

Wakefield Camera Club Annual General Meeting

4th February 2013

- 1 Apologies for absence; - Mike Hinchcliffe, Nigel Hazell, John Gardner.
- 2 Present;- Alan Smith, Brian Hill, Brian Holding, Chris New, David Carr, David Hall, David Jones, David Kershaw, David Lockton, Dawn Pickering, Gordon Penney, Gordon Sawyer, John Bickerdike, John M Bunn, Judith Kershaw, Lee Todd, Lyndsay Halliday, Malcolm Dobson, Maureen Penney, Peter Marsh, Raymond Parker, Robert Gibson, Sally Sallett, Steven Slocombe, Steve Womack, Steve Wood, Steve Wright, Steven Wood, Trevor Bottomley, Vera Jones, William Mahoney, Bob Jones and Yvonne Warriner.
- 3 The Minutes of the 2012 AGM – Were taken as read.
- 4 Matters arising from these minutes; -
 - a. It was agreed that the trial three free prints for members had proved useful and that we would offer to provide members with three free prints again this year. Any member wishing to take advantage of this offer by requesting extra prints would be able to do so at, or just above cost. We will endeavour to give members more warning of the print run this year, so that they have time to prepare.
 - b. It was agreed that we should try and arrange informal, small group outings similar to those organised last year under the heading ;'Presidents Pals'. Any member wishing to arrange such an outing should contact the President or the Secretary and the members would be advised of the outing.
- 5 Treasurers Report.

It's been an unusual year for the club this last year regarding income and expenditure, due partly to moving to new premises and partly as the club has changed the date in the year when subscriptions become due.

During 2012, on the income side, although we have gained and lost members, the total paid-up membership for 2012 is down on the previous year, ending the year with a membership of 79 (including joint membership) compared to 98 in 2011. This has reduced our income here by £377.50. However, this has been more than compensated by the increase in entrance fees, which was a flat rate of £1.50 for both members and guests, and increased in May to a flat rate of £2.00, then in June to £2.00 for members, but £2.50 for guests. This means that on entrance fees overall we have gained £867.00. Because of bringing forward the change in date for subscriptions becoming due, from after the AGM to the earlier date of October, included in the total subscriptions is an additional £266.00, mostly part year subscriptions from existing members, and also a few full year subscriptions from new members.

On the expenditure side, part of the subscriptions is to cover the membership of the meeting room venue, i.e., Brookhouse Club, and as some memberships had already been paid to the City Club (totalling £145.00), these had to be paid out again to Brookhouse and this was covered by the Camera Club. YPU subscriptions have remained about the same, judges and speakers fees are up on the previous year, again due to more prestige lectures or presentations, model fees have remained the same. We had one exhibition in the Ridings

Shopping Centre also, compared to two in 2011, so expenditure here is reduced. Less has been spent on major equipment, but we have spent on more on sundry items, which include such as mounting boards, medals, ProAm prints, cables & leads, and instructional DVDs. However the major expense has been room rental; at the City Club we made an annual donation in the month of December, which was in 2011 the sum of £200.00. At Brookhouse Club, this is based on the number of meetings in which we use the room, and cost for 2012, £845.17 (this does include the 'free' tea & coffee provided for members/guests!). The Club's overall balance at the end of 2012 is up by £344.22, we are still in a very good financial position, and hopefully after all the changes of moving venue and with the increase of entrance fees mid-year, we can increase this. 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.

6 Subscriptions for 2013; - these will remain the same.

7 Secretary's Report.

It's been an interesting year. Firstly I need to apologize, I am the person responsible for drafting the club rules as directed by the members at the AGM and at the committee meetings. This year I have broken several of those rules, I've moved the club to a different location, increased the entry fees, halved the membership fees (just for this last year) to try and recoup some of the additional expenditure that we incurred by moving and countermanded the rule that you have to join after three visits. For someone who supposedly understands the need for rules, this is almost unforgivable, but

We now have a better meeting place, we are working our way back to a healthy bank balance, the membership is beginning to increase, we can afford to book prestige speakers and most importantly of all we have free tea!

