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**TONBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB**

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE 55th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6th May 2021**

**MEETING HELD USING ‘ZOOM’ SOFTWARE**

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**A NOTE ON VOTING**

Zoom had been configured to record actual voting figures but unfortunately failed to do so on the night. In what follows, therefore, it has not been possible to record exact numbers.

**A NOTE ON CONTENT**

Certain subjects were mentioned at several different times throughout the evening. For the sake of cogency, such comments are collected in one particular place.

**1. Chairs’ Opening Remarks**

Colin welcomed everyone to the club’s second Zoom AGM and was pleased by the high attendance – up by seven on last year. He noted the committee was acting on the assumption that physical meetings would resume in September but that – of course – nothing was certain.

**2a Apologies for Absence**

Gavin Hoey and Nick Ryan.

**2b Present**

Colin Burgess, Philip Smithies, Jim Verona, Colin Nye, Jenny Nye, Marilynne Hill, Tony Hill, Maureen Heywood, Caro Shaw, Colin Smith, Carmel Yearwood, Philip Easom, Ray Crowle, Cathie Agates, Glenn Welch, Bill Wheeler, Penny Skoyles, Denys Clarke, Kevin Yates, Roger Wates, John Hunt, Barbara Baldock, David Godfrey, Nicola King, Sue Pennicott, Simon Lane, Nicola Bolton, Geoff Wheddon, Liz Turton, Helen Mossman, Paul Fletcher, David Lucy, Jeremy Stock, Pam Sherren, Lesley Burnand, Peter Ditchett, Robert Stocker and Colin Hurley (38 people)

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM held on 7th May 2020**

These were distributed as a global email last summer and by post to members not on email at the same time. They are available in the Members’ Area of the website.

The minutes were approved by a large majority.

**4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous AGM held on 7th May 2020**

None

**5. Reports:**

No reports were read out as they were distributed at the same time as the Agenda. The only comments from the attendees are indicated below.

***5.01 Chairs’ Report (Colin Burgess and Philip Smithies)***

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

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

Kevin reiterated that the club was in a very strong position financially. In answer to a question from the floor, it was noted the speakers charged on average £80 to £100 (plus travel costs) and the most expensive this season charged £300 and we opened the talk to non-members although no charge was made. In the past at physical meetings with ‘star’ speakers, non-members have paid to attend. It was felt that the quality of speakers had significantly improved over recent years although some were occasionally disappointing. (Judges only charged for travel.)

Adoption of the TCC Accounts:

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

Passed unanimously

***5.04 Internal Competitions Report***  ***(Philip Smithies)***

Next season’s competitions are now on PhotoEntry and the updated competition rules, which are significantly different to those for local competitions, can be found on the footer of every page of the club website.

***5.05 External Competition (Philip Smithies)***

***5.06 New Members' Liaison (Philip Smithies)***

***5.07 Image Discussion Group Report (David Godfrey)***

***5.08 Enhancing your Images Group Report (Philip Smithies)***

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

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

***5.11 TONDIG Report (Tony Hill)***

***5.12 Subgroups from September 2021 (Philip Smithies)***

Philip will convene a meeting with Tony Hill and David Godfrey to plan next season’s “Masterclass” subgroup which will replace EYI and Tondig. See page 7 of the Annual Reports. Philip hoped that the new group would provide an exciting new feature of the club and might be attractive to potential new members.

***5.13 Social events (N/A)***

***5.14 Grainmakers' Report (N/A)***

***5.15 Webmaster's Report (Philip Smithies)***

***5.16 Publicity Report (N/A)***

***5.17 Programme Secretary's Report (Liz Turton)***

***5.18 Archivist's Report (Philip Smithies)***

***5.19 KCPA Report (Alan Cork)***

***5.20 Annual Exhibition Report (Philip Smithies)***

***5.21 Award / Trophies (Philip Smithies)***

***5.22 Photographer of the Year (N/A)***

There followed a lengthy discussion on the future of the club and how to recruit new members, retain existing members and persuade lapsed members to return (possibly as “Country” members in some cases) – this will be a high priority for future committee meetings. It was observed that many UK clubs are seeing a fall in membership. Among the points made were the need for more publicity (which John Hunt will address), the need to be much more active on Social Media such as Pinterest and Instagram, the possibility of “hooking-up” with like-minded organisations, and that perhaps the standard club diet of talks and competitions was not the best way of attracting new members.

