

BRIGHTON AND HOVE CAMERA CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 5th May 2009 Hove Methodist Hall, Hove.

President: Colin Miller, **Secretary:** David Gerrard, **Treasurer:** Ken Matthews.

1. Present: The President welcomed the 63 Members present.

Apologies: Audrey Marshall, Steve Boyle, Ellen Miller, David Valdes, Jo Stephenson.

2. Minutes of the AGM of 6th May 2008: These were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising : there were no matters arising.

4. Proposal to adopt the revised constitution.

The draft constitution had been mailed to all Club members at the beginning of April and there had been no amendments or queries received by the closing date of 21 April 2009. Two queries from the floor (one on the requirement to treat under 18s as minors and the other on the issues of retaining Committee continuity were answered by Colin, David & Ken before Colin proposed a vote to adopt the new constitution. The results of this were:-
62 votes in favour
no votes against
1 abstention.

The new constitution was therefore formally adopted.

5. Election of Officers for 2009/2010

David Gerrard explained that the new constitution calls for all the committee members to be proposed and elected by the membership and therefore nomination forms would be issued at the start of next season and that an EGM would take place on 3 November 2009. The existing Council would continue up to then.

6. The 118th Report to Council

Colin's report is attached (Appendix I) to these minutes.

7. Treasurer's Interim Report

Ken started by saying that he was giving notice of his intent to resign from the role of Treasurer in one year's time.

He also reminded the meeting that we currently did not have an auditor/examiner for the Club Accounts and asked the members for assistance in finding someone to carry out this role. They do not need to be a qualified accountant but just someone who understands figures.

A copy of the Club Interim Accounts is shown as Appendix II (the Club Season ends as at 31 May 2009 so these figures are not the full accounts).

Our recent good fortune in securing a Lottery grant, which has enabled us to purchase expensive & sophisticated digital equipment, also means that we need to be putting aside a sum of around £1000 per annum to cover the eventuality of replacing this equipment. Ken calculated that the Club membership fee of £45 worked out at £1.41 per Tuesday session – not including all the additional benefits of Thursday workshops etc.

Whilst the present situation is healthy, Ken recommended that the current fee be increased by £2 for single membership, £3 for joint membership and with students and juniors remaining unchanged.

The increase was proposed by Wayne Grundy and seconded by Anne Wells-Thorpe. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

8. AOB

Sidney Lipman proposed a vote of thanks to the Club for making his Tuesday evenings so enjoyable.

Peter Elvidge queried the rules about borrowing Club equipment and Colin agreed to make sure these were clearly documented next season.

9. Competition Results

B Group Prints

1st – Heather Shuker

2nd – Julian Day

3rd – Tony Knight

Projected Image

1st – Rob Tunstall

2nd – Jerry Webb

3rd – Colleen Slater, Julian Day, Heather Buckley
Speciality Prints

1st – Jerry Webb, Bob Webzell
2nd – John Francis, Tony Crowther, Brett Butler
3rd – Peter Castleton, Nick Eastham

Print Competition

1st – Bob Webzell
2nd – Bill Wisden
3rd – Colleen Slater

10. Treasure Hunt Awards

| Photo Subject | Winning Team |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hove Museum | Brighton Beach Babes |
| St Andrews Church | Black Pig |
| George Street | Los Photos Graphistos |
| Hove Park | Shooters |
| Adeilade Crescent | Wayne's Wonder Women |
| Hove Summer Paradise | Wayne's Wonder Women |

11. Draw for next Old Market exhibition

James Arthur – Area C
Nigel French – Area A
Anne Wells-Thorpe & Maggi Tillotson – Area B

12. Pairings for Mystery Portrait Competition

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | Damon Hart & Yari Fontebasso |
| 2 | Fan Arthur & Rich Cutler |
| 3 | James Arthur & Nigel French |
| 4 | Jean Gerrard & Jerry Webb |
| 5 | Brian Maxwell & Ray Slinn |
| 6 | Sue Craske & Leo Jago |
| 7 | Julian Day & Jo Dodds |
| 8 | Tony Crowther & Mark Taylor |
| 9 | Paul Kondritz & Heather Shuker |
| 10 | Dee Seeley & Heather Buckley |
| 11 | Sue Scaping & Chantal Lonsdale |

13. Vote for best photo from Treasure Hunt

This went to Wayne's Wonder Women for Colleen Slater's image of Adeilade Crescent.

Meeting finished at 9pm.