Being a little more serious, I need to thank all the members who helped us over this last difficult year. I will not pick out anyone individual, but it was encouraging to realize just how involved some of you were willing to become when I asked for help.

As for the rule breaking, I'll know if I got away with that when you elect your new committee.

8 President report;-

Steve discussed the impact of the venue change on the club and how it had affected our costs and the club's financial year. He thanked the committee for its hard work, singling out Secretary David Kershaw in particular for his hard work. He also thanked the people who help with the set-up on Monday nights and invited all members to join in with that task. He finished off with thanks to all the members who contribute, even those who simply add to our finances by attending our meetings.

Chris New proposed a vote of thanks for the Treasurer, Secretary, President and Vice President for their particular efforts during the year. This was agreed.

9 Motions affecting Wakefield Camera Club Rules.

a. Competition Rules;-

The secretary outlined the amendments and changes to the competition rules for 2013, as follows;-

We have retained all the existing competitions and also added one new format, informal projected images.

In the Clubman competition we have once again 2 open competitions and 3 set subjects, but after listening to your comments we have selected more generalized set subjects. This year

the three set subject will be 'Landscape', 'Portraiture' and 'Black & White'. The three themes for 2014 will be 'General Record', 'Natural History' and 'Architecture'.

In an attempt to encourage our 'novice' members we intend to let them enter 3 prints and 3 projected images in each Clubman competition. More advanced members are restricted to 2. All marks scored by the more advanced members will be added up to give a final score for Clubman of the year, the best 10 marks of a novice will be added up to give their final score. We have also tried to simplify resizing of digital images. You can now submit jpegs or tiff files, the Tiff files will be converted to jpeg for projection. You may also submit images of any size, though we found some loss of quality if the image was less than 768 high.

With the Audio Visual competition we have retained the 1 entry not longer than 5 minutes, but not all the images used need to be taken by the entrant, though all the presentation work should be his or hers. This is the only competition in which someone else's images can be used, we realized that if you are producing some form of documentary, you may need to include historical images,

With the Maurice Biglin trophy, we realized that the specialize subject 'wildflowers' caused a great deal of confusion as to what actually is a wild flower. So we have changed the subject to 'Flora'. So though this still remains an applied competition (no messing about in Photoshop), you can photograph any flower, even one in a plant pot.

The A4 unmounted competitions and the new Informal digital competitions are now restricted to Novice members.

A Novice is defined as someone who has never been placed in any formal internal or external photographic competition and/or holds no recognized photography qualification. Anyone who fits the Novice criteria may enter these two competitions, not just members. The whole concept is to encourage less experienced photographer to try displaying their images in competitions.

Finally the on-line competition. We hope to get the members to select 11 themes per year and we will ask one of our more experienced members to judge a competition. The December competition will consist of all the placed entries from the 11 months and will be judged by an external judge.

It is possible that we will change these rules at some future date, but hopefully most of you will find at least one section of the competitions that interests you. After all entering competition should help you improve your photography.

Some discussion followed and the need for change was generally agreed. Bill Mahoney said he would try and ensure that the Judges understood the rules before each competition. The committee would endeavor to ensure the membership understood the limitations of any set subject, though the judge's decision would be final.

b. Amendments to Constitution & Rules

Rule 6. The Annual General Meeting to be held on the first Monday in February, or as soon after as can be arranged. There must be in attendance at least 20% of the members to form a quorum before the meeting can proceed.

To be amended to read; -

Rule 6. The Annual General Meeting to be held on the Second Monday in December, or as soon after as can be arranged. There must be in attendance at least 20% of the members to form a quorum before the meeting can proceed.

This was agreed.

Rule 9. Membership classifications to be as follows; -

Honorary Life Member, this to include free life membership to the member and his or her partner and also a vote on any committee they wished to attend.

