

Club Names 2019

When you are new to any group it can be something of a challenge to attempt to recall the names of those around you. I feel that club names serve not only to break the ice but also shatter any illusions of elitism and to potentially make the remembering easier.

Not every member has a club name yet as they just occur randomly (some are more random than others), and given time one will likely present itself.

Like everything else at HCC, there is no malice or intended insult in these names. I have listed **club officials first** in case that also helps new members / visitors. Do please bear in mind that whilst the names remain, the facts may have been altered to protect the innocent.

“Officials”

“Dancing Johnny”

John was club Chair for some years but is now in the less active role of **President** – he looks marginally more like Trump than Obama.

His name derives from when Club members used to visit The Kingfisher to photograph gigs etc. It was not at all unusual to lose Dancing Johnny as he was whisked onto the dance floor by young ladies a quarter of his age. Also, my own Mother recalls John from their youth when he would dress to impress as a Teddy Boy.

Maxine had cause to visit John at home once and he apologised for coming to the door without a tie on. She was more concerned regards the lack of trousers (kidding)

It took me 5+ years to get John onto Enville Ale.

John is a keen rail enthusiast, photographed weddings for donkey's years and has no issue at all in making fun of his own blurred club images.

“The Librarian”

Max(ine) knows stuff. Quite often “why, or how, do you know that stuff?” stuff.

She can also read a paperback book without it appearing that it has ever been opened, and will frown at anyone that dare not take equal care in that department, or be late with their returns. If you are familiar with the series *Suits*, at work she is the Donna.

Living on a diet of Cadbury's Dairy Milk and Coca-Cola (always full fat and *never* Pepsi) she is often found looking at any form of stone structure to determine its originating area and time period and will gladly wax lyrical regards its fossil content.

Maxine is back in the **Chair** position at the club, and also runs her own photographic business for weddings, family shoots, conferences, product etc.

If you ask for an opinion, Maxine won't lie to you but she will be careful in how she gives you the truth in order to protect your feelings. Oh, she is also an unofficial rescuer of all things furry.

“SHED!” a.k.a “Shed-Girl”

Please see the specific SHED! Download document as SHED! is not just our club **Secretary** but the first person to provide, and simultaneously become, a club mantra. SHED! (previously **Bev**) is a good supporter of any post-club sociables and can often be found quaffing an Enville.

“BFG”

My own club name was introduced by Swinging Rich and Mrs Pink – the short version is that Forrest Grump was suggested in reference to a tale of me walking 3+ hours home from the pub one evening after being abandoned by The Librarian (who is my far far better half).

Living by “honesty before diplomacy” means that folk that know me will only ask for an opinion on their images if they *really* want an honest answer. I tend to be one of the more verbally active members of the club and am currently the Treasurer as that is the only official role where a PC approach is less important. There we have the Grump aspect.

Although members do not select their own names, I added the B for Big - partially as Roald Dahl's BFG has become a film recently and it suits my perfectly honed Pie & Enville body.

It also allows for a variation of mildly insulting names to fit – Big Fat Grump for instance.

My own photographic interests are varied but do not really stretch to still life. My interests within the club are to tute to those that require it and to encourage folk to partake in the more sociable aspects.

At school I was voted 'most likely to die due to Enville overdose'

“Swinging Rich”

Unfortunately this is nowhere near as interesting (or embarrassing) as it sounds but simply stems from an outdoor evening where we happened upon a children's rope swing and a number of members took it upon themselves to play Tarzan.

It isn't that great a club name but when it was first introduced, Rich (**who is now our comp sec**) was seemingly horrified (or at least somewhat embarrassed) so that just encouraged me all the more. Swinging Rich is often mistaken as the missing Baldwin brother and is more interested in super heroes and lego than is normal for an adult.

With an IT based job, he is our go-to-guy for tech stuff.

“Committee Members”

“Barry Brush”

Barry shares my own patience when it comes to image editing; why use a small pixel edit brush when a massive one will do the job faster and messier.

