



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 9th June 2022, 7:30 pm

At Swavesey village college plus Zoom online

Attendance: Gareth Williamson, Jane Greatorex, Nev Tait, Sue Tait, Mike Culnane, Andrew Dearn, David Davies, Doug Thompson, Ian Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Maggie O'Moore, Simon Shore, Kathy Shore, Jon Watkins, Mike Swain, Eleni Paliginis, Anita Lewis, Tim Ewbank, Anthony Clarke, Simon Jelly, Linda Lloyd, Lee Taylor, Colin Hookham, Jane Greatorex, Kelvin Smith, Chih Lo, Bridget Langridge, Samantha Amos

Apologies for absence: Peter Bush, Gordon Fuller, Becky Smith, Sue Fifer, Nick Murrel, Penny Reeves

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the AGM and EGM

The minute of the AGM of 3rd June 2021 was accepted unanimously.

2.1. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Correspondence – Doug/Andy

There was no outstanding correspondence.

4. Reports:

4.1. Finance

Mike Culnane presented the financial report for 2021 – 2022. See attachment 1. The proposed new membership fees were £68 for full membership and £55 for concessionary membership; these fees included a £5 charge to fund the meeting refreshments.

Nev Tait asked how much money do we have in the bank? Mike answered £8500 but some cheques we had paid out, totalling around £1150, have yet to be cleared. We discussed the purpose of having a contingency balance larger than our annual income or expenditure. Simon stated that the Club does not want to hoard members' money but needed a contingency to fund the replacement of items of capital equipment should it be necessary.

4.1.1. Vote to accept the financial report

We voted to accept the financial report, the projected budget and the proposed membership fees. **The vote was carried unanimously.**

4.2. Programme

Simon Shore presented the Programme Secretary report. See attachment 2.

Simon began with a big thank you to Andy Dearn and Mike Swain for all their work with the technical aspects of getting Zoom and our sound system working to enable us to stream live meetings. Simon said that without their expertise, live streaming would not have been possible. The meeting joined in a round of applause in appreciation.

Simon reminded members that he had sent out a questionnaire asking members to rate past talks and for suggestions for future ones. The results of that questionnaire will be too late to influence next year's programme, but Simon still needs the information for planning the follow-on years.

4.3. Internal Competitions

Ian Johnson presented the Internal Competitions Secretary report. See attachment 3.

4.4. External Competitions

David Davies read the External Competitions Secretary report from Penny Reeves. See attachment 4.

4.5. Exhibition

Jon Watkins presented the Exhibitions Secretary report. See attachment 5.

4.6. President's Report

Simon Shaw presented the President's Report. See attachment 6.

Simon thanked individual members of the committee for their contributions during the past year.

Simon presented a gift of a book to Anita Lewis, who is retiring from her role as Outings Secretary.

4.6.1. President's Trophy

Simon had particular thanks for Andy Dearn, who has maintained our website and ensured that the computer and support equipment are working correctly before every meeting. Andy's skill and attention to detail have ensured that we have been able to stream and record every meeting on Zoom.

Simon presented Andy with the President's Trophy in appreciation of his work for the Club.

The meeting took a Break

5. Proposed changes to the Constitution

Two motions were presented to the meeting for changes to the Constitution.

5.1. Motion 1

Ian Johson presented the motion; see attachment 7.

The motion: “The practice of having two separate competition groups – Improvers and Experienced - be discontinued in favour of having one competition group”.

Nick Murrall opposed the motion: see attachment 8.

The meeting debated the motion. In summary:

Some comments from people supporting the motion:

Nev Tait: We have fewer improvers, but they are all very good. It makes sense to merge the groups and treat all members the same.

Elini: The improvers group is too small; there is no real competition between them.

Maggie: The norm within other clubs in the area is to have just one group.

Mike: Every year, we have an internal competition to reach the top two places of the Improvers group to be promoted to the Experienced Group. For those who perpetually come third or fourth, it is very demoralising.

Some comments from people against the motion:

Nick Murrel: I joined the club because we had two groups. The judges treat the two groups differently; for example, the improvers receive more feedback on their images. So having two groups is a unique feature of SCC and was why I joined the club.

Sue Tait: One of my highlights was winning a cup in the improvers group. I would not be able to do that if we were all in one group.

