

Wakefield Camera Club Annual General Meeting Held on the 8th December 2014

Sally Sallett opened the evening by thanking all the members of the committee for the good work they had done over the last 12 months.

- 1 Apologies for absence;- Chris New, David Lockton, John Gardner, Les Forrester, Mike Hinchcliffe, Lyndsay Halliday, Peter Bindon, Peter Field, Peter Wells, Ray Parker, Sarah Bindon, Steve Wright.
- 2 Present;- Alan Smith, Brian Hill, Brian Holding, Carole Cross, Dave Jones, David Carr, David Kershaw, Geoffrey Cross, Gordon Sawyer, Ian Waddington, John Bickerdike, Jack Bunn, John Upton, Judith Kershaw, Keith Barras, Lee Todd, Linda Golding, Malcolm Dobson, Michelle Howell, Neil Scarlett, Nigel Hazell, Rob Smitten, Robert Bilton, Bob Gibson, Roger Frost, Sally Sallett, Steve Ininns, Steve Womack, Steve A Wood, and Trevor Bottomley.
- 3 The Minutes of the December 2013 AGM
These were taken as read.
- 4 Matters arising from these minutes.
Judith Kershaw reported that she had been present at the 2013 AGM, but was not listed on the minutes.
There were no other matter arising.
- 5 Change to Competition Rules;- The maximum acceptable size for a DPI or digital copy of a print entered in club competitions is now 1400 pixels wide by 1050 pixels high.
This amendment was agreed by those present. Jack Bunn stressed the importance of including a digital copy of all prints entered in competition.
- 6 Treasurers Report.
As always the club has gained and lost members over the year and again, as in the previous year, we have seen a slight increase from 97 members at the end of 2013 to 101 members at the club's New Year end of 30th September.
Though the balance sheet shows comparison figures with the previous year, due to the club changing the start year date from 1st January to 1st October, the figures for 2013 only cover a 9 month period, so to compare I've looked back at the previous full year, 2012.
The main income for the club comes from membership fees and entrance fees, and comparing with 2012 membership fees are roughly the same, but entrance fees have increased by about 1 third.
The club's main expenses come from judges / speakers fees, room rental and equipment.
We have had several prestige speakers over the year, so this expense has increased significantly over previous years. However, this has been offset by the increased number of visitors bringing in more income from the above mentioned entrance fees. Room rental has also increased since our move to Brookhouse Club; again last year was only a part year, as was 2012 when we moved mid-year from the City Club. Though the figure for equipment has increased, this only relates to one item, the new projector that the club purchased. Expenses on other sundry items covers such as Photoshop Elements software for the laptop, print boxes, and flyers to hand out for the club's exhibition and part cost of the Badge of Office.

Sundry expenses takes into account, trophies, engraving of trophies, framing of the unmounted prints for members, subsidizing part cost of club shirts for members, and website hosting.

The Club's overall balance at the end of September 2014 is down slightly (by £35.17), but we are still in a very good financial position.

I would finally like to thank all Club members, for their support throughout this last year, and especially to all other committee members for their hard work.

Trevor then presented the Balance Sheet and answered questions from the members.

7 Subscriptions for 2015

The state of the clubs finances was discussed at length and it was finally agreed that members annual subscriptions stay as they are. The nightly attendance fee will remain at £2.00, but visitors will be asked to pay £3.00. If we have prestige speakers the committee were given the power to increase both the member's attendance fee and visitor's fee for that night, should they think it necessary to cover some of the additional costs.

8 Exhibitions & Marketing

Malcolm Dobson gave the following report;-

Marketing is generally covered by our excellent website activities and Facebook. This could be construed as publicity, but where's the difference? We're not promoting product, nor are we selling anything. Promotional "flyers" are distributed around the City 3 or 4 times a year. Also Waky Express in their "Society reports" - we submit reports typically every week, these may or may not be published depending on the Editors choice.

In this way we are making contact with interested people who may be considering visiting us at The New Brookhouse Club; Our membership has grown steadily as a result of these activities.

Exhibitions. Each year we have our exhibition in The Ridings and these generate a lot of interest in the Club, especially from people who want to learn more about photography and subsequently attend the Summer Workshops which follow in August. This year, last July gave us a footfall of over 550 visitors in the 3 days - so clearly it is a worthwhile promotion creating an increase in potential membership.

About June time 2015, I shall be calling for mounted prints from which to select the display. Prints to be mounted to competition specification, (500 x 400mm) no smaller mounts please! They won't fit the display frames!

YPU - 2016, this is the year when Wakefield Camera Club will be hosting the YPU annual meeting and their exhibition. 2016 will soon be next year! Not long ago it was two years away when Peter Wells and Malcolm Dobson searched for suitable venues to meet the YPU specification. We have now reserved rooms in the newly completed Unity Hall. We cannot afford to fail in making this the best YPU venue and occasion! We have the foundations of a strong subcommittee and hope you will be willing to volunteer your support with the various activities to make this work for Wakefield.

Some discussion followed and it was suggested that we look at expanding the use of Facebook or Twitter to offer more information to members. Possibly including a blog on our web site. Ian Waddington offered to explore this option.

9 Syllabus for 2015

The 2015 syllabus is complete and members have been given a copy. The following suggestions from members present for possible inclusion in the 2016 syllabus were as follows;-

A speaker to talk about using filters on camera (such as Lee or Cokin).
Time Lapse Photography.
Another visit from Gil Pasternak.
A Table Top work night.
A talk on Drone Photography.

10 Election of Officers for 2015

With two candidates for President, Sally Sallett and Steve Womack, a ballot was held and Sally received 19 votes, Steve 10 votes. Sally was elected as President. Steve accepted the post as Vice President.

The rest of the committee posts were elected as follows;-

Treasurer – Trevor Bottomley.

General Secretary – David Kershaw.

Syllabus Secretary – Chris New.

Competition Secretaries – Bob Gibson and Jack Bunn

Exhibitions and Marketing Coordinator – Malcolm Dobson.

Webmaster – Steve Wright.

YPU Representatives – John Bickerdike, David Kershaw and Malcolm Dobson.

Elected Members –

Michelle Howell, Les Forrester, Peter Wells, Steve A Wood and Steve Innis.

All Life Members are Automatically Entitled to attend and vote at all committee meetings.

11 Any Other Business.

a/ Proposal to change the Formal Annual Dinner to a Buffett and Social –

Proposed by Chris New

Following some discussion a vote was taken and it was agreed that we should continue to hold a formal Annual Dinner, unless the committee decided otherwise.

b/ Selection of 11 set subjects for the On-line competition.

Ideas put forward by the members present were;-

Weather

People

Texture

Water

Patterns and Shapes

Outdoors

Indoors

Urban

Movement

Travel

A Colour

Macro

Old

Food

Black and White

Anything beginning with the letter .. (choose a letter)

Triangles

Smart Phone Images

Chimneys

Panoramas

Rural

Final selection of the 11 set subjects will be made by the incoming Committee at the first meeting.

c/ Three Free Prints for members.

The take up of this offer has been so low that it was agreed to abandon the idea.

d/ Publication of clubman scores.

Following some discussion it was agreed that we should only publish the top ten placed clubman totals at the year end. Members are entitled to ask the competition secretaries for their own scores at any time.

e/ Calibration of the New Projector.

It was agreed that we should reset the projector to its original factory settings and calibrate the laptop screen.

f/ Triptych Print competition

Steve Womack suggested that we should try holding a competition based upon three related images. It was agreed that this idea had merit and the committee will try and include this competition in our syllabus.

g/ Audio Visual Competition

Brian Holding asked if we could give this competition the status that it deserved and use an external judge rather than the members to select a winner?

The problem over the last two years has been the low number of entries, but we will try and encourage more entries. Jack Bunn will contact the AV group and ask if one of their members is willing to judge our competition.

Bob Gibson asked if Time Lapse Photography was acceptable in this competition. It was agreed that it was.