Members with suggestions for taking the club forward were urged to consider joining the Committee – or, at the very least, sharing their ideas with the Committee and perhaps try to put them into practice. It was pointed out that there are simply too few people on the committee to carry out all the ideas being suggested. It was hoped that a number of small “focus-groups” could be set up to discuss the club’s pressing issues but trying to ensure that people’s untapped talent – and especially that of new or new-ish members – was included – something which might help break-down certain “social barriers” which were mentioned a number of times throughout the meeting. Colin said that the committee would actively pursue this idea. [*Aside: would* you *be interested in doing something like this? If so, please let us know.*]

The need for members to fill vacant posts as mentioned in the Reports was referred to. Without one or two people to take over from Denys and Cathie, the club would inevitably fold in May 2023.

Members were urged to take advantage of the gradual relaxation of covid-restrictions to organise mini-outings whilst following any national guidance or requirements – which could be as simple as (say) meeting in the car-park at Sissinghurst castle – as they provide an ideal opportunity to socialise and share knowledge. Marilynne was willing to publicise any outings that were proposed.

**6 Chairs’ Reflections**

Colin drew attention to the successes of the season with some excellent speakers – Zoom provided the opportunity to invite people from far afield. Although everyone seemed to be looking forward to the resumption of face-to-face meetings, both he and Philip expressed the fervent hope that more people would assist with setting up at the start of meetings and taking down at the end of meetings and not just leave it to a handful of people.

**7 Election of Officers.**

Chairs (joint) until December: Colin Burgess and Philip Smithies Proposer: Colin Smith Seconder: Nicola Bolton

Vice-Chairs (joint) until December: Cathie Agates and Denys Clarke Proposer: Colin Smith Seconder: John Hunt

Chairs (joint) from December: Cathie Agates and Denys Clarke Proposer: Philip Easom Seconder: David Godfrey

Vice-Chairs (joint) from December: No one

Secretary: Marilynne Hill Proposer: John Hunt Seconder: Nicola Bolton

Treasurer: Kevin Yates Proposer: Nicola Bolton Seconder: Sue Pennicott

Approved with a large majority

**8 Election of Committee.**

Colin Hurley Proposer: Jeremy Stock Seconder: Cathie Agates

Jeremy Stock Proposer: Liz Turton Seconder: Cathie Agates

Liz Turton Proposer: Philip Easom Seconder: Sue Pennicott

Approved with a large majority

**9 Election of Auditor 2021-2022.**

Tony Barnes Proposer: Kevin Yates Seconder: Philip Smithies

Approved with a large majority

**10 Proposals by Outgoing Committee.**

**10.01**

*It is proposed that Subscriptions for 2021-2022 Season will be the rates shown in the table below:*

Proposer : Kevin Yates Seconder : Colin Burgess

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Membership Category** | **Proposed** | |
| Adult | £50 |
| Joint (2 at same address) | £80 |
| Junior (under 18) | £5 |
| Student/Jobseeker's Allowance | £15 |
| Full Country Membership | £30 |
| Ordinary Country Membership | £15 |
| Door fees | £2 |

Rationale:

As a Committee, we agreed not to increase our subscription this year although the 20% discount for existing members will no longer be applicable. That is because we will once again be able to meet face-to-face meaning that our speakers will be including travel costs in their fees.

Approved with a large majority

It was suggested that the club might consider giving discounted membership to NHS workers.

**10.02**

Proposer: Philip Smithies Seconder: Colin Burgess

That the words “in writing or” should be removed from sections 5a, 5b, 5d and 8a of the Constitution.

Rationale : every club member has email and there is therefore no necessity for written notifications. Many societies also communicate only electronically. That said, we will continue to issue the membership renewal forms and programme by post.

For example, 5a would read “An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year in the month of May for the presentation of a report of the year’s activities, including audited accounts, and for the Election of the Committee and of one or two Auditor(s) for the ensuing year. At least 10 days’ notice ~~in writing or~~ by email of such meetings shall be given to each Member.

Should any new or returning members without a computer join the club, they will find that their local library will allow them to use a computer and the staff will help them to access the club’s website where all information about the club’s activities (including AGM Agendas, minutes and reports) is regularly posted.

Approved with a sizeable majority

Note: the programme, Chairs’ letter and renewal forms will continue to be issued by post. Renewal forms may be returned electronically, by post or in person to the Treasurer.

**11 Proposals received from Individual Members**

None received

**12 AOB**

The Committee was asked to consider reintroducing “Bring and Buy” to the programme – an event which had been successfully led by Peter Greenwood on occasions in the past.

As there will be no “Main Outing” this summer, part of the evening programmed for the “Outing Competition” will include an opportunity for members to bring in and chat about prints they’ve created since the first Lockdown.

Barbara offered a vote of thanks to the committee and other key club members who had worked so hard to ensure the club had enjoyed a worthwhile and entertaining season despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic. (Lots of “hear hears” and clapping)