Jane: Total beginners need something to encourage them.

Bridget: The judges do say that they will spend more time commenting on the Improver's images. We would lose that.

Ian: Appreciating the help judges give to the Improvers with their more extensive comments, we should make more use of the critique – or advisory - evenings to help less experienced photographers.

Nineteen voted for the motion, and three voted against it. The motion was carried.

5.2. Motion 2

Ian presented the motion. See attachment 9.

The motion: The Bamber and Print Panel competitions for Improvers and Experienced members, along with the points awarded in them, are removed from the Swavesey Camera Club Photographer of the year titles to become stand-alone competitions.

The rationale for the proposal was to remove what some see as a lack of balance between

the great effort needed to prepare panels of prints for competitions only to receive the same marks as for the preparation of a single digital image.

We debated the proposal. Several speakers reminded the meeting that we had already tried to address this issue by awarding double points for print panels. That practise had been tried and then reverted to single points awarded by a subsequent vote.

Several pointed out that the preparation of prints for competitions was part of the overall photographers' skill set and should be retained as part of the challenge in the annual competition.

Three voted for the motion, and 19 voted against it. The motion was lost.

Simon: The conclusions from the meeting are that we will have one competition group from now on, and print panel competitions will remain part of the annual competition.

6. Election of New Committee

Simon: A number of the current members of the committee will be in their final season of office next season. Anyone interested in taking up a post should declare their interest now so they can shadow the current member during the next season. We will be looking for a replacement president, programme secretary and exhibition secretary.

The committee was elected:

Acting President: Simon Shore

Vice President: David Davies

Programme Secretary: Penny Reeves

Secretary: Doug Thompson

Treasurer: Mike Culnane

Internal Competition Secretary: Ian Thompson

External Competition Secretary: Penny Reeves

Exhibition Secretary: Jon Watkins

Webmaster: Andy Dearn

Hospitality: Maggie O'Moore

Outings Secretary: Vacant

7. Subscriptions

We covered this topic in the financial report.

8. Reclassifications.

This item was not required as the club now has a single competition group.

9. **Set subjects for next season**

The membership has suggested the topics for next year's set subjects, and the most popular suggestions are listed below. Members were invited to vote for three topics. The topics and their total votes were:

Shadows	23
Food	5
Intimate	8
Opposites	12
Red	8
Concrete	6
Abstract	16

The topics of next season's set subject competitions will be Shadows, Opposites and Abstract.

10. **Any Other Business**

10.1. **Camera Club BBQ**

Simon proposed to hold a camera club BBQ on Saturday, 20th August, with Simon Shore and Nev & Sue Tait as hosts. The cost will be £12 per head.

10.2. **Vote of thanks to Simon Shore**

11. **Summary of Actions**

None.

David Davies, June 2022

Attachment 1 Financial Report: Mike Culnane Treasurer 2021 - 2022

Overall

I present my first report as treasurer to the club and highlight issues this year and changes from last year's report presented by Simon that have affected the club's finances.

This year we got back to nearly normal with a near-full range of activities as we recovered from the pandemic. As a result, our income and expenditure were greatly in excess of last year. We made a loss of approximately £700 compared to a profit last year of over £700.

Income

Turning to consideration of our income it was boosted by a number of new members who joined this year; bringing the total number up from 51 to 56.

The refreshment levy of £5 a head proposed last year and consolidated into the membership fee for the first time this year was a success. This levy greatly simplified the management and delivery of refreshments at meetings and contributed to a modest profit this year of £100, even after taking account of restocking with fresh supplies. It will therefore be retained for next year (2022-2023).

We held a successful full Exhibition again this year managed by Jon Watkins. This was revived after an absence of two years when we could not show our work other than on the website. The cost of approx. £670 was all covered, thanks to the continuing generosity of our sponsors and refreshment income on the day.

The Bar-B-Q, hosted by our President, was a success and well attended by 40 members. It made a healthy profit of £265.

We even received a small donation of £25 from our bank as recognition of the poor service received when trying to update those members who have access to the account.

Expenditure

Regarding our costs, these were understandably much greater than last year despite notwithstanding some savings that I will highlight below.

In a normal year, the hire of the meeting venue at the Village College and the cost to put on the programme of speakers are the two most significant costs. This year was an exception. The cost of speakers was similar to last year at nearly £1000 but the room rental was significantly lower than normal at nearly £600. This is approximately half the cost of a normal year.

We changed our insurance company and saved over £100. As in similar years, we made a charitable donation of £100 this year to the DEC Ukraine fund. This was mostly funded by card sales at the exhibition.

Other costs not incurred last year totalled £150 for a number of miscellaneous items, such as bank charges and gifts to the college caretaker staff to show our appreciation for their help and to continue and maintain goodwill.

The most significant expense this year was incurred in buying capital equipment. Your committee decided last year to increase the technical quality of our Zoom presentations to allow those members we are not able or willing to risk face-to-face meetings to share involvement, as far as practical, with the club's programme of events. A new laptop computer, quality microphones and a webcam were purchased at a total cost of £1334. It could be argued that this expense is predominantly a result of the pandemic but it does also allow us to secure speakers from a greater geographic area that otherwise would not be available to us.

My thanks to Anthony Clarke who has kindly agreed to audit the accounts which will be done later this month after holidays.

Forecast for Year 2022-2023

I have attempted a forecast of income and expenditure for next year that has been approved by the committee. The full programme prepared by Simon will involve additional room hire and speaker cost.. These, and other heads of cost, may be subject to cost inflation. We also cannot assume that membership numbers will be similar to the past year as the pandemic may have boosted an intake of new members that may not be sustained next year.

Despite these uncertainties I have prepared a budget for next year that shows a modest loss of nearly £200, This loss is based upon the membership subscriptions detailed below.

Membership Subscriptions for 2022-2023

In last year's financial report the membership fee was substantially reduced to reflect the anticipated reduction of room rental and other associated costs. We have now returned to regular physical meetings (together with the option of Zoom conference attendance) and it was predicted that we would return to the more usual membership fee that was applicable to the year 2018-2019 This is a £63 full fee and £50 concession fee. This excluded the £5 a head levy for refreshments which we still wish to maintain that was consolidated into the fee structure last year.

Therefore the fee structure for the year 2022-2023 is proposed to be the same as 2018-2019, namely

- £68 full fee
- £55 concession fee.

The committee wishes it to be noted that your club has managed to maintain membership costs without an increase for two years and provide a full programme of speakers and new Zoom facilities, despite inflation.

Mike Culnane
Treasurer

Attachment 2: Programme Secretary Report.

I hope everybody has enjoyed the programme this year- this was a combined effort from myself and Ray so I would like to thank Ray for getting us started this year.

It was a bit of a stop-start year with meetings starting up again and then suspended again and starting again so there was a bit of juggling of meetings and some technical niggles but we ended up with combined live/streamed meetings which worked pretty well. I would like to say a big thank you to Andy Dearn and to Mike Swain for all their help with the technical of Zoom and sound without whose expertise this would not have been possible. I think we will try to continue the live/streaming approach for the next season and see how we go.

I have pretty well got next year's programme sorted- copies available here. Some of the highlights will be Will Cheung to set us going for the first meeting after our welcome night. Permajet will return to talk about printing – even if you do not print this should be a valuable talk because they promise to explain to us the dark art of colour management and colour profiling i.e. getting your images to project and print as you see them. I know we have quite a strong macro group so I have booked Bob Brind Surch to come and talk to us on that topic and we have invited Tom Peck to come and talk to us. Tom gave a superb presentation about photography and the concept of the artistic sublime via Zoom and after Christmas, he is coming to talk to us about mobile phone photography which will be a combination of a lecture and practical workshop. Mobile phones are now becoming serious pieces of photographic hardware and I know some members are now doing a lot or all of their photography via mobiles so I think a talk on how to use the functionality in mobile phones will be really useful for all of us. As they say, the best camera is the one you have with you...

I am also exploiting the use of Zoom to get speakers too distant to come to us in person and so far we have three nights which will be Zoom nights only where we will not be meeting at the college but joining the meetings from home.

This year I have tried to avoid the EAF speaker travelogues- we have actually seen most of them over the last 4 - 5 years anyway but we have a club full of people who go to all sorts of interesting places and all types of events and spectacles or have some special interesting niche.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to talk to us this last season. Everyone in this club produces work you can all be proud of so please let us have some volunteers for Members' Nights- anything from a 10-minute to 40 minutes talk. If you don't want to stand up in front of everyone then let us have some images that we can pop into an AV presentation. I am quite happy to do this as is Penny and I am sure other people in the club.