Appendix I

Brighton and Hove Camera Club, 118th Report of the Council 4 May 2009

It's quite something to be reporting on the work of this club, which has been promoting and encouraging excellence in photography for 118 years. There are a number of important reasons why this club continues to thrive and to have a high reputation. It's because of the hard work, dedication and generosity of all those who spend so much time doing all the things necessary to make such a big club function and develop, a desire never to rest on our laurels but constantly to seek to develop the club to meet the needs of existing and new members and a strong culture within the organisation that encourages and supports photographers of all levels of experience to achieve their potential.

Over the last few years the club has grown exponentially, we currently have about 135 members with around 44 new people joining this year, including Brior Maxwell & Paul Budgen who have just joined us tonight!

Last season the club took the difficult decision to move from our old space at the English Language Centre where we had been meeting for 30 odd years. Simply put we could not fit any more people into the place. David Myles took on the thankless task of checking out dozens of premises trying to find the perfect place. In many ways, chairs excepted that is, the Methodist Hall seemed to fit the bill but we were concerned that the new premises would not work as well as the old, that people would be put off coming to the far reaches of Hove and so on. But we did it, and because of the fantastic work of the 'Front of House' crew, we have developed viewing and display facilities that are the envy of many other clubs. And I do want to take this opportunity of thanking all the people who get here an hour early to put the chairs out, put up the display racks, the screen and the projector, and then take everything down at the end of the evening. You do a marvellous job, week in week out. Also many of the people involved in doing this also do loads of other things for the club such as helping run the web site, helping out at the B group, making sure the refreshments are properly stocked, rooms booked and so on. This group is the backbone of the club, they do the invisible, unglamorous stuff that is essential to the functioning of our club. Not only this but thanks to the hard work of John Hazard and others we were successful in our Lottery bid and have been able upgrade our projection equipment.

This club is about encouraging every member to reach their full potential as a photographer. Our Tuesday evening programme plays a key role in this. I think this year's programme has been particularly good. Whilst we all remember and can sometimes laugh about some of the less successful or controversial evenings; for example the one where you get what seems to be the worlds most boring speaker or the judge who passes on every photo. But I do think we have had a very successful season. We've had a huge variety of evenings and seen some stunning (and sometime not so stunning) work, to make a lecture on Photoshop techniques interesting and entertaining is not easy but we had two this year and I don't think many of us will forget David Leach's talk for a long time. Another hit was only last week when we had Gill Copeland talking about what it is

to be a professional photographer, she did not focus on her work but rather how she marketed and sold her work and how she approached the development of her business.

But the evenings I most enjoy are those from club members, the distinctions evenings, presentations from club members, the showcase evenings and the competitions, so ably organised by David Wilsdon, Bill Brandt and Peter Charnaud.

As you can imagine putting together and organising the Tuesday evening programme is a huge task and it's good to see Steve Boyle being helped by David Gerrard and Bill Wisden. Even so we do want to extend this group next season and will be saying something on our web site in the near future.

Whilst the Tuesday programme plays a central role in helping people develop their photographic eye and technical skills, the work that goes on in other evenings, is also critically important. For example the B group, where new members are already producing some stunning work, (I'm pleased to say there are some examples taking pride of place in our exhibition at the Old Market). So my thanks go to Ann Graham who just quietly gets on with organising the B group. I'm also pleased to say we will be providing better quality lighting and display system for the group in the next season.

Then we come to the Thursday workshops. Paco has done a great job organising a series of practical workshops on studio work, macro and so on that has been very popular and I know he has plans for further developing our workshop programme next year.

We hear a lot about RPS distinctions in this club, many see getting their L or A or even their F as providing evidence that they have reached a particular artistic and technical standard. But these distinctions are also important for another reason. They encourage the individual photographer to work towards a goal, to reach for a standard and by so doing learn and develop. A number of people have said to me that the process of attending the Distinctions workshops organised by Bill, Trevor and Steve as being one of the most demanding, but enjoyable experiences in the photographic life. The discussions can be challenging and sometimes heated, but they are always positive and never patronising. And what great results, with something like.... Got their L's this season and ... got their A's. Trevor Gellard tells me that we have no less than 19 Licentiate's and 10 Associates since May 2006, quite a record. Again we have plans to improve the display and lighting systems for the distinction workshops.

We are about creating photographic art, but like all artists we want to show our work. However we have rather struggled to find a space in the centre of Brighton and Hove where we can exhibit. It's a scandal that a city this size has such a pathetically limited public gallery space. So the development of our relationship with the Old Market has proved to be a real asset. I don't think there can be many clubs that have a space in the centre of a large town which is available as a permanent and free exhibition space where our work is seen by hundreds of people.

But again organising exhibitions, particularly ones based on a permanent but constantly changing programme is no small task, it requires a lot of organising, chasing up and

preparation. Claude and Jo and their dedicated band of helpers have done a fantastic job of not just keeping things going, but constantly improving how our exhibitions look.