BB hails from Yorkshire, which is a heck of a commute, and often references the county's alleged fiscal retention policy. Barry acts as audit for the club accounts and sadly is a vegetarian.

“Mrs Pink”

An alternative club name for **Emma** could have been Eve or i-Emma as she has a love for all things Apple and it is rumoured now gets a Christmas card from Steve Jobs' family.

However her pink camera, pink car, pink hair etc lent itself to the name and a passing reference to Reservoir Dogs for no apparent reason.

You will often hear banter between the two of us with me taking the proverbial out of the heavy Black Country dialect and Mrs Pink's response often being more visually based and involving a limited number of her digits being waved in my general direction.

Mrs Pink shares dancing Johnny's love of the use of double-negatives and may or may not be a dark horse depending on whether she really means “I doe know nuffin” as stated.

At school she was voted most likely to kill a member of waiting staff in a fight over a salad.

“Worzel”

Whilst not unique within the club, **Keith** prefers a cider to an ale. A more interesting name would revolve around the film Spinal Tap as homage to the concept of turning up the amp (or in this case saturation sliders) to 11.

General club members (alphabetically by club name)

“Boomer”

I have to confess that I wanted to call Fred “Mick” as in Crocodile Dundee but “The Librarian” felt that was too random even for me. As such, on the same vein but marginally more obvious “Boomer” is short for boomerang as Fred is the only club member to have left for elsewhere only to have realised that sometimes the greener grass elsewhere is 'digi-green'

“Bill..I.Am”

Bill has the endearing habit of confirming much of the information he tells you.

“I was walking down the canal I was” or “I’ve been on holiday I have” for instance. Hence, as luck would have it, stating his name ties in nicely with the pop star / producer of a similar name.

He has a long lens and a dog, he has.

“Billie”

Leanne predominantly takes images for a local football team so something linked to the sport was considered apt. Being named after a footballer could have caused some minor controversy due to the whole gender misrepresentation thing so Billie was chosen as the female equivalent of Billy. The famous footballer? - Billy the Fish of Fulchester Rovers fame of course.

In an accidental but delightful coincidence, Leanne is evidently a “qualified” travel agent which as Mrs Pink noted is apt due to Billie Holiday.

“D'ya Ken”

Ken Day is the club's martial arts expert and in his youth was so tough that Chuck Norris never once accepted an invitation to fight him.

Ken has the habit of producing images that I place into a special category called “Why?” D'ya ken is a marginal variation on the song D'ye ken John Peel as it is an anagram of Ken's name and the original meaning “do you see..” fits closely enough with my query of “Why?”

Ken has proven himself a valuable club member, sniffing out Enville-serving pubs that *even I* didn't know were there.

“HDRon”

If **Ron** is not at the club showing us his HDR images then he is likely on holiday searching out piers lost to man, or assisting with the local gun club. Ron's photographic mission was to visit every lighthouse, pier or such within the UK. Having achieved that he is now stockpiling materials to make his own.

We have known HDRon for only a few years so it is perfectly natural that we have yet to see an image that he has produced in normal definition.

“Heisenberg”

Alan knows “The Librarian” from providing her with her beginnings in Geology / Paleontology by means of teaching A-level Geology at Halesowen. An extremely intelligent person but he really needs our assistance in getting out more.

Evidently his book is only currently 37 years in the writing.

Whilst only bearing a very passing resemblance to his namesake (if you squint after a number of

Enville) he gained the name due to being follicly-challenged, an ex-tutor, and upon purchasing a camper van. The club officials have no knowledge of any meth labs in Wall Heath.

If Heisenberg does actually make a meeting this year can everyone please give him a big hug.

“John” or “John Malcovich”

The Librarian and I were watching the series Ray Donovan with Liev Shrieber (and you think that my naming is odd!). Anyhoo, according to TL, in one tiny moment of one episode John Malkovich looked like our own **Malc**.

“John-Boy”

Another name with no complexity, **Craig** has the surname Walton. Being a teacher puts John-Boy in a good position to play quiz-master in what is becoming an annual opener to the club year. Whilst he participates in most if not all genre of photography I think it is fair to say that he shines brightest in Landscapes.

A drinker of cider and also Enville (but not Enville Ginger) and also a runner of marathons for charity.

“Noosoo” or perhaps “Nusu” etc.

Not so new to the club any more but still newer than our other **Sue**, and one of the members that knows more than they think they do.

Working within the prison service offers us some peace of mind in case the annual Stourbridge match-an-image competition becomes overly heated.

Obviously the arrival of Noosoo to the club further vindicated my daft naming habit as having two members with the same names could be confusing and of course silly.

“Pippin”

Mark may not even be the most vertically-challenged club member but does on occasion make reference to not being able to see over obstacles and as such was named after a Hobbit.

Another tea-totaller but other than that a good egg. Pippin has recently been awarded the only partially fabricated role of reminding members that we have a website that already has the answer to their query and at the end of year sociable 2018 was awarded a trophy “bloke most likely to say website” Unfortunately the whole show of appreciation ended on less than it's intended high note as Pippin fell into the trophy and could not climb out for 3 days.

“Roger”

Francis joined us in the latter part of 2018 mainly due to a misunderstanding as he thought we were an extension of his beloved CAMRA which, on the right night, is easily understood.

Naming is simply based on the fact that most folk (surely?) would immediately think of St. Francis of Assisi upon hearing the name Francis. Sure of course we could have used Saint but
i) where's the fun in that? ii) the club has also recently acquired a David.

Whilst a number of us would only recall Ian Ogilvy playing The Saint (let's attempt to forget the Val Kilmer film version) the role was initially played by Roger Moore (not an euphemism).

“Shoulders”

Hugh and **Sally** generally attend as a couple and their *initial* club names (Head and Shoulders) were taken simply from the first letter of their names. Hugh has since been renamed so Sally's name is even more random than it was before.

Having spent some considerable time in Africa, they have a plethora of indigenous wildlife images.

It later occurred to me that Hugh should be called “**Tom Baker**” (younger members would perhaps use other names) as he also hails from the medical profession. Oh come on, make *some* effort folks.. “Dr Hugh”

“Steve”

Stuart is a recent club member having decided that he was already attending sociables and assisting with event evenings so may as well make it official. Most likely to be seen wearing a hi-vis and saying “Yes dear” to Mrs Pink.

Steve's name simply derives from the fact that he is Mrs Pink's hubby and that Steve Buscemi played that role in Reservoir Dogs.

“Sundance”

Martin is the king of long exposure, notably one that took a little over 3 1/2 days.

Making the tenuous link to the film Indecent Exposure, leads to a few potential actors but Robert Redford seemed a reasonable option at the time and as such led to a further film link. Of course the actual film name in the first link was Indecent Proposal but luckily no-one seems to have noticed my faux-pas yet and the name has stuck.

“The Flying Doctor”

Unfortunately taken from the same evening outing as “Swinging Rich” in the early days of club names naming.

Arvind is one of the quieter, gentleman, members of the club and is from the medical profession. In his school year book he was voted as “most likely to ask about ISO”

“Wal”

Adrian has taken some naming as his work commitments clash with club evenings quite often so we have yet to get to know him properly. Not a complex one and Wal is not short for Walter or Wally, say out loud “Adrian is Wal”. Now again but less formally. Got it?

“Wuanteesu”

Accidentally created by previous club member Stan who habitually made the half-time brew. When the membership was somewhat smaller almost all members were coffee drinkers and most weeks Stan would call out “One tea Sue?” **Sue** is from an educational background and is often accompanied on outings by hubby WuanteeMike”

Most but not all members now have names – current omissions are nothing personal, it is simply that nothing obvious or entirely appropriate has occurred to us.

Hopefully more namings will be forthcoming with the next full moon assuming the naming committee have regrown their eyebrows.