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**TONBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB**

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9 May 2019**

**1. Chairman’s Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and pointed out that the AGM was everyone’s opportunity to give their opinions about the club’s activities and future.

He hoped that the club could remain at Weald of Kent next season but that was to a large extent dependent on the success of the ongoing negotiations and adequate storage being made available. If the club did remain at the school, then activities currently held on Tuesdays would instead take place on Mondays. This should result in less disruption than had happened this season.

He reemphasised the need for a vice-chairman to take over from him when he stood down in May 2020 as otherwise the club would close.

**2a Apologies for Absence (18 in total)**

Brian Barkley, Lol Beacham, Nicola Bolton, Graham Bunyan, Jenny Clark, Terry Day, Don Foster, Peter Greenwood, Joan Gow, Maureen Heywood, Fiona Mackins, Steve Oakes, Chris Rigby, Pam Sherren, Peter Tulloch, Les Welton and Brian and Brenda Whiston

**2b Attendees (43 in total)**

Cathie Agates (Committee member), Barbara Baldock, Clive Brewer, Janet Brewer, Dave Brooker, Colin Burgess (Chairman), John Butler, Denys Clarke, Peter Cope, Alan Cork (Committee member), Ray Crowle, Peter Ditchett, Mick Dudley, Philip Easom, Keith Evans, Paul Fletcher, Richard Gandon, David Godfrey, Marilynne Hill (Secretary), Tony Hill, Gavin Hoey, John Hunt, Colin Hurley, Rabah Ichadadene, Pat King, Carole Lewis, John Lewis, Helen Mossman, Ann Paine (Committee member), David Peek, Sonia Peek, Paul Penrith, Nick Ryan, Penny Skoyles, Colin Smith, Philip Smithies (Committee member), Jeremy Stock (elected to Committee in Section 8), Liz Turton (Committee member), Roger Wates, Glenn Welch, Geoff Wheddon, Kevin Yates (Treasurer) and Carmel Yearwood.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM held on 10 May 2018**

Proposed: Pat King; Seconded: Nick Ryan.

Approved unanimously. They are available in the Members’ Area of the website.

**4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous AGM held on 10 May 2018**

It was confirmed that a new section (4h) relating to Data Protection Legislation had been added to the Constitution and is available on the website.

**5. Reports (compiled and edited by Philip Smithies):**

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the many people who had supplied reports and to Philip for compiling them.

The reports themselves were not read out as they had all been distributed along with the Agenda for the AGM. An updated version is in the Members’ Area of the website. It includes the results for the Natural History and Photographer of the Year competitions and incorporates, in response to one member’s views voiced at the meeting, modifications to 5.06.

Any additional comments made at the meeting are indicated below.

***5.01 Chairman’s Report (Colin Burgess)***

***5.02 Secretary’s Report (Marilynne Hill)***

***5.03 Treasurer’s Report (Kevin Yates)***

Adoption of the TCC Accounts:

Proposer: Kevin Yates on behalf of the Committee Seconder: Colin Burgess

In response to a question, the Treasurer said that £3000 had been set aside for the purchase of a new projector.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