The summer could be a bit of a hiatus, but the summer programme, chivvied and encouraged along via Leo's boundless enthusiasm and energy, along with the group of dedicated pub goers, makes sure that things are kept buzzing. The range of proposed activities this year looks bigger and better than ever. This is a club that is not just about all that stuff about reaching your photographic potential, we are also about fun, making firm friendships and enjoying each others company. The Treasure hunt certainly proved that, the friendly rivalry was great to see and I look forward to seeing the wining efforts later. Chantal and John have already volunteered to organise another next year. While I'm at it just a reminder that we will be having a club barbecue on Saturday 20th June. Details will be emailed and posted on the web site, but I'm sure Fan and James Arthur, who have volunteered their garden/home would welcome help, we could also do with borrowing a couple of big barbecues if anyone has any they can loan.

When I accepted the invitation (if you can call it that) of being the President I set myself a couple of goals, one was to get a new constitution and club governing structure that is 'fit for purpose' as the club grows and develops and also to help the club develop to meet the demands of a much bigger membership. I'm pleased that we are well on track with this, with the acceptance of the new constitution this evening and the work that the programme review group is undertaking to further develop and improve what we do. We will circulate a summary of the findings of the questionnaire and the recommendations of the programme review group during the summer. Again writing a constitution is not glamorous work, but it is essential so my thanks go to David, Ken, Leo and John for doing such a good job.

I just want to finish off by thanking all the Council members and many others for their support and advice, it has been invaluable, I particularly want to thank David Gerrard for his work as our secretary, patiently making sense of our Council discussions and turning them into minutes and all the other things a good club secretary does, and to Ken Mathews for his hard and efficient work as club treasurer and finally to David Miles, who has provides so much support and welcome advice and who continues to play a central role in helping this club function in the way it does.

I apologise if I have left anyone out of my thanks, it is a measure of this club that there are so many people doing so many things so it's easy to miss someone and if I didn't we'd probably miss closing time at the Westbourne. So thank you to the people I have not mentioned for helping this to be such a great club, the people who help at the door, who do the refreshments, who have designed and run the web site, to those of you who look through a members portfolio offering advice, who pop around to help someone calibrate their screen or provide advice on using Photoshop and the hundred and one other things that go on to help us develop our photographic skills.

Colin Miller 5 May 2009.

. Appendix II

BRIGHTON & HOVE CAMERA CLUB

Accounts for the period 1 June 2008 - 30 April 2009

| <u>INCOME</u> | <u>2008/09</u> | <u>2007/8</u> | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | <u>2008/09</u> | <u>2007/8</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>brought forward:</u> | | | Rent | 1,528.05 | 1,328.00 |
| Bank account | 5563.61 | 5903.95 | Admin. | 304.77 | 326.50 |
| Cash | 16.10 | 17.82 | Lecturers & Assessors | 958.70 | 802.65 |
| Prepayments | 546.13 | 327.67 | Subs paid | 166.54 | 60.68 |
| Sub-total | 6,125.84 | | Exhibition costs(net) | 800.60 | 166.79 |
| Member subs | 5,200.50 | 3,806.00 | Insurance | 655.15 | 431.67 |
| Door receipts | 264.50 | 452.65 | Non-capital equipment | 298.99 | 14.76 |
| Canteen receipts(net) | 243.93 | 175.96 | Library(net) | | 18.28 |
| Library(net) | 9.25 | | Donations paid | 245.50 | |
| Donations | 0.00 | 1,030.00 | Comp. plaques/engraving | | |
| Bank interest | 11.44 | 58.30 | Hungarian exch. Project | | 448.99 |
| Sundry | 539.12 | | Sub-total | 4,958.30 | |
| National Lottery Award | 8,163.00 | | Prepayments | 844.17 | 490.97 |
| Sub-total | 14,431.74 | 5,522.91 | Capital expenditure | 8,122.11 | 666.60 |
| | | | Sub-total | 8,966.28 | 3,598.32 |
| <u>TOTALS</u> | <u>20,557.58</u> | <u>11,772.35</u> | Balance carried forward: | | |
| | | | Bank account | 6,489.01 | 6,891.70 |
| | | | Cash | 143.99 | 124.76 |
| | | | Sub total | 6,633.00 | 7,016.46 |
| | | | <u>TOTALS</u> | <u>20,557.58</u> | <u>11,772.35</u> |

Inventory replacement value

18,178.16

Insured items

16,971.87

These are interim accounts for the period 1 June 2007-30 April 2008. The Club financial year ends on 31 May 2008. Final accounts will be audited, & posted on website & Club notice board in September.

NB: 07/08 figures are full year to 31 May 2008.

Ken Matthews, Hon. Treasurer

1 May 2009