Full Membership, this to include an adult and his or her partner. Associate Membership, this to be an individual that wishes to attend club events as an observer but not take any part in

such activities.

Senior Membership, this to include an adult over the age of 60 and his or her partner.

Student Member, this to be a person in full time education.

Fees to be fixed annually at the AGM.

A prospective member shall be asked to join after three visits to club activities.

To be amended to read; -

Rule 9. Membership classifications to be as follows; -

Honorary Life Member, this to include free life membership to the member and his or her partner and also a vote on any committee they wished to attend.

Full Membership, this to include an adult and his or her partner.

Senior Membership, this to include an adult over the age of 60 and his or her partner.

Student Member, this to be a person in full time education.

Fees to be fixed annually at the AGM.

This was agreed.

Rule 21. The clubs financial year shall end on the 31st of December to ensure the accounts be audited in time for submission to the membership at the AGM. The auditor to be appointed by the membership at the AGM each year.

To be amended to read; -

Rule 21. The clubs financial year shall end on the 30th of September to ensure the accounts be audited in time for submission to the membership at the AGM. The auditor to be appointed by the membership at the AGM each year.

This was agreed.

10 Exhibitions.

It is our intention to hold another three day exhibition in the Ridings in July, with the intention of attracting potential members to our summer school.

The committee were asked to explore other venues and think again about taking up the offer of space in the 'Arts Shop' in the Ridings.

11 Syllabus for 2013

The Syllabus was agreed and a vote of thanks was given to David Jones for producing and interesting and varied agenda.

12 Election of Officers for 2013

The following Committee members were elected unanimously;-

President	Sally Sallett
Vice President	Steve Slocombe
Treasurer	Trevor Bottomley
General Secretary	David Kershaw
Syllabus Secretary	Chris New
Competition Secretary	Bill Mahoney
Events & Exhibitions Officer	Malcolm Dobson
Publicity Officer	Vacant
Webmaster	Steve Wright
Elected Member	David Hall
Elected Member	Lyndsay Halliday
Elected Member	Bob Jones
Elected Member	Steve Womack
Elected Member	Bob Gibson
Elected Member	David Jones
Elected Member	Vera Jones
Auditor	Peter Sallett

Any Other Business.

a. The changes to the on-line competition rules required that the members be asked to produce a list of set subjects for the first eleven months of the year. These competitions to be judged by some of our more established members. After some discussion the following set subjects will be used for 2013.

February –	Reflections	Judge David Kershaw
March -	Shapes	
April -	Automobiles	
May -	Shadows	
June -	Lights Night	
July -	Flora	
August -	Textures	
September -	Macro	
October -	Fauna	
November -	Bridges	

The December competition will be only open to images placed in the first 11 months of the year and will be judged by an external judge.

b. David Kershaw made the following proposal;-

To be a member of a camera club takes little effort; all you have to do is turn up!

To be a camera club that attracts members takes more effort than most of you know!

There are hours of debate, planning, argument and total frustration, if you get involved as a committee member. Most of the time all you get for thanks is abuse and complaints. But if the members of the committee get it right the club grows.

As in any organization some committee members do more than their fair share of work. We need to reward this kind of dedication and effort, it's a rare commodity.

Though I have never thought it necessary to automatically reward effort; I do tend to think we should reward outstanding amounts of work and input.

So, with that in mind, I would like to propose that we make Vera and David Jones Life Members, they have filled two of the most difficult and time consuming committee posts over the last few years and made that difference that makes a club grow.

The motion was carried unanimously.

c. A question was raised about how we selected images for external competitions. Bill Mahoney replied that our entry usually consisted of images or prints that had been placed over the last 12 months, but he intended to keep members better informed about external competitions and ask for submissions when he had to make a selection. To that end he asked for images for the upcoming Sheffield knock out competition.

There being no other items of business the meeting was closed.