***5.04 Print Secretary’s Report (Nick Ryan)***

***5.05 PDI Secretary’s Report (Ann Paine)***

***5.06 Slide Secretary’s Report (Philip Smithies)***

***5.07 External PDI Secretary’s Report (Ann Paine)***

***5.08 External Print Secretary’s Report (Alan Cork)***

***5.09 Image Discussion Group Report (Paul Penrith)***

***5.10 Enhancing your Images Group Report (Ann Paine)***

***5.11 Distinctions Group Report (Marilynne Hill)***

***5.12 AV Group Report (Philip Smithies)***

***5.13 TONDIG Report (Tony Hill)***

***5.14 Annual Outing Report (Joan Gow)***

***5.15 Social Secretary (David Godfrey)***

***5.16 Grainmakers’ Report (Keith Evans)***

*Two new talks to KCPA clubs are planned for next season*

***5.17 Webmaster’s Report (Kevin Yates / Philip Smithies)***

***5.18 Publicity Report (John Hunt)***

***5.19 Grain Editor’s Report (not produced as no Editor)***

***5.20 Programme Secretary’s Report (Liz Turton)***

***5.21 Archivist’s Report (Philip Smithies)***

***5.22 KCPA Report (Alan Cork)***

***5.23 Annual Exhibition Report (Alan Cork)***

***5.24 Photographer of the Year (Marilynne Hill)***

**6 Chairman’s Review.**

The Chairman thanked everyone who had helped to make the club so successful. Full details are in Appendix 1.

**7 Election of Officers.**

Chairman: Colin Burgess Proposer: Philip Smithies Seconder: Marilynne Hill

Vice-Chairman: No one

Secretary: Marilynne Hill Proposer: David Peek Seconder: Sonia Peek

Treasurer: Kevin Yates Proposer: Chris Rigby Seconder: Jeremy Stock

All were elected unanimously

**8 Election of Committee.**

Cathie Agates: Proposer: David Peek Seconder: Sonia Peek

Alan Cork: Proposer: Tony Hill Seconder: Steve Oakes

Steve Oakes: Proposer: Jeremy Stock Seconder: Colin Smith

Ann Paine: Proposer: Alan Cork Seconder: Colin Smith

Philip Smithies: Proposer: Chris Rigby Seconder: Alan Cork

Jeremy Stock: Proposer: Tony Hill Seconder: Steve Oakes

Liz Turton: Proposer: Philip Smithies Seconder: Marilynne Hill

All were elected unanimously

**9 Election of Auditor.**

Tony Barnes: Proposer: Kevin Yates Seconder: Marilynne Hill

Elected unanimously

**10 Proposals by Outgoing Committee.**

**10.01**

It is proposed that Subscriptions for 2019-2020 Season will increase to the rates shown in the table below but that there will be no increase in door fees.

Proposer: Colin Burgess Seconder: Kevin Yates

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Membership Category** | **Current** | **Proposed via Bank Transfer or Debit/Credit Card payment** | **Proposed via**  **cash/cheque** |
| Adult | £52 | £53 | £55 |
| Joint (2 at same address) | £86 | £88 | £90 |
| Junior (under 18) | £8 | £8 | £9 |
| Student/Jobseeker's Allowance | £19 | £19 | £20 |
| Full Country Membership | £34 | £34 | £35 |
| Ordinary Country Membership | £19 | £19 | £20 |
| Door fees | £2 | £2 | £2 |

A couple of members opposed the two-tier system feeling that it was unfair. The Treasurer explained why such a system had been proposed. Electronic payments avoid the need for multiple trips to the bank and, more importantly, provide a detailed record of individual payments received, thus making the audit process much more straightforward. The Treasurer was strongly supported in his views by some other members. When put to the vote, the motion was carried with 38 in favour, 4 against (including one proxy vote) and 2 abstentions.

**10.02**

Proposer: Colin Burgess Seconder: Philip Smithies

It is proposed that slide competitions be removed from the 2019/20 internal competition programme; this proposal has been discussed at length by the Committee and has unanimous support from all current Committee members. The Chairman read out the rationale which had been included in the Agenda and is reproduced in Appendix 2 for information.

There was a lengthy discussion on the proposal, with a few members giving their reasons for opposing it. When put to the vote, the motion was carried with 35 in favour, 4 against and 6 abstentions including one proxy vote for and one proxy vote against.

**10.03**

Proposer: Colin Burgess Seconder: Marilynne Hill

The Committee would like to trial the concept of introducing a ‘theme’ to two rounds of our open PDI and Print competitions by asking entrants to submit one ‘open’ image and one image on a theme to be announced.