Members' Nights are a great opportunity for us to see work from people who do not particularly like the competition format. I am going to start nagging everyone next year. It takes a little time but you will also find that you will be much in demand from small social groups like WI, village social groups and people like the Over Day Centre who always need

people to come and entertain. I have an Epson projector and screen that anyone can borrow anytime to use for such talks.

Lastly, I have sent out and have some copies of a survey which I would like as many of you to respond to as possible. If you don't want to do the whole thing just fill out the bits you want to, It will help me and any future programme secretary to get the sort of talks you want if you tell me what it is that you like.

Simon Shore
Programme Secretary

Attachment 3: Internal Competition Secretary's Report 2021/22

Over the past season, we have seen members having the opportunity to compete in nine internal competitions – eight individual and one joint completion. In total, 31 members have submitted work to these competitions and I would like to thank each member for doing so. I would also like to record my thanks to each judge who gave their experience and gave up their time to judge these competitions.

The competitions and the people who judged them were as follows:

Projected Digital Image of the Year	Alan Goldby
Monochrome Print	Naomi Saul
Colour Print – The Joe Sipos Trophy	Daphne Hanson
Print Panel	Jonathan Vaines
Bamber – The Reverend Bamber Trophy	David Steel
Projected Digital Image Set Subject 1- Blue	Ian Johnson/Chris Foster
Projected Digital Image Set Subject 2- Metal	Jim Bennett
Projected Digital Image Set Subject 3- Myths, Legends and Fairytales	Gerry Metcalf
The Pairs Competition	Ben Pike

Whilst on the subject of judges, I would like to officially congratulate Penny Reeves who was requested by the East Anglian Federation of Camera Clubs (EAF) to become one of their judges in October 2021. Not only does this mean Penny gets to see what is happening in other clubs, but this means Penny also becomes an ambassador for Swavesey Camera Club.

Why do we compete? I believe it is to set a benchmark for our own work and to set a benchmark against our fellow members. In this respect, the final positions for the year are as follows.

Experienced group leaderboard 2021/22

Experience group		2012/2013		2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022	
Placed	Name	2021	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017	2016	2016	2015	2015	2014	2014	2013	2013	2012	2012	2011
1	Simon Dhensu	17	18	18	19	20	17	20	19	18	17	20	18	17	20	18	17	20	18	17	2018
2	Nick Marich	20	17	20	20	17	16	18	16	18	17	19	20	19	18	19	18	19	18	19	2016
3	Jon Johnson	18	20	18	17	19	18	16	18	20	17	17	20	18	19	19	18	19	19	19	2015
4	Maquet de Neure	17	18	18	19	18	18	17	18	17	19	20	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	2014
5	Jon Taylor	17	19	18	16	17	15	15	16	20	17	20	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	2014
6	Andy Green	17	17	16	16	18	18	17	20	17	17	17	17	16	16	17	16	18	18	18	2010
7	Clark Smith	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	17	18	15	15	15	15	15	2011
8	Richard Harrison	17	18	16	15	16	15	16	15	16	15	18	17	18	17	18	17	18	17	18	2010
9	Penny Reaves	18	20	17	17	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	1812
10	Jon Watkins	17	18	16	18	17	17	16	17	18	17	18	17	18	17	18	17	18	17	18	1913
11	Chris Thompson	16	18	17	17	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	1813
12	Mike Snow	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	1813
13	David Davies	19	18	18	17	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	1813
14	Gordon Fuller	16	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	1813
15	John Jones	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	1813

Congratulations to both Simon Shore and Gareth Williamson for winning their respective groups. Congratulations also to Simon Shore and Kelvin Smith for winning the Pairs Competition.

There are anomalies with the clubs' internal competition – the scoring isn't fair and the majority of members in the Improvers section are not getting the recognition they deserve. As such, I have put forward two motions to address these issues and I hope the membership will support both motions.

Also being debated later on are the choice of Set-Subjects for next season. It's always a fine line to pick those subjects that are both challenging and encouraging enough for members to pick up their cameras and go and take images for them without the need to rifle through their back catalogues. However, as photographers, we should always be looking for images that inspire, regardless of what subject matter is chosen. Definitely Food, for thought.

I would like to record my thanks go to both Andy Dearn and Mike Swain for their sterling service with all things computerised on competition nights and the follow-up work Andy does with the club's website. I also thank everyone who has kept score for me over the year as a manual backup (Pen and Paper Version 1.0) which includes my wife, Sarah Johnson and for her clerical support. Also, I need to thank Sarah for calming me down when images are sent in, in the incorrect format (which should be 1600ps x 1200px) and with incorrect, or no metadata.

Ian Johnson LRPS
Internal Competition Secretary
Swavesey Camera Club

Attachment 4: External Competition Secretary's Report for 2021/22

Coming out of the restrictions of the COVID lockdowns, we were hopeful that this season would be a little more 'normal' than last year. In particular, we were keen to get back to face-to-face meetings, which would allow us to run the print competitions that we'd been missing last season. It was, however, unclear at the start of the season whether any of the external competitions would have a print component — not all clubs have been as confident as Swavesey in returning to face-to-face meetings or as proficient at running hybrid sessions.

The critique evenings that we instigated last season have continued to run and continue to be very effective. The standard of images available for selection for external competitions has been high from both groups.

We took part in a number of friendly competitions this season. With respect to our 'regular' friendlies, sadly, we lost 393–406 to St Ives in November (congratulations to Eleni Paliginis for a 20 for 'Abandoned', and Derek Smith for a 19 for 'Sunset in Sydney'), but beat St Neots in a tight finish (400–397) in March, with high scores of 20 for Nev Tait's Image of the Year 'Antarctic Moonrise' and 19 for Anthony Clarke's 'Allium Spike'. Another friendly (now in its second year and looking like becoming another regular) was our Across the Pond competition versus our friends in Newmarket, Ontario. A collaborative effort between two judges, one on either side of the Atlantic, resulted in a win for Swavesey. In the same week, we took part in a new friendly competition, responding to an invite from the Ely Photographic Club for a contest that excluded the usual suspects at the top of the leaderboard and showcased work from across the club. The competition was very ably judged by Paul Radden, who gave instructive critique and in the end awarded the win to Swavesey. Congratulations to Eleni for another 20 for 'Abandoned', to Anthony for a 19 for 'Allium Spike', and to Anita Lewis for a 19 for 'Majestic'.

In November, we were drawn against Ware in the knockout round of the Melbourn Trophy. As expected, Ware (the eventual winners of the trophy) beat us (424–379). Our top scores were 19s for David Davies' 'St Giles, Edinburgh', Anita's 'Majestic', and new member Krystal Dalston's 'Common Seal, Horsey Gap'. As a committee, we were in the process of discussing withdrawing from the Melbourn Trophy (in part due to difficulties in scheduling resulting from how the Melbourn Trophy was organised, and in part because we felt that we would prefer to focus our efforts on friendly competitions (that we stood a chance of winning) when we received a communication from the organisers informing us that, due to dwindling interest in taking part from a number of clubs, they had decided that this would be the last year that the competition would run.

Our high scorer in the Cambridge Inter-club in January was Simon Shore, with an 18 in the Nature category for 'Waking Leopard, Tanzania'. Although we weren't among the top scorers in this competition, we were only six points behind Cambridge, three points behind Ely, and equal with St Ives, so it was a respectable performance for a club of our size. We turned in a similarly respectable performance in the St Ives Interprint in February (this year once again a PDI, not print, competition), when we came joint sixth, one point behind Ely and equal with St Ives and St Neots.

Our final external competition of the season was the Brotherhoods Cup in April. We did very well this year, coming joint third with St Ives in a strong field of 11 clubs. Once again, our highest scorer was Eleni, with a 19 for 'Abandoned'.

Several members submitted individual entries to the Bill Dunn creative competition in March. Similar to last year, Swavesey members did well: Penny Reeves came third overall with 'Mouldy Old Troll', and there were Highly Commendeds for Simon Shore's 'Girl on a Motorcycle' and Douglas Thompson's 'I.D. Parade', and Commendeds for new member Ian Taylor's 'Seth's Presence in his Temple' and Simon Shore's 'The Fall'.

