



## **Minutes of the Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, 7:30 pm**

Zoom Online

Attendance: Andy Dearn, David Davies, Doug Thompson, Ian Johnson, Maggie O'Moore, Penny Reeves, Ray McMurray, Simon Shore, Jon Watkins

### **Apologies for absence**

1.1. None

### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

2.1. The minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> January were accepted.

2.2. Ray has engaged a new judge for the Print panel competition. Action completed. This will be further discussed in the reports.

2.3. Jon continues to work on the web pages for the exhibition. This will be further discussed under reports.

2.4. Ian has spoken to the judge concerning the nature of the Bamber competition. Action completed.

2.5. Maggie has sent advertising copy to the Willingham magazine. Action completed. Simon confirmed that the advertisement is in the Meridian magazine.

2.6. David has comments on the proposed Zoom rules but has not yet passed them to Simon. **Action David.**

2.7. Ray will prepare some minutes for the EGM, held in December. **Action, Ray, continues.**

2.8. The issues regarding the scores on the league table have been resolved. Action completed.

### **3. Correspondence – Doug/Andy**

3.1. Doug has copied an email to the Committee received from Newmarket in Canada, proposing an international inter-club meeting. This is planned to take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 4 pm GMT.

3.2. Simon has received a reply to his letter to Mrs Cripwell, complaining of the increase in insurance costs. In her reply, Mrs Cripwell said that the increases are due to the need to cover management liability costs which were previously covered as part of the overall insurance package. No refund of costs has been offered.

3.3. Simon has received an email from a club member, telling him that a newly enrolled member has now decided to step back from Club activities for the time being. A prime reason concerns the nature and conduct of Club competitions. The Committee spent some

time discussing the issues raised and made some suggestions to address them. The points raised included:

The vagaries of competition judge's comments and awarded marks are often puzzling and sometimes annoying or even upsetting. Many of us have been disappointed that a particular judge did not like an image we thought was a winner and worked so hard to produce. Even more bizarrely, we've had the experience of a judge giving a low mark to an image in a Club competition but then gave the same image a high mark at an external competition a few weeks later.

We can understand how people can be upset by ill-thought remarks from judges, a judge's failure to see the intent of an image, giving it a low mark and giving a higher mark to an image that seems to contain obvious technical flaws.

Experienced members have learned to take a judge's remarks and marking as a feature of camera club competitions. The given mark is a matter of the judge's personal preference; it is not an exact science.

An obvious difficulty now is that members have no opportunity to discuss a disappointing mark with other members. When we had physical meetings, we had an opportunity to discuss marking outcomes with each other, which provided some stress relief.

We recognised that although the use of Zoom has allowed the Club to continue working, some are not comfortable with the format. Ray said that he was aware, for example, that several older members do not attend the live meetings. Whilst some might be busy on meeting nights, others might be choosing to watch the recording of a meeting rather than participate, live, in a busy Zoom meeting. We acknowledged that we are missing the one-to-one encounters that people enjoyed as part of Club life, and we should be looking for ways to better engage with individual members.

We have had a lot of good feedback on the use of breakout rooms where small numbers of members can talk together. It has been noticed that the people in breakout rooms are more relaxed and talk more freely.

Simon thought we need to think more about the direction the Club is going, what emphasis should we put on competitions, for example.

Penny suggested we could have more non-competitive photo discussion evenings where we break into small groups, share four or five images and offer comments on them. We could have someone take the part of a judge and offer the sort of comments a judge might make and then explain why they gave the marks they gave.

Perhaps we need to explore more what people want to capture in their hobby of photography. It is a hobby, after all.

Ian volunteered to respond to the email and will copy the Committee for comments before sending it. **Action, Ian.**

Simon thanked the Committee for their comments and said we need to move forward with this topic and determine a general direction of the Club.

#### **4. Internal Competitions – Ian**

4.1. Ian noted that the last of the set subject competitions, 'Book Titles, provided a bit of a lighter competition.

The next competition is the Bamber on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Ian needs entries by 17<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **4.2. Prize Giving - Simon**

Simon noted that we have not awarded the prizes won last season, and we needed to find an opportunity to present them.

Ian said he had AVs of member's pictures from last year but none yet prepared with this year's pictures.

Ray suggested that we postpone the presentation of last year's prizes until the end of the season and combine that with a 'Choose the Image of Year' meeting. Ray said we had a spare evening on 1<sup>st</sup> April where we could have 20 minutes of presentations and AVs of members images.

#### **5. External Competitions – Penny**

5.1. The images for the St Ives Interprint competition have been selected.

Next, we need to select images for PAGB Cup for 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will not put in an entry for the GB Nature Cup.

#### **6. Programme Update – Ray**

##### **6.1. Special Interest Groups – Simon**

Simon introduced the idea of Special Interest Groups (SIGs). He was interested in setting up several SIGs to continue the impetus, from our last technical meeting, teaching each other new techniques. Simon said Nick Murrall is also interested in the idea and Simon will contact him to see if he is willing to help organise some SIGs.

6.2. Ray said that all the programme dates are now filled.

The meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> April will now be Award of Trophies for 2019-2020 season and viewing of winners and highest scoring entries.

The meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> June will be our 'Image of the Year' selection and Annual General Meeting.

The meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June will be our End of Season Meeting.

Ray noted that we are lucky to have the calibre of speakers we've been able to book.

6.3. Ray has an enquiry out for a judge for the Joe Sipos Trophy, 18<sup>th</sup> March. Inaki has agreed to be our judge for the Projected Panel competition on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

6.4. We discussed the issue of images being used more than twice in competitions. We agreed that it was not fair to ask Ian to act as a policeman to see that member's abided by the rules and that we have to take it on trust that people will abide by rules.

6.5. We have added the meeting with Newmarket CC Ontario on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February to the programme. We will swap two images per members with the other Club to be critiqued by them. Doug will continue to organise this. We need an announcement and call for pictures: **action, Doug.**

6.6. Ray has also programmed extra critique evenings to take place 16 days before each competition.

#### 6.7. **Pairs Competition – Simon.**

Nick Murrall is keen to have a Pairs Competition this season, so Simon has asked Nick to organise it.

#### 6.8. **Looking Forward**

One issue now is to determine what we are going to do in September. We do not yet have the information to decide. We agreed that we could continue to use Zoom in half-term holidays and nights when the Village College is closed.

Will we have a summer recess, or continue meeting? Penny thought we could have some ad hoc meetings with more use of breakout rooms. Action: Doug to ask the membership what they would like to do in the Summer. **Action, Doug.**

### 7. **Finance – Simon**

7.1. Simon reported that there was nothing to report.

### 8. **Website and Facebook – Andy/ Maggie**

8.1. Maggie reported that we have articles in four village magazines concerning the Exhibitions and Open Competition.

### 9. **Exhibition Update – Jon**

9.1. Jon reported that he had sent out the fliers for the Exhibition and Open Competition and has now started to get used to the complexities of the website to build the pages for the Exhibition and Open Competition. He confessed that he is finding the task technically complex and Andy agreed that the website is complex to program. Moreover, Andy said that he had found that the web hosting support team are not helpful when you have a problem.

Jon described where he had got to so far. We need pages for the Open Competition entries and a gallery for the exhibition itself. Club members would be able to populate one page of four images for the exhibition. We also need a place where people could view a slideshow of all the images. It would also be nice to have a guest book where visitors could sign-in and make comments.

Ian suggested that we could add AVs of the rarely seen images, e.g., those that come 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in competitions.

Jon mentioned that one concern was not to do something that would make the draft pages visible to the public before they were ready. Andy was reassuring saying that he has changed the website recently and none of the daft material had gone live. He reminded Jon not to tick the 'show' box. We can finally link it when it is ready.

It was suggested that Jon and Andy could book a meeting together to sort final details.

Jon undertook to get a draft view of the website to the Committee for review by 18<sup>th</sup> February to demonstrate to the membership at the Member's Evening of 4<sup>th</sup> March. **Action, Jon.**

## 10. Technology Issues

### 10.1. Google Group emails

Some members are reporting that they are not receiving emails from Google Groups. Ray will send David the names of those who are having problems, and David will investigate what is going on.

**Action: Ray and David.**

## 11. AOB

### 11.1. Zoom Breakout Meetings

Ray said that Zoom breakout room meetings took a long time to set up. The last meeting took three days to set up. He was pleased that Rose was present on the night to help. David wondered if there was a possibility to build a standard template for future meetings to simplify the task.

### 11.2. Letter from Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

Simon has received a letter from the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity. Maggie will respond. **Action, Maggie.**

### 11.3. Publishing committee meeting minutes

Maggie asked if we should publish committee meeting minutes to the members. We agreed that we could post agreed minutes on the website, and David would write to the membership to tell them once that was done. **Action: Andy and David.**

## 12. Date of Next meeting

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

## 13. Summary of Actions

13.1. Pass comments on the proposed conduct of Zoom meetings to Simon. David

13.2. Prepare a note on the EGM. Ray.

13.3. Draft an email to the member wishing to leave the Club. Ian.

13.4. Write to the membership concerning the meeting with Newmarket. Doug.

13.5. Write to the membership to ask opinions on meetings during the Summer. Doug.

13.6. Prepare a draft of the exhibition by 18<sup>th</sup> February. Jon

13.7. Investigate why some members are not receiving Group emails. Ray and David.

- 13.8. Respond to the letter from Arthur Rank. Maggie
- 13.9. Provide space and publish committee minutes on the website. Andy and David.

David Davies, February 2021