The Chairman read out the rationale which had been included in the Agenda and is reproduced in Appendix 3 for completion.

During the short discussion:

1 It was confirmed that there would only be four open PDI rounds and four open print rounds next season

2 Rounds 3 and 4 would be in two parts: one part would be genuinely open; the other part would be themed.

3 The themes/genres would be advised as soon as possible. A global email would soon be sent out inviting members to submit suggestions

4 The awards would be based on the best six marks from all four competitions. It would still be possible to win an award even if an entrant didn’t submit anything to the themed parts of competitions 3 and 4

5 The committee would discuss whether a new trophy would be needed

When put to the vote, the motion was carried with 32 in favour, 4 against (including one proxy vote) and 8 abstentions.

**11 Proposals received from Individual Members**

None

**12 AOB**

**12.01 Discussion: Members’ Survey**

The Chairman presented the results of the recent Members’ Survey and these are summarised below. A more detailed version will be issued with the draft minutes. 60 members had replied (69%) which is an extraordinarily high percentage for a survey. However, two arrived after the deadline and whilst they will be considered in the overall analysis were not able to be incorporated in the summary given to the meeting.

Note that the results were presented in a different order in the survey so as not to pre-empt responses. Also, not everyone answered every question.

**RESPONSES TO THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10**

1 How many years have you been a member of the Club?

<1 year = 7 people 1 – 5 years = 18 people 5 – 10 years = 19 people >10 years = 13 people

2 Overall, how would you rate Tonbridge Camera Club?

Ratings:

13 (22%) Excellent

33 (56%) Very Good

10 (17%) Good

3 (5%) Fair

0 (0%) Poor

5 How likely is it you will rejoin next year?

Ratings:

29 (49%) Extremely

17 (29%) Very

10 (17%) Somewhat

3 (5%) Not likely

0 (0%) Definitely not

6 Does the Club offer good value for money?

48 (92%) said “Yes”; 6 (8%) said “No”

10 How likely is it that you would recommend Tonbridge Camera Club to a friend or colleague?

In “business-speak” 33 were “promoters”, 7 were “detractors” and 16 were “passive”

**RESPONSES TO THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTION 7**

**RANKING**

**Column 1 – Column 2**

1. PDI Competitions 40 = Very/Extremely Important 5 = Not Important 35
2. Print Competitions 38 = Very/Extremely Important 6 = Not Important 32
3. Slide Competitions 3 = Very/Extremely Important 49 = Not Important minus 46
4. Annual Outing 31 = Very/Extremely Important 6 = Not Important 25
5. Speakers 50 = Very/Extremely Important 1 = Not Important 49
6. Exhibition 42 = Very/Extremely Important 2 = Not Important 38
7. Distinctions Group 23 = Very/Extremely Important 12 = Not Important 11
8. TONDIG 35 = Very/Extremely Important 7 = Not Important 25
9. ID/EYI 33 = Very/Extremely Important 2 = Not Important 31
10. AV Group 20 = Very/Extremely Important 8 = Not Important 12
11. Training Workshops 42 = Very/Extremely Important 2 = Not Important 40
12. Mini Outings 43 = Very/Extremely Important 3 = Not Important 40
13. Members' Evenings 41 = Very/Extremely Important 2 = Not Important 39

A few points:

1 The extremely low score regarding the importance of Slides (point “c”)

2 Speakers (point “e”) are rated as by far the most important aspect of the club.

3 The very high score for the importance of the Exhibition.

4 The very high scores for the importance of training workshops, mini-outings and members’ evenings

5 Print and PDI Competitions are of great importance for about 80% of respondents.

6 Subgroups. Although they are regarded as very/extremely important by a significant number of people, with AV and Distinctions trailing, they are clearly not an important feature of the club for quite a few. We don’t know how EYI and ID would have fared if they’d been separated.

7 The annual Outing is very/extremely important for about half the members.

**RESPONSES TO THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS 3, 4, 8 and 9**

**Q3 What do you like about the Club? (45 responses)**

30 people were impressed by the friendliness of the club and the willingness of members to help others and share information.

14 people emphasised the importance of the best speakers.

The sub-groups – the interactivity and the help/support provided – were mentioned by 10 people.

**Q4 What would you like to see improved? (44 responses)**

22 people mentioned competitions: too many (no one wanted more) / poor judging / need to emphasise we still have a group “B” / need for themed comps.

After that, perhaps the commonest theme was the desire for more interactive sessions (11 people).

More training/learning sessions (camera craft, software, and “composition”) were requested by 8 people –and that doesn’t include the answers to 7k.

Two people were unhappy with how few help e.g. with the refreshment rota. Related to this were concerns about the limited number of people who help set up/take down.

**Q8 Why did you join TCC and has the Club met those expectations? (47 responses)**

We seem to have met most members’ expectations but not always exceeded them.

**Q9 How can we improve the club website (41 responses)**

The new website has been generally well received and there are some very positive comments. However, there are clearly areas of concern both technical (especially difficulties for some mobile devices) and in terms of appearance/content (e.g. the overlap of the Home and About pages) and these will be addressed.

In summary, the number of comments:

20 Very favourable and/or no criticisms

10 Very favourable with suggestions

11 Suggestions but otherwise neutral

5 Negative

12 Didn’t answer

Members then suggested ideas to be incorporated into the programme. Where necessary, use can be made of six “spare” Mondays next season.

* Camera craft workshops – ideally on a one-to-one basis
* Photography skills workshop
* Effective use should be made of Group B as described in the competition rules. This might help retain new members.
* Printing workshops including selection of papers
* Finding out exactly what new members want / mentoring them
* Use of a physical and/or digital suggestion box which, amongst other things, could indicate the needs of new and potential members
* One Monday devoted to slides
* A rota for tea and coffee which would be displayed alongside a list of members, thus showing clearly who had yet to volunteer
* Contribute to Courier photography articles
* Liaison with West Kent College
* Monitor more carefully the performance of judges
* An evening “photo-walk” in Tonbridge
* “Strictly Come Judging”: an interactive evening with a panel of our own judges

The Committee will meet to review the findings of the survey and will publish an action plan (based on the survey and the comments listed above) early next season.

**Appendix 1:**

A summary of Item 6 (Chairman’s Review) based on Colin’s PowerPoint presentation in which he thanked:

Philip Smithies: AV Subgroup Leader and Electronic archivist – plus 93,498 other un-credited roles!

Kevin Yates: Treasurer working hard to keep our finances on track and up to date

Marilynne Hill: A tremendous Secretary working so hard behind the scenes.

Programme Secretary: Liz Turton (supported by Carmel Yearwood, Mick Dudley & Cathie Agates)

PDI and External PDI Secretary: Ann Paine (supported by Dave Brooker and Philip Easom)

Print Secretary: Nick Ryan (supported by Alan Cork). Newly elected Committee Members Jeremy Stock and Steve Oakes will act as joint Print Secretaries next season.

External Print Secretary: Alan Cork (supported by Nick Ryan, John Butler, John and Carole Lewis)

Social ‘Secretaries’:

David & Sonia Peek: Tea & Coffee Rota

David Godfrey: Annual Dinner and this season’s outing to Arundel.

Joan Gow: Annual Outing to Boulogne

Marilynne Hill: Presentation Evening

Mini-outings: David Godfrey, Sonia and David Peek, Annik Pauwels and Kevin Yates and Philip Smithies

Tony Hill: Carole and John Lewis were a very hard act to follow running TONDIG and Tony had done exceedingly well. Thanks also to those who had given talks (Sean Aiden, Nick Ryan, Alan Cork and Mick Dudley) plus Carole and John Lewis for organising the two competitions.

