BRIGHTON AND HOVE CAMERA CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on 4th May 2010
Hove Methodist Hall, Hove.

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

1. **Remembering David Miles**

Colin and David Gerrard both spoke warmly about David Miles and this was followed by a slide show of 39 of David's images that he particularly liked.

2. **Present:** The President welcomed the 57 Members present.

Apologies: only Richard Gamper

3. **Minutes of the AGM of 5th May 2009 and Matters arising**: The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising :

Ken mentioned in the 2009 minutes that the Club needs an auditor. This role is still required and Ken asked again for a volunteer who didn't need to be a qualified accountant.
Bob Webzell volunteered to do this.

4. **119th Report to Committee (President's Review of the Season)**

Colin Miller read his report to the Committee….

"We are all justly proud of the success of this club. We continue to be successful in getting acceptances at prestigious exhibitions such as the London Salon, members are doing well in important national competitions, and a significant number have been awarded an RPS distinction this year. The quality and range of work in this club never ceases to amaze me, whatever the style of the photography. But perhaps even more importantly there continues to be a strong culture in the club that encourages and celebrates innovation and experiment.

We should also be proud of the way the club is organised, almost every external speaker has been very impressed with our display and projection systems, and how many other clubs can boast a permanent rolling exhibition at one of the most important public performance venues in the city?

I am proud of our club's culture that of encouraging and supporting all members to reach their full potential as photographers, we do this through our competitions system, the talks we organise, our workshops, the distinctions group and the entry group, and equally in the conversations we have over a pint or during the tea break.

And people continue to want to join us; we have a membership of over 150 people with something like 50 people on our waiting list.

I think we have also been pretty successful in the way we organise ourselves, we have a new constitution that, whilst not perfect (what constitution is) is certainly better than what we had before. We also have a new committee that is hard working and deeply committed to helping take the club forward, and, of course, a group of volunteers whose work makes this club possible. I make no apologies about constantly banging on about how this club would be nothing without their unstinting and enthusiastic work. And this includes everything, from making sure the tea is made, to setting things up and taking it down, running the web site, sorting out the exhibitions, organising the summer programmes and the treasure hunt and everything else. The job of organising the club programme is particularly demanding, but this year we have had some outstanding evenings. Unfortunately they often seemed to be on a night I could not make! So I have stopped asking 'how was last week' as the reply invariably was, 'you should have been there it was terrific, one of the best for years' with Miss Aniela being a particularly big hit. For me, the most successful evenings are those where the photographer has helped me think about and influenced my work and Hugh Milsom certainly affected me and I think others that way.

The club has also faced a number of important challenges, for example the hall - it's not that good really is it - and those chairs! But next season we are moving to the larger and more comfortable hall, with softer chairs. Also the meeting space for the entry group, workshops and distinction evening has been awful. I'd be the first to say that our new members in particular have not been served well this year, but I am pleased to say that we have done something about this and have booked our old venue, the English Language Centre. This means that next season we will have more comfortable surroundings where we can store separate display equipment and so on and really begin to organise things more professionally.

In my view our main challenge remains the unprecedented growth in our membership numbers. Those of us who have been a member of this club for several years are acutely aware of how this club is changing. When I joined only about 30 or so people regularly attended the Tuesday meetings and there were only about eight new members in the entry group. You could enter three pictures on a competition nights and we didn't take over the entire pub on a Tuesday evening.

Success comes at a price and I know that some members miss the old, more intimate days. They also miss the opportunity of being able to show more of their work in club in competitions. In the past the club functioned on a much more informal basis and so on but as we have grown we have had to change. Actually I think we still manage to remain a friendly and inviting club but we can't rely on this automatically happening and the bigger the membership the harder this becomes.

So we face a challenge, people continue wanting to join an already big club. As far as I can tell the demand will continue into the foreseeable future. So we face a deeply important challenge that will shape the future of the club over the next few years, how should we respond to this unprecedented demand?

Of course there is always the option of closing our doors, but this wont make the demand go away and the lifeblood of a club like ours is new members. So I am throwing out this question to every club member, what can we do to organise things differently so that, ideally, we can continue to welcome new members but also maintain the friendly open and supportive atmosphere that has been such a key reason for remaining a member of this club.

