develop an appropriate programme of instructional events to facilitate membership aspirations;
4. To identify members who have appropriate knowledge to mentor members seeking to improve their knowledge and technique of photography and
5. To introduce them to such members and oversee a mutually agreed "programme" to such ends
5. To encourage people to regularly contribute their work for internal evaluation;
6. To get most, if not all, members to put work into external competition;
7. To devise a rolling programme over a 2-3 year period to get those members who have indicated a desire, the qualification of.....? (as some members already have)

At the AGM I want to propose that:

1. The matter of lighting across the prints in competition be given first priority.. I understand money was spent elsewhere in preference.
2. The Committee present a more varied range of subject titles for internal competition than OPEN / NATURE/ PORTRAIT... can we have ideas from the floor voted on, please.
My proposals for 2011-12 include: silhouette(s); still Life (based on any 5 objects of your choice and a plain background); close-up; sunrise or sunset; unaltered open ,(ie sharpen ONLY allowed, otherwise "as is"... but can we verify this??) .
3. That we loosen the rules about submissions...if a member wishes to submit as last time, alter a photo, or develop it, then it should be permitted to enter any appropriate future competition. As different people judge events, different ideas / priorities come to the fore, so why deny the member the opportunity to test any criticism last made, or attempt to improve any aspect and put it before another critic? It is as good as, if not better than, seeing a percentage of pictures during the year that can come in two or three times in exactly the same format. It shows interest and initiative.
4. Can we have a evaluation on membership uptake. it is my impression that several people have not attended more than a couple of times, and some "new faces" have not re-appeared.. Can I be assured that people are followed up more than once to encourage them, and that new members or potential members be assigned a "mentor" or at least a point of contact to allow for an exchange of concerns etc that might dis-suade them from joining?
5. May I ask why, unlike most clubs I have talked to, we finish so early? May I propose that the "year" be extended to the end of May at least.

1. Loss of newsletters from the web site.
2. Affiliation fees.
3. Use of member's photographic work.
4. System for rule changes.
5. Implementation of rule changes.