Ann Paine: Enhancing your Images – a very successful subgroup.

Paul Penrith: Image Discussion Group supported by John Butler, John Hunt, Keith Evans and Nick Ryan

Philip Smithies: Audio Visual Group ably supported by Don Foster

Marilynne Hill: Distinctions Group plus a special thank you for supporting the subgroups by providing refreshments at TONDIG and the AV, ID and Distinctions Groups.

Website: Paul Penrith to December 2018, Kevin Yates & Philip Smithies January 2019 onwards

Trophy Coordinators: Helen Mossman and Liz Turton

Publicity & Official Photographer: John Hunt

Grainmakers / Pixelmakers: Led by Keith Evans

The Exhibition: It didn’t put itself up, and so my particular thanks to Alan Cork plus the whole Assembly team including Roger Wates and David Parkinson assisted by Liz Turton, Richard Gandon, Nick Ryan, Mick Dudley, and Colin Hurley plus all the members who volunteered to act as stewards and of course produce such high quality images for display.

Dave Brooker: in addition to being part of the PDI team, he designs and produces the programme and exhibition booklets as well as various flyers and the presentation certificates and mementoes.

Nick Ryan, assisted by Alan Cork, for organising the Print display

Philip Smithies for producing the Digital AV.

Mike Hart for dispensing the refreshments

Brian Barkley for organising the purchase of exhibition frames

Cathie Agates continues to set a new standard as our greeter

Ray Crowle and Philip Easom our competition announcers

Many thanks are due to the numerous people who have acted as contributors to the in-house Chambers’ Evenings, AV and TONDIG events and, of course, the all-important tea and coffee rota.

**Appendix 2**

Rationale for proposed abolition of Slide Competitions

Many will recall that three years ago a similar proposal was rejected following discussion at the AGM. However, since then there has been no increase in the number of members submitting slides for competitions, with no more than six individuals entering any one competition. In the last season, the technical (as opposed to the photographic) quality of the slides being submitted has, regrettably, often been poor, with scratches, marks and dust spots being a regular feature. With the mechanical nature of the projection process, the time spent in displaying, reviewing and judging the no more than twelve entries has been proportionally far greater than the time taken to display, review and judge either Projected Digital Images or Prints. On more than one occasion other members who had submitted prints have complained that the time taken to judge the relatively few slides has adversely affected the time available for judging prints.

It has been noted that some (but admittedly not all) of the members who regularly submit slides are consistently using images that have been taken a long time ago; this does not demonstrate any desire to develop their slide-taking abilities following receipt of comments from judges.

It should be noted that for the past two exhibitions, none of the slides submitted have been selected for awards or commendations by the judge.

The reality is that there are now very few clubs that still have slide competitions and this is sometimes reflected in the judge making comments as though they are viewing PDIs, referring to the need to digitally enhance or manipulate an image which cannot be altered in that way.

It is recognised and understood that for the small number of members who submit slides, the removal of this medium from the main competitions on Thursday will be disappointing. However, there would be nothing to stop those members choosing to scan their slides and submit them into PDI competitions.

It has been argued in the past that the slide competitions should continue until they are no longer viable in accordance with the rules – i.e. when there are three or fewer entries. However, it is the strong view of the whole Committee that the time has now come to discontinue the inclusion of slides as part of the Club’s Thursday internal competition programme. However, if there is sufficient support, then it could be possible for one of our ‘spare’ Tuesday meetings to be allocated to an evening of slides for those who still have an interest in this medium.

**Appendix 3**

Rationale for proposed changes to Open Competitions

In the interests of helping all of us to develop our photographic skills, the Committee would like to encourage members who enter the open competitions to experiment with different genres of photography. For this reason we are proposing that in two of the four open print and PDI competitions in the forthcoming season, one of the two images submitted by each entrant could be styled in accordance with a 'theme', details of which would be announced in good time before those competitions; the other entry would continue to be 'open'.