

MARCH CAMERA CLUB

Annual General Meeting at the Red Cross Hall @ 7:30pm Thursday 30/04/09

Summary of minutes:

1. **Apologies** from Mel Harris and Eric Stromberg
2. **Minutes** of last AGM agreed
3. **Matters arising** – None
4. **Chairman's report:** last year's programme, lottery bid and events went well, Committee thanked
5. **Secretary's report:** a successful year, Club moving with the times and flourishing, new web site now 30MB in size, would like to see more members getting involved.
6. **Treasurer's report:** another good financial year with £169 profits raising balance to £1958.42 (inc £691.15 Lottery reserve). Need to consider replacement costs in future;
7. **Int. Comp. Secretary's report:** 573 prints & 212 slides submitted from 23 members;
8. **Ext. Comp. Secretary's report:** a year of mixed fortunes – winning the Invitation Shield and doing well in the Interprint but losing the Virtual Competition and smaller battles;
9. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2009/10:**

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

10. **AOB:**
 - a) Voted for external judging of monthly competitions
 - b) Committee meeting minutes to be posted on the notice board
 - c) Competitions 2010/11 to be reduced (Set Subject and Creative to replace monthlies, A4 print to become Monochrome print and replace a monthly, 3 two way battles to become 1 four way battle)
 - d) Competition entry titles to be read out
 - e) Display lighting to be sorted
 - f) Increased care to be taken transporting and handling prints
 - g) Members section of the web site to be updated with more personal galleries
 - h) Annual Subs 2009/10 to be £37 single, £58 joint membership

Chairman's challenge 2009 – 2 prints of photos taken with a pinhole camera (£10 Jessop voucher prize when judged 17/09/09)

Vote of thanks to Committee

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Minutes:

The meeting was chaired by Allan Howe and was attended by 21 members. An agenda, 2008/09 financial balance sheet, and draft 2009/10 programme with the “Chairman’s Challenge” were distributed. After the Chairman’s welcome items on the agenda were addressed:

1. **Apologies:** Mel Harris and Eric Stromberg
2. **Minutes** of the AGM of 24/04/08 were agreed (after the summary was read by Secretary).
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Chairmans report:** It has been a good year for the club with 32 current members and a successful lottery grant application. Thanks to Committee members (especially Pat and Colin for the great deal of work done preparing for competitions, Albert for “In Focus”, John for stepping in when Allan was unavailable, Chris for extra work involved in preparing the lottery bid, and Mel for sorting out the purchases with lottery funds). The year’s programme had gone down well; there had been no complaints other than regards judging of the monthly competitions. The virtual battle had gone down well and he hoped it would continue. The Barbeque and Library Talk were both successes. Stan Canham, Club President was thanked for his continued regular support and Richard Hull thanked for the catering.
5. **Secretary’s report:** Reiterated the year’s successes and that the programme had been uneventful other than one no show due to heavy snow (however John Band had provided an excellent alternative evening’s entertainment). The web site has developed and is now 30MB in size; members contributions are always welcome – photo-galleries, ideas and other comments. Concluded that the club is moving with the times and growing. Personally would like to see more involvement by club members talking about themselves and their photographs (such as John Band’s talk).
6. **Treasurer’s report (delivered by CL):** the accounts have been audited and are in order. There is a record number of 32 paid-up members, the largest for 37 years. Ongoing costs now include about £40 a year for the Web Space and £175 a year for equipment insurance. There has been a net income of £169 this season which has increased the Club’s liquid assets to £1267 plus a Lottery reserve fund of £691, which can be transferred to the club if not fully spent The weekly £1 has paid for the hire of the Red Cross room (this is a weekly subscription and the refreshments are free). Thought needs to be given to the replacement costs of equipment in the future, especially as we rely more and more on our digital equipment.
7. **Internal Competition Secretary’s report:** A total of 573 prints and 212 slides were submitted by 23 members. A very good year overall with new work of high standard.

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Thanked all for their help and support and Mel for auditing the marks. Individual competition winners can be found on the web site.

8. **External Competition Secretary's report:** It was a year of mixed fortunes. We won the Invitation Shield for the first time in the Club's history and Steve Williams won the best print for the second year running. We also did well in the Interprint competition coming 17th out of 31 Clubs. However, we came last in the four-way "Virtual Battle", although won the leg held in March! In the smaller interclub battles we did not fare well either; it is felt that we need "quirkier" images as these seem to do best. Finally, thanked Mel for all his help with digitally projected images and his offer to continue to provide such support.
9. **Publicity Officer's report:** Eight editions of "In Focus had been published and made available by the web and also hard copy for those who required them. Press releases submitted to the local papers had been published by the Fenland Citizen but not the Cambs Times who do not appear to support local community groups any more.
10. **Election of Officers & Committee for 2009/10:**

Allan Howe stood down from the chair whilst nominations were taken, for the next year's Chairman, by John Band. Allan Howe was unanimously voted back as Chairman, retook the chair, and the following were unanimously elected unopposed:

		Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Allan Howe	Alan Blower	Colin Baker
Vice Chairman	John Band	Chris Ley	Albert Horton
Secretary	Chris Ley	Alan Blower	Terry Boniface
Treasurer	Mel Harris	Allan Howe	Stan Canham
Internal Competition Secretary	Colin Baker	Lydia Molyneux	Richard Hull
Digital Secretary	Alan Blower ¹	Chris Ley	Colin Baker
External Competition Secretary	Pat Ringham ²	Cliff Marsh	Lydia Molyneux
Publicity Officer	Albert Horton	John Band	Debbie Millington
Committee member	Debbie Millington	Allan Howe	Dave Bradford
Committee member	Cliff Marsh	Chris Ley	Allan Howe
Projectionist	Not needed as a new post		

1. Assisted by Debbie Millington
2. Assisted by Mel Harris

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11. AOB:

(a) Vote on judging of the monthly competitions

- i) Judged by 3 Club members 11 votes cast
- ii) Judged by the whole Club 0 votes cast
- iii) Judged by an External Judge 11 votes cast (inc 2 proxy votes)

The Chairman cast the deciding vote in favour of External Judges and the unanimously agreed backup on the night, in case of a no-show, will be three Club members.

(b) Can the minutes of the committee meetings be circulated to members?

It was pointed out that highlights of the minutes already appear in "In Focus". A hard copy of the full minutes will be put on the Club notice board in future. It was not felt necessary to post them on the web site too.

(c) Does the club have too many competitions in the programme?

With 8 externals, 7 monthlies, 5 specials and 2 annuals the answer is yes. It was unanimously agreed that the following changes be made to the 2010/11 programme:

- i) The Set Subject replace a monthly competition
- ii) The Creative (Ken Portwood) replace a monthly competition
- iii) The A4 print (Ivan James) become a Monochrome competition and replace a monthly
- iv) The 3 two way battles become 1 four way battle (St Ives, Ely, St Neots, March)

The Committee will look into the necessary changes to be made and also produce a questionnaire for the members to gather information about their wishes for future competitions (and discuss these at a Club Meeting in the 2009/10 season). Also will discuss the format of the Annual Exhibitions.

(d) Print & Slide titles to be read out

Agreed that this should happen, (and in general has done so in the past).

(e) Display lighting for prints

This is hoped to be sorted soon (CB has in hand)

(f) Handling of prints in competitions

Damage to prints/mounts due to handling and also "in box" trauma has occurred. The use of gloves was voted against (5 for, 7 against, 9 abstained) but the use of tissue paper between prints in the box was agreed and also that a path be created in front of the displayed prints so that multiple handling was avoided.

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(g) Members section of the web site

Discussion about a private area of the web site (eg for Committee meeting minutes) resulted in agreement that this was not necessary. However, posting galleries of members' photographs has not been advertised to new members and at least one member (CM) would like to have images displayed. Digital files should be given to the Secretary who will create the galleries for anyone who wishes to have their work put on line.

(h) Annual members subscriptions for 2009/10

An increase in the subscription is needed to take into account the extra costs of more external judges. Albert Horton proposed that the subscriptions be increased to £37 single and £58 joint membership and this was seconded by Allan Howe. Terry Boniface proposed that the increase should be to £40 single and £64 joint membership and this was seconded by Richard Anker. (The latter proposal made with a view to building up a larger reserve for equipment replacement costs). Voting was in favour of the first proposal by 18:3 so subscriptions will be set at:

£37 single membership

£58 joint membership

Allan Howe introduced the "Chairman's Challenge" for 2009. This is to produce photographs with a pinhole camera ("how to" details distributed) and submit up to 2 prints to be judged on 17th September 2009, the winner receiving a £10 Jessop voucher. Finally Terry Boniface proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for their hard work over the year.

The meeting closed at 9:58 pm

The "new" Committee will meet at 7:30pm Wednesday 6th May 2009