In conclusion, this was another solid year for the club on the external competitions front. In the end, all the events were run as PDI competitions; hopefully, some of the competitions next season will have a print component, and if they do, we're in a good position to submit strong entries from the print competitions we ran internally this season. Please continue to attend the critique sessions, as these are having a very positive effect on our external competition entries. And finally, please remember that we're always happy to consider images for selection, even if they've not been entered in one of our internal competitions — if you think it's any good, let us take a look!

Looking forward to seeing what we can achieve in 2022/23.

Penny Reeves
External Competitions Secretary

Attachment 5: Swavesey Camera Club Exhibition Report 2022

Traditionally the club holds an annual spring exhibition. However, the exhibition for 2020 was cancelled due to the lockdowns required to control the Covid epidemic. Last year, after a year of remote Zoom meetings, we were very pleased to host our 2021 spring exhibition through the SCC website. This year, the committee were keen to try and return to a face-to-face exhibition, but it was only at the February committee meeting that the final decision was made to go ahead with our exhibition on Saturday, 2nd April 2022.

So with just eight weeks' notice, the club mobilised to hold a face-to-face exhibition backed up by an online website-based version. At 10:00 on Saturday, 2nd April, all the preparations were complete and with a sense of great expectation and some trepidation, we opened the doors to the public.

The success of the exhibition might be conveyed by some simple numbers.

- We had 23 members displaying 91 images and an impressive display of club competition top scores (over 60 images).
- We had 12 entrants for the Open Competition
- We had 140 visitors come through the doors in the six hours the exhibition was open.
- There were 136 votes cast for the favourite image.

For me, however, the most positive sign was walking through the exhibition at lunchtime; the whole place was full and buzzing with conversations, people were crowded in front of display boards, and the seating areas in the café and cinema were full. It truly felt like the grey clouds lifting and the long absent sun shining again.

So, to all the club members who provided images, helped set up and staff the exhibition, baked cakes, made cards and were in any other way involved, I thank you all very much for your time and effort. We made a strong statement that Swavesey Camera Club is alive and vibrant.

Oh, and do you want to know who produced the favourite images?

1. Ouse in Full Flood (Simon Shore) 11 votes,
2. The Last Recital (Nick Murrall) 7 votes,
3. Wolf Moon over River Deben (Penny Reeves) 6 votes
4. Reflections, Fayum, Egypt (Ian Taylor) 6 votes.

Finally, I have been exhibition secretary since 2017/18; I hope that the 2023 exhibition will be my last and my successor's first. If there is someone who thinks they could do this job, then please come and have a chat.

**Jon Watkins,
Exhibition Secretary**

Attachment 6: The President's Report for 2021/22

We have had another rather topsy-turvy year thanks to the pandemic, but we seem to have come through, and I would like to thank you all for sticking with us and supporting the club. We have welcomed some new members this year, and I hope you have enjoyed the club.

I must thank all the committee members who have worked very hard on our behalf:

Thanks to Maggie for managing the hospitality and her activity on Facebook that has raised the club's profile.

Thanks to Doug for our successful transatlantic meetings, which I am pleased to say our Canadian friends are keen to pursue.

Thank you, David, for keeping meticulous minutes and standing in for me so I can have a break now and then.

Thank you to Ian and Penny as our competition secretaries. Ian has been managing our critique or advisory nights, as we will now call them, which I think many people have found useful and enjoyable; we will be continuing with these next year.

Penny has now set us three friendly competitions with neighbouring clubs- St. Ives, St. Neots and Ely and all three have asked that we continue with these. Congratulations to Penny also for becoming an EAF judge herself.

Thanks to Mike for taking over the treasurer's role- one of those rather thankless backroom functions without whom the club cannot function.

Jon did a superb job of getting our exhibition together at rather short notice, and it was very successful. It was great to see lots of people getting back together again.

Thank you to Anita, who has been our outings sec for several years - a particularly difficult thing to organise in these last two years. Anita is standing down this year, so we would like to present you with a small token of appreciation for all your hard work.

I have to reserve a special mention for Andy Dearn. Andy is our webmaster and does a great job of keeping our website up to date. He is not supposed to have any responsibilities during the meetings, yet every week he comes and sets up the computer system so we can have live meetings, stream them and record them. Most weeks, there seems to be some glitch (like SVC changing the password and not telling us), but his technical skills have kept everything going. I think he has spent most of the meetings with his fingers crossed rather than sitting back and relaxing, but I must say we have appreciated everything you have done to support the club these last two years.

Simon Shore
President

Attachment 7: Proposal 1 for the Swavesey Camera Club AGM 2022.

“The practice of having two separate competition groups – Improvers and Experienced – be discontinued in favour of having one competition group”.

Background.

Over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to re-assign members from the “Improvers” competition group to the “Experienced” competition group. Previously we have, by and large, looked at the final positions in the improvers “Photographer of the Year” title to do this. However, in recent years the “pool” of photographers that can be classed as improvers in the improvers section has become smaller and smaller. A number of members, who are currently classed as “improvers” are regularly representing the club in our external competitions. This makes a mockery of having two groups. Also, we have several members who do not compete and therefore do not score points in every competition. This means their “Standard of Photography” is diminished, in the clubs’ eyes, as a result.

This is much in the same way as Cambridge Photographic Society and several other clubs in the area operate. In adopting this proposal, we appreciate we need to support the less experienced members of the club to become better photographers. However, the committee also feels the two-tier group is not perhaps the best way to do this and that our “Members Evenings”, “Critique Evenings” and our “Pairs Competition” are better alternatives.

If adopted, the proposal raises the question of what we do with the existing trophies for the improvers section. This could be/would be resolved by awarding these trophies to a “new” member (someone who has been within the club less than two years, for example) who scored the highest in the competition for what that award was for.

We have canvassed some members within the improvers group – both new and longer-standing members, and their reaction has been in agreement with the proposal. Our only concern is the winner of the Improvers section this year may feel they could have got to the “Experienced” group without all their hard work. They, however, can claim to be the last person to be automatically promoted to the experienced group – whilst producing some fantastic work over the year at the same time. The committee hopes that person, as we hope all members in the former “Experienced” group, will encourage the members in the former “Improvers” group.

Ian Johnson LRPS
Internal Competition Secretary
Swavesey Camera Club

Attachment 8: Opposing Proposal 1 (attachment 7)

I oppose the motion to merge the Experienced and Improvers groups.

When I first inquired about Swavesey Camera Club, one of the attractive features was that it was split into two groups. I thought that this gave everyone something to aim for that was attainable. When I talked to other people (non-members) about how the club is structured, they thought that the fact it is split into two groups gave a very clear signal that the club strives to "bring on" less accomplished members and reward them.

Personally, winning a "trophy" as an Improver was a real highlight for me and highly encouraging. I was in another club previously and thought, from day one, I wouldn't ever win anything. I agree that the two groups need to be "normalised" with demotions happening as well as promotions (I feel another footballing analogy coming here) - but this isn't the way to do it - it could be seen as a "cop out" for not "biting the bullet" and risking offending a small minority who are not participating fully and maintaining skills. Losing the "differentiator" of two groups, would I feel, be damaging to attracting new members to the club - we'd just become "like every other club". We'd also lose the Pairs competition.

Nick Murrall

Attachment 9 “The Bamber and Print Panel competitions – Improvers and Experienced along with the points awarded in them are removed from the Swavesey Camera Club Photographer of the year titles – Improvers and Experienced, to become stand-alone competitions”.

Background.

Over the past few years, the most contentious issue we have had within the club is the scoring of the Bamber and Print Panel competitions as part of the Swavesey Camera Club Photographer of the year titles – Improvers and Experienced. The fact we have agreed not to amend the number of points each entry scores, 20 or 40, for the next three years just shows how divided and fed-up the membership is with the matter.

However, the whole membership agrees whatever way the competitions are marked, it is unfair and skews the leader board. I am not going to rake over those old coals again. My solution is one that was brought to the AGM last year, not by me, I regret to say, but was left too late to debate.

This is much in the same way as the FA Cup and League Cup are separate from the Football league - Premiership, Championship, etc... Please accept my apologies for the Football analogy, where both trophies retain their gravitas without skewing the leaderboard.

I hope the membership approves this proposal and ends the disquiet within; what I say to all visiting judges that Swavesey is a very friendly club that takes its photography very seriously.

Ian Johnson LRPS
Internal Competition Secretary
Swavesey Camera Club