Finally, on a personal note I just want to say a huge thank you to our committee members for their hard work, support and enthusiasm, I particularly want to thank our outgoing membership secretary, Maggie and our treasurer Ken. Ken's hard work in looking after the club finances over the years, his council, clear and up to date information, support and steady hand has played a critically important role in helping us take things forward. Whilst Maggie's work as membership secretary has ensured that new members and prospective are properly informed, get their membership packs and are properly welcomed to the club."

5. **Confirmation of Officials for 2010/2011**

President	Colin Miller LRPS
Vice President	Tony Bowall FRPS
Life Vice Presidents	Bill Wisden Hon FRPS
	Stan Gillam ARPS
	David Valdes
	Steve Boyle ARPS
Treasurer	John Francis LRPS
Secretary	David Gerrard ARPS
Committee Member	Colleen Slater ARPS
Committee Member	Jerry Webb LRPS
Committee Member	Claude Lester LRPS
Committee Member	Anna Christmas
Front of House	Anthony Hunt LRPS
Distinctions Advisors	Bill Wisden Hon FRPS
	Trevor Gellard FRPS
	Steve Boyle ARPS
New Members' Group Convenor	Ann Graham
Membership Secretary	Norman Atkinson
Competitions Convenors	David Wilsdon ARPS
	Peter Charnaud ARPS
	Bill Brandt
Website	John Hazard

	Paul Kondritz LRPS
	Rich Cutler ARPS
Publicity	Tony Crowther
	Jerry Webb LRPS
Exhibitions Convenor	Claude Lester LRPS
	Chantal Lonsdale
Summer Programme Convenor	Leo Jago
Projection	John Hazard
	Paul Kondritz LRPS
	Nick Eastham LRPS
Workshops Convenor	***vacant***
Archive	Gerry Nevill

6. Competition Results

<u>Entry Group Print Competition</u>

1st (Joint)
Ray Gray & Cliff Saran
2nd
Robert Fone
3rd (Joint)
Stephen Parker
Phil Robinson
Karen Siggs

<u>A Group Competitions</u>

Speciality Prints

1st (Joint)
Heather Buckley & Trevor Gellard
2nd
Jean Gerrard
3rd
Peter Charnaud
Projected Image

1st (Joint)
Anthony Hunt & Julian Day
2nd (Joint)
Heather Buckley, David Gerrard & Jerry Webb
3rd (Joint)
David Leach
Nick Eastham

Print Competition

1st (Joint)
Bill Wisden
Tony Bowall
2nd
David Miles
3rd (Joint)
Heather Buckley & Colin Miller

7. Treasurer's Interim Report

(Balance sheet shown as Appendix 1)

General Situation	£	£
Income	7,108	
Expenditure	4,646	2,492
Capital Expenditure	1,424	1,068
PrePayments for 2010/11	557	1,625

There is still some remaining income/expenditure, probably in the region of £400, but some of this may not be incurred until the next financial year. Committee members were consulted by by e-mail concerning subs for next year. The majority favoured keeping the subs at their current rate.
Ken therefore recommended that subs should be maintained at the current level for 2010/2011.
From September the Club will be able to accept standing orders/direct debits for subscriptions. Any members wishing to set these up must do so through their own bank. They will need to know the details of the Club's account. A form will be sent out with the renewal packs.

Member subs have increased by £1,028 mainly due to the increase in membership, which stands at 152. This year 26 members did not renew but 54 joined.

Canteen: surplus of £200 inc. small profit on Christmas event.

Rent: paid to the end of April. As far as we are aware there is no increase in rent for the new hall. However the Church has increased rent by 5% p.a. for the last two years. We are also committed to use the English Language Centre for Thursday activities. This will cost approx. double the amount we have paid for accommodation for workshops, E

Group & Committee meetings. A rough estimate is £180 increase, but Committee has agreed to charge £3 for workshops (not E Group meetings) which will defray the cost.

Speakers and assessors cost £310 less this year. At a time of rising costs this reflects the hard work put in by the Programme Team.

Exhibitions last year showed a deficit of £927. The current surplus of £552 is largely due to the success of the Old Market 'rolling' exhibition. Again a tribute the organisers and to the members who have supported it with their work.

Capital expenditure mainly new frames. Boxes for storage still to be purchased.

Refunds(exp.) mainly the refund to the National Lottery.

Donation of £100 to St Peter & St James Hospice, Hassocks. David Miles' family had requested no flowers at the funeral but requested that donations be given to the Hospice. Committee agreed to send a cheque for £100.

Insurance has risen as the amount of equipment belonging to the Club has increased, mainly through the purchase of equipment with the Lottery Grant.

Finally, as the Co Op Bank insist on a Club resolution for any change to Club signatories Ken proposed the following resolution:-
This Club agrees to continue its arrangements with the Co-operative
Bank for Community Business Account No.63361661 in accordance with the
Bank's conditions.
In accordance with the Club's Constitution the authorised signatories
shall be as follows:

President: Mr C. Miller
Vice-President: Mr A. Bowall
Secretary: Mr D. Gerrard
Treasurer : Mr J. Francis (previously Mr K. Matthews)

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This resolution was seconded by Bob Webzell and was unanimously carried with no abstentions.

8. Treasure Hunt Awards

This year's Treasure Hunt was on the theme of Quadrophenia and consisted of clues relating to famous Brighton scenes from the film. The International Panel of Judges awarded marks for the best image taken at each scene. The overall best image was decided by an audience vote.

Photo Subject	Winning Team	Runner Up Team
Clue 1	**Bimbos**	**Modern Rockers**
Clue 2	**Black Pigs**	**Cosy Parkas**
Clue 3	**Rough Riders**	**Black Pig**
Clue 4	**Mirrors**	**Moral Panic**
Clue 5	**Moral Panic**	**Mirrors**
Clue 6	**Fab 4**	**Competition**

Overall Best Image of the day went to **Black Pig.**

9. Pairings for Mystery Portrait Competition

Phil Robinson	**Maggi Tillotson**
Penny Bailey	**Gerry Webb**
Anna Christmas	**Brett Butler**
Alison Lewis	**Klaus Gottschling**
Chantal Lonsdale	**Peter Castleton**
Jo Dodds	**Gerry Nevill**
Heather Buckley	**Leo Jago**
Yari Fontebasso	**Tony Crowther**
Peter Reim	**Jean Gerrard**

10. AOB

- Claude requested members to collect prints not selected for the Grange.
- Sidney proposed a vote of thanks to the Club and to all the members who work hard to make it a success.
- Trevor reminded people that his 'walk between the Piers" was this coming Sunday at 7pm.

- Annie asked about Library book storage and there was a brief discussion regarding the merits of selling off the library. This will be looked into next season.
- Rich requested articles for the next edition of the Newsletter.
- David Gerrard reminded people who had put their names down for the Highgate Cemetery trip to choose their preferred date.
- Gerry Nevill reminded people about the trip to Hampton Court and using group bookings to reduce train fares.
- Claude (again!) reminded members that all the prints that were on show at the Grange will go to the next exhibition at the Old Market in August.
- Maggi said she will confirm the time of the South Bank trip in due course.
- John Hazard reminded members that a regular group of members meet most Tuesdays throughout the summer at Hove Place at around 8.30pm.

Meeting finished at 9pm.

. Appendix I (Balance Sheet)

B/Fwd			**Expenditure**		
Bank Account	5,908.24		Rent	2,028.00	
Cash	21.60		Admin (PP & Stn)	497.46	
Sub total		**5,929.84**	Lecturers & Assessors	650.00	
Prepayments	637.15		Subs paid	117.61	
Liabilities	-127.66				
Sub total		**509.49**	Exhibition Costs (Net)		
Income			Insurance	745.91	
Member Subs	6,234.00		Non Capital Equip	197.03	
Canteen Receipts (Net)	219.22		Donations Paid	100.00	
Library (Net)	0.00		Comp plaques/engraving		
Donations	5.00		Sundry (Bank error)	12.00	
Bank Interest	5.49		Refunds	297.65	
Sundry	12.02				**4,645.66**
Sale of Equipment	80.00		Prepayments	556.38	
Exhibitions	552.50		Capital expenditure	1,424.03	
Sub total		**7,108.23**	**Sub Total**		**1,980.41**
			Balance c/fwd		
			Bank Account	6,886.11	
			Cash	35.38	
			Sub Total		**6,921.49**
TOTALS		**13,547.56**			**13,547.56**

Replacement value of equipment owned by the Club	**18,782.00**
Amount covered by 'All Risks' insurance	**17,229.00**