

Wakefield Camera Club

Annual General Meeting Monday 7th December 2015
The meeting started at 7.35pm

1. Apologies for Absence – Peter Wells and Lee Todd.

2. Members present – Alan Smith, Chris New, David Carr, David Hullock, E David Jones, David Kershaw, Ian Waddington, John Bickerdike, John Gardner, Jack Bunn, John Upson, Judith Kershaw, Keith Barras, Les Forrester, Linda Golding, Malcolm Dobson, Michelle Howell, Mike Hinchcliffe, Neal Scarlett, Nigel Hazell, Paul Wagstaff, Phil Gledhill, Ray Parker, Robert Bilton, Sally Sallett, Sara Cremer, Steve Womack, Steve Wright, Steve A Wood, Tony Hallam-Cutler, Tony Machin, Trevor Bottomley and Vera Jones.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th December 2014 -
The minutes of the 2014 AGM were taken as read.

3. Matters Arising from Previous AGM -

Nigel Hazell asked for more information about the Triptych Competition, that is listed in the 2016 syllabus.

David Kershaw said that the rules for the competition would be discussed at the next committee meeting and these would be emailed to the membership.

4. *Treasurer's Report – (actual figures redacted)*

Trevor said "As always the club has gained and lost members over the year.

Unlike in 2014 when we saw a slight increase in membership over the previous year, 2015 saw a slight drop in paid-up members, from 101 to 90.

The main income for the club comes substantially from entrance fees, followed by membership fees. Due to the slight fall in members, income from subscriptions has fallen a little. This is also reflected in the income from entrance fees. We did however raise a good amount from the auction night held in April. Though we didn't have an auction in 2014, some equipment donated for the club's auction night in 2013 was sold after the start of the club's new year.

The club's main expenses come from judges & speaker's fees, room rental and equipment. Though again we have had some prestige speakers during the year, the overall cost has been less than previous, and the fees paid out has halved from in 2015. YPU exhibition fees are up, but this is based on the number of entries accepted. Room rental shows an increase, but this is due to the club now including the booking of the small lounge for Monday evenings and for our club's monthly committee meetings in the lounge on Thursdays. No major equipment was purchased in 2015, but there was a large increase in sundry items purchased. As well as new print boxes and the usual flyers to hand out for the club's exhibition and items for assembling the exhibition stands, the main cost here was the club's new Badge of Office, plus new trophies, and the new print stands. Sundry expenses include such as website hosting, framing of prints for competition winners, engraving of trophies. The YPU have an annual raffle and tickets are sold at club meetings to members. This is shown on the balance sheet; the money collected from tickets sold is included in sundry income and the money sent on to the YPU is also included in the sundry expenses column.

Despite the slight fall in membership, the club's overall balance at the end of September 2015 is up on the previous year, making the club 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."

5. Subscriptions for 2016 -

It was agreed that Subscriptions and entrance fees remain the same for the coming year.

6. Presidents Report -

Sally Sallett said

"I'd just like to run through some words of thanks for my team:-

For the excellent & varied programme of speakers ... Chris New.

For the excellent Lights Nights ... John Gardner.

For the huge job of organising all the competition entries both club & external

... Jack Bunn.

For organising the Annual Exhibition & working towards next year's YPU

Congress & Exhibition ... Malcolm Dobson assisted by Peter Wells.

For maintaining our Website & general techy stuff Steve Wright & Ian

Waddington.

For sound & vision on club nights ... Steve A. Wood assisted by Michelle Howell.

For 'cooking the books' ... Trevor Bottomley.

For always helping out & deputising for me ... Steve Womack

& for generally doing everything else to keep our club running efficiently, our

Secretary ... David Kershaw.

Over the year the club has enjoyed talks on a wide variety of topics.

Jack achieved his LRPS at the Photography Show.

We were well represented in acceptances at the YPU in Doncaster.

The Ridings Exhibition was successful & brought in quite a number of new members, that Ken Fisher then entertained & educated with his Summer Workshops.

Steve Womack organised the building of our splendid new print stands, a welcome improvement for displaying images on competition nights.

In November we hosted our first Advisory Day for the RPS, which was so successful they've already asked us to put on 2 more next year!

Next year is WCC's 125th. Anniversary so Lyndsay Halliday designed the posh new badges which all paid up members should now have received.

I've been proud to serve you as President over the past year,

Thank you."

7. Motions affecting Club Constitution and Rules

a. "A President will hold office for a two (2) year term and then will be required to step down. The Vice-President will automatically become President when the current Presidents term of office comes to an end."

As an explanation for the proposed rule David Kershaw said -

"This change is intended to re-design the committee structure to ensure that we continue to progress. It is in no way critical of Sally, our present President, or intended to favour Steve, our current vice-president. What it hopefully will achieve is a flush of new ideas every second year, backed up with the practical experience gained in the previous two years by the President Elect.

This rule used to be in place and worked well, but changing circumstances in the mid to late 90s caused many of our established rules to be abandoned and much of our history lost. I personally think the idea has merit, though there will

be times when it may cause me regret the change (after all I'm aging and becoming more and more resistant to change)."

A vote was taken and the rule was agreed.

b. Rule 15 to be amended to read;- "The Committee will publish a set of rules governing the running of club competitions. The Committee is empowered to interpret and amend these to solve specific events, but not permanently alter them."

As an explanation for the proposed rule David Kershaw said -
"This is a minor change of wording to add a little clarity to the constitution and rules."

A vote was taken and the rule amendment was agreed.

8. Motions affecting Competition Rules

a. Competition rules to be amended to read as per attached draft copy.
(See separate copy)

As an explanation for the proposed rule changes, David Kershaw said -
"you should all have received a copy of the proposed rules. They have been discussed, amended and re-drafted more times than you would ever believe. The intended changes are to try and make them clearer, shorter and less complex. We have taken the Unmounted A4 competition and the informal DPI competition out of the rules altogether. Not with any intention of 'killing them off', but rather to enliven them, by turning the evenings into a critique and feedback event. If the changes are accepted we will let any member put work forward for comment, ask an experienced member to suggest ways that the image could be improved and then ask the audience for ideas. We felt that feedback was much more important than any competitive element. You may have noticed that the annual print competition was judged without scores this year? That was intentional (and also within the wording of the existing rules). We felt it worked well and gave members a chance to benefit from constructive critique, even if the judge criticised some of my own images. The very nature of the Clubman competitions requires that we have to ask for scores, so they will not change. However, we have concluded that so few members bother to add an 'N' to their membership number that we have been unable to award 'best novice'. So the simplest option seemed to be to revert to a level playing field and let everyone compete equally. Following feedback from many of our life and long established members (it was difficult not to use the term 'Old') The Maurice Biglin Wildflower competition will return to its original form. It was always intended to honour the memory of Maurice and his views on photography – it will become an applied competition and the subject will be native indigenous wild flowers. Many of these rule changes will work against my own style of photography, but then Maurice and I never did agree on that. The final change is the mandatory request for a digital copy of each print. We now use competition software and display a projected copy of the entry. This is intended to make viewing easier and scoring more accurate. I hope you will accept these changes and find competition more enjoyable."

Following some discussion a vote was taken and the rule changes were agreed.

9. Monthly On Line Competition Subjects -

The members present were asked to suggest subjects for the monthly on-line competition. These were their suggestions -

Numbers

Eyes

Corners

Water

Music

Circles

Laughter

Shadows

Reflections

Clouds

Windows

Transport

Low Light

From this list the committee will select 11 for 2016.

10. Election of Officers for 2016

Following a vote -

Steve Womack was elected as President (18 votes)
and Sally Sallett as Vice-President. (14 votes)

The following were elected unopposed -

Treasurer -

Trevor Bottomley

General Secretary -

David Kershaw

Syllabus Secretary -

Peter Wells

Internal Competition Secretary -

Jack Bunn

External Competition Secretaries -

Paul Wagstaff

Tony Hallam-Cutler

Marketing and Exhibitions Officer -

Malcolm Dobson

Social Secretary -

Chris New

Webmasters -

Steve Wright

Ian Waddington

Light and Sound Team -

Steve A Wood

Michelle Howell

Elected Members -

Steve Ininns

Sally Robinson

Auditor (Non-committee post)

Peter Sallett

11. Any Other Business -

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm