

Newport Photographic Club
Minutes of the AGM 2017 held on 13th June 2017

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the members for their attendance, and for their enthusiastic support throughout the year.

2. Apologies for Absence

Roger Craven, Alan Fowler, Ron Hopkins, Ellie Rushton, Jim Shaw, Dave Shrubbs, Jayne Smith, Mike Warrender, Bob Winfield

3. Minutes of the Previous AGM

In keeping with established arrangements, the Club Secretary had circulated the minutes of the previous AGM to all members by e-mail. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising.

The list of actions arising from the meeting was reviewed and outstanding actions were reported as being completed, except for

1) Chris Wild agreeing to assist with follow-up on new members. This was carried forward.

2) Alternative ways of mounting prints in Cosy Hall are still being investigated. To be carried forward.

5. Chair's Report:

Howard Broadbent delivered his report (see attached). No questions

6. Secretary's Report:

Bob Colman presented the Secretary's report (see attached). No questions.

7. Competition Secretary's Report:

Simon Hughes delivered his report (see attached). No questions.

8. Membership Secretary's Report:

The Membership Secretary's report (See attached) was presented by Bob Colman as Ellie Rushton was not able to attend. No questions

9. Treasurer's Report:

Yvette Turpin presented the Treasurer's report. (See attached). A question relating to the cost of the online competition entry system, the competition secretary reported that it cost £1 per member per year.

10. Election of officers

None of the committee had served for 5 years so all were eligible for re-election.

The position of Assistant Competition Secretary was vacant as Glen Parker had to resign earlier in the year for personal reasons. Jas Pardesi agreed to stand for this position. Yvette Turpin indicated that she would continue to serve provided that other members would support her by taking subs at the door. Alan Fowler & Trish Sangster agreed to provide support.

Other officers and committee members indicated that they were willing to serve again There were no alternative candidates proposed so all nominees were elected unopposed.

Chair

Howard Broadbent was proposed by Bob Colman & seconded by Jim McGregor.

Vice Chair

Sarah Hollinshead-Bland was proposed by Dave Dale and seconded by Barbara Collins .

Secretary

Bob Colman was proposed by Howard Broadbent and seconded by Steve Haycock.

Competition Secretary

Simon Hughes was proposed by Sarah Hollinshead-Bland and seconded by Dave Shrubb.

Assistant Competition Secretary

Jas Pardesi was proposed by Martin James and seconded by Dave Dale.

Membership Secretary

Ellie Rushton was proposed by Howard Broadbent & seconded by Amanda Elwell.

Social Secretary

Amanda Elwell was proposed by Dave Dale & seconded by Howard Broadbent.

Treasurer

Yvette Turpin was proposed by Trish Sangster and seconded by Malcolm Price.

Webmaster

Howard Broadbent and Simon Hughes will be responsible for the web.

Additional (Co-opted) Committee members

Fran Hartshorne was willing to continue her roles as co-opted members of the Committee and to maintain the Club's display at Cosy Hall (assisted by Barbara Collins). Dave Dale agreed to act as External Competition Secretary.

11. Annual Reviews

a) Annual Subs & door fees

The committee proposed that annual subscriptions and door fees would remain unchanged at £12 and £2.50 per night respectively. The chairman reported that the finances were healthy enough to support this level, even though it is lower than most other clubs. He also noted that fees for speakers in the next season were higher to attract a high standard of speakers. The committee would monitor finances closely to ensure that these fees were sufficient to cover outgoings.

Proposed by Malcolm Price seconded by J Pibworth. Accepted unanimously.

b) Review of competition rules and trophies

The rules had been reviewed and updated copies circulated before the meeting.

The most significant changes related to changes from President's Cup to Committee Cup, use of the new online competition entry system, updated related to projection

of images during Print judging, and clarification of rules about correct submission of images.

Proposed by Howard Broadbent Seconded by Simon Hughes. Voted on and agreed

c) Changes to constitution

Minor changes to the constitution to make roles gender free and to clarify that life members do not pay door fees were proposed and accepted.

Proposed by Malcolm Price seconded by Yvette Turpin Voted on and agreed

11. Any Other Business.

1)New Life Members (committee)

The committee had decided to grant life membership to Graham Burns & John Luscombe, who had both been members for 25 years.

2) Guest Door Fees (committee)

The committee wished to clarify that guests making occasional visits to the club would pay the same door fee as members on each visit. Potential members could still visit free for up to 3 occasions before joining.

3) Portfolio Evenings (committee)

A report was presented by Sarah Hollinshead-Bland outlining 3 options for Portfolio evenings.

	Strengths	Weaknesses
1. We stay as we are – watching as much of the full portfolio as the night will allow	<p>People are used to it.</p> <p>There is very little preparation involved.</p> <p>We get to see a lot of images by different authors.</p> <p>We get to see what is doing well in exhibitions.</p>	<p>Some people leave at half time or don't come.</p> <p>Some think it is boring.</p> <p>Some don't like the music.</p> <p>Some people don't like the selection shown.</p> <p>There are too many images to taken everything in.</p>
2. Watch and workshop – select a section, watch it through then in small groups answer pre-set questions to focus discussion	<p>It's a new approach.</p> <p>Some people learn more from discussion.</p> <p>We get to hear the broader opinions of club members, not just club circuit judges.</p>	<p>Not all people will feel able to comment even in small groups.</p> <p>People may choose to stay in the same groups with people they know. That would have to be managed as part of the facilitation.</p> <p>It will need preparation time.</p>

<p>3. Provide a choice – watching the portfolio in one room and learning to critique in the other</p>	<p>It's a new approach.</p> <p>It provides a choice and with this running twice in the year, people can do one of each.</p> <p>If people can learn to critique images, it will help with the development on their photography.</p>	<p>One or the other may prove to be more popular.</p> <p>Some organisation is required.</p> <p>It will rely on people bring images to participate in the second group.</p>
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These suggestions were discussed and it was agreed to try options two and three. S H-B to arrange.

4) Display of Intermediate Prints (raised by Janet Richardson)

Various suggestions were made and it was agreed to display prints on the steps to the stage or on extra tables as a trial.

5) Images in Newport Advertiser (Howard Broadbent)

It was noted that we have no control of which of the images submitted to the Advertiser are used in the paper.

6) Feedback on meetings (Trish Sangster)

Trish has agreed to collect feedback from members about meetings based on website- feedback will be optional.

7) Weblinks in emails (Martin James)

The committee were asked to ensure that they included weblinks where relevant in email messages to members.

8) Definition of theme "Local Landscape"

Local was defined as being taken in Shropshire, Staffordshire or Cheshire.

12. Close of Meeting

That completed the business and the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

Minutes prepared by Bob Colman (Secretary)

June 19th 2017

Reports

Newport Photographic Club – Chairman’s Report 2017

I think this has been another good year for the club and I hope the programme met everyone’s expectations. This is a tricky report to give as I don’t want to pre-empt what the other committee members will be reporting in the next few minutes.

So, I will keep it fairly personal and leave the details to the other committee members. The league system seems to be working well and attracting more entries. I am particularly pleased with the introduction of the simultaneous projection of the print entries and I think this gives everyone a better chance of seeing what the judge is talking about when the prints are judged. I think this is still a “Work in progress” after only 3 competitions and further tweaks might be required. The committee has proposed a few changes to the rules to accommodate the new arrangements and the use of the Photo Entry website and we will be discussing these later in the AGM.

The speakers this year have been outstanding and I especially enjoyed Danny Green and Claire Carter.

We also had 2 innovations – the North Wales weekend organised by Sarah and the trip to Lehmann’s organised by Jas and Bob. Both of these were excellent and I would like to thank the organisers on behalf of the club. The third event which I would like to mention was the recent model evening organised by Jas, Amanda, Bernard and others. We have done this before, but I think from the feedback that this was the best so far.

We have started using the new PA system and I think we need to get into the routine of using it on a regular basis. It would be useful to get half a dozen members acquainted with the system and they could set up the system each week. At present it is Bob, Simon & I doing it and we already have quite a lot to do before the meeting. Later on I will be asking for volunteers to do this.

This brings me to my final point. This is your club and the committee relies on your feedback on how the club should be run and what we should have in the programme. In return, if the club is to function smoothly, we need your practical input. We need volunteers to serve on the committee, to put up and take down the print stands & light box on competition nights, to set up the PA system, to make the tea & coffee, to arrange the chairs, put tables away etc. None of these jobs are particularly taxing or time consuming, but without these often unsung volunteers the club will not function. Please join in and play your part. Who knows, you could be nominated for the “Member of the Year” trophy!

Our season or 40 meetings in nearly complete with just two changes from our published programme and planning is now complete for next season.

Our aim has been to give a varied program for members at all skill levels and I hope we have succeeded in that. This season we have attempted to bring in a wide variety of speakers, not just the regular MCPF circuit talks. I was particularly pleased to have the Director General of the RPS, Michael Pritchard, come to talk about their Distinctions program but each speaker this year has offered a different viewpoint on photography. Following the talk on Camera Repair by Rob Bridden of H Lehmann Ltd, a party of 20 members visited their workshop in Stoke to see their testing and repair operations.

While it is difficult to measure if members enjoyed an evening, I find the comments afterwards help to indicate how good it was. I think that most feedback has been positive this year, but particularly after the talk by Claire Carter recently; despite the talk continuing till 10.30pm, the message came loud and clear- Can we invite her back!

I believe that next year's speakers will be just as varied and interesting. In particular I look forward with great interest to hear Vanley Burke, "the Godfather of Black British Photography", who was featured earlier in the year in the BBC4 TV programme "Britain in Focus. A photographic History".

My one disappointment was that Clive Haynes failed to turn up to speak due to problems with his computer/calendar. Thanks to our member Gareth Finchett who stepped in at short notice to preview his members' evening talk. Clive will be coming next season and is most apologetic about missing the talk.

We should also show appreciation to all our members who have contributed to members' evenings and workshops. Our first Charity evening (Rob Adams & Alan Fowler) proved to be a success and will be repeated with other members speaking of their charity work next season.

There will be a number of changes in next season's programme, as presented at the planning meeting. There will no longer be a President's talk, President's Cup Competition, AV Competition (at least for this season) or the Wrekin International Portfolio. In their place will be a Small groups evening for discussion on subjects requested by members, the Second Open Competition will be split into two evenings to allow for larger entries, a competition judged by Committee members votes (subject "Nature") and an evening where we judge members images "Taken on Phone or Tablet". We will also start the season with an Introduction meeting, reviewing the programme for the season, introducing the committee and all the activities of the club.

Our invitation to display some of our work at the Festival Drayton Centre proved popular with over 50 prints displayed and 6 sold. Thanks to those who helped set up and dismantle the exhibition.

It has been good to get so many suggestions from members and many have been built into the programme, but, as ever, there are not enough evenings to accommodate them all.

Bob Colman

May 2017

Newport Photographic Club

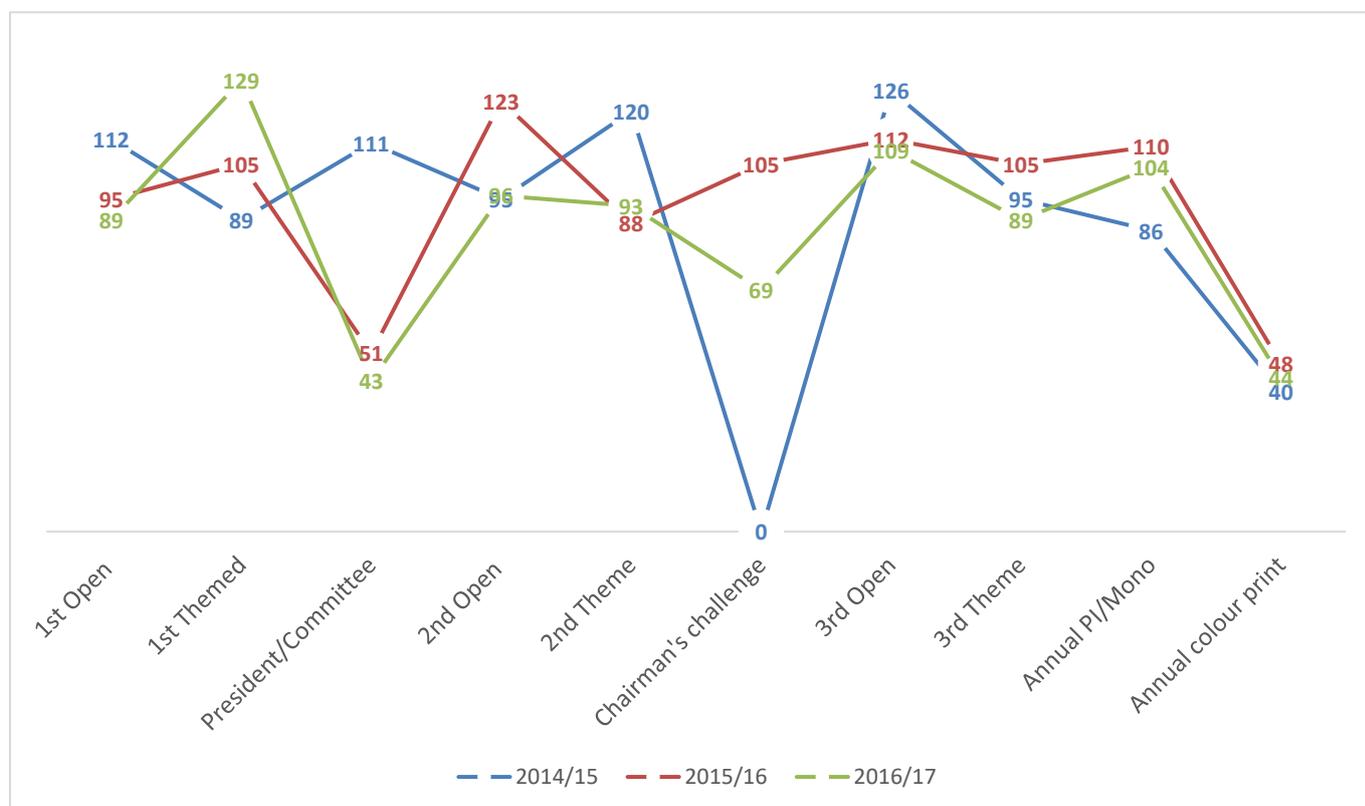
Competition Secretary's Report 2016/2017

Another successful year for our club, with significant successes in MidPhot and a good and varied entry in our club competitions.

On-line entry

Last year saw us introduce an on-line photo entry system for our competitions. Even the people that used to struggle sending competition entries via email tell me that this system easier to use. As the competition secretary, it also saves me countless hours on each competition, and removes human error. The feedback has been very positive so we will keep it.

Entry analysis



	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Totals	874	942	865

The number of images submitted is 865 compared with 942 last year. However, we did have a few culls which skews the entries. So technically, we could of had about the same as last year.

Averages	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17

Open	111	110	98
Themed	101	99	104

Interesting to note that there is no difference between the number of entries between Open and Themed competitions. Both are consistently maxed out.

The number of people entering our competitions is 66, which is only 3 less than last year, and 17 more than the year before.

Number of entries

The number of entries for each competition remains manageable for judges. However, both last year and this year I still feel we are at the upper end, and sometimes over what can be judged given the time we have.

A limit of 110 was in place last year, and unfortunately we had to cull to bring the number of entries down on a couple of competitions. A few discussions have been had on how to 'not cull' have been deliberated on:

- Earlier start time
- Later finish time
- Poke the judge more often to speed them up
- Split the PDI's and Prints over separate nights

To that end, we are going to try splitting the pdi's and prints over separate nights for our 2nd Open, and increase the number of entries allowed per person to 3 or possibly 4 for each night. See how it goes.

It is good to see that several our newer or less experienced members have gained places in our monthly and annual competitions. In particular, Anne Smith who is an intermediate achieved 4th place in our Annual PI competition, so very well done! I always continue to encourage judges to give commendations for those just missing out on the places.

Battles

Once again, the high standard of entries always makes it hard to select images for our battles against other clubs as there are so many good ones to choose from. The battle committee changed tack this year as previously we used to spend 4 hours poring over 1200 images to work out our top 15 in print/projected categories. This year we pre-selected our best 20 pdi's and 20 prints, and brought them with us on a memory stick. This worked much better for us.

This year we lost to Tettenhall by a small margin of 6 points: 505 vs 511. I blame the judge.

We beat Whitchurch. Judge was great.

MidPhot

Our MidPhot total entry was 172 with 53 acceptances, which is a highest ratio since 2013.

Summary

I hope that members are now encouraged to build on this success and continue to establish the name of Newport Photographic Club on the club circuit. This success would not have been possible without the efforts of all members who produce prints and PDI's to enter in competitions.

I must thank

- Rod Bunyan for his support for keeping the league tables up to date, and for sorting out all the prints on the evening.
- Howard Broadbent for organizing the external competition MidPhot.
- The battle committee which consists of Richard Greswell, Dave Shrubbs, Bob Colman and Mike Warrender for pulling together all the images for our battles.

2016/2017 season statistics

	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015	2013/2014	2012/2013	2011/2012
Members entering	66	69	49	48	48	55
Entries in monthly competitions						
Prints	255	232	265	211	266	270
Projected images	350	396	381	293	330	347

Average entry

Prints	43	39	44	35	44	45
Projected images	58	66	64	49	55	58
Total submissions in season	865	961	875	724	820	784

MidPhot Entries	172	195	131	123		
MidPhot Acceptances	53	57	35	37	39	18
MidPhot Success percentage	30.8%	29.2%	26.7%	30.1%		

Battle V Whitchurch	won	won	lost	won	won	won
		350/320	455 / 470	327/293	370/364	334/319
Battle v Tettenhall Wood	lost	lost	lost	won	won	lost
	505/511	461/467	309 / 330	319/317	521/504	493/526

Competition entries	Prints	Projected images	Mono prints / other	
Monthly competitions				Total
1st Open	23	66		89
Water	57	72		129
2nd Open	57	39		96
Mood and emotion	34	59		93
3rd Open	49	60		109
Inspired by art	35	54		89

TOTAL	255	350		605
President's Cup		43		
Chairman's Challenge		69		
Annual	44	67	37	148
AV			0	
TOTAL (all comps.)	299	529	37	865

Simon Hughes, June 2017.

Membership Secretary's Report for AGM 2017

Membership

Our current membership at the moment stands at 95. The figures for the last few years are as follows:-

2012/13 – 95 members

2013/14 – 85 members

2014/15 – 82 members

2015/16 – 87 members

2016/17 – 95 members

We have had 17 new members joining us this year. 9 people contacted us through Internet searches, 4 through another member, 1 through the Newport Advertiser, 1 through the Newport Library and 1 member has re-joined us after a bit of time out.

At the beginning of this year 8 people didn't renew their membership.

Equipment

There hasn't been very much use of the club equipment this year. Please don't forget that it is there for your use and is available for borrowing nearly every week.

Mentors

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help with this scheme. If I haven't asked for your help yet, it will only be a matter of time. It's just that your particular skill hasn't been asked for yet. I think that quite a few of our new members have found this scheme very helpful this year.

Ellie Rushton

Membership Secretary

Newport Photographic Club

Treasurer's Report 2016-17

Please see the slides on the accompanying PowerPoint presentation for figures.

Income

Subscriptions and Membership Subscriptions were up by £678 this year following the increase of 50p each week being applied at the beginning of the season. Membership receipts were up by £36. Note that the Club has 3 life members, and members who joined after January in 2016 carried their membership through to the 2016-17 season.

Sales is income from mount board, associated tape and blades.

Socials is members' payments made for the Christmas dinner and Summer Social and Prize Giving.

Miscellaneous includes payment by members of MidPhot fees over and above those covered by the Club, donations from guests, donations to the Afrikids and Prostate Cancer charities, and a cheque that was mistakenly made out to the Club for a member's image sold at the Market Drayton exhibition.

Expenses

Meeting Costs includes judges, speakers and CDs used for showing portfolios on meeting nights.

Room hire is self explanatory.

Equipment expenses have been minimal this year with no significant items being purchased.

Insurances and Web These are Public Liability and All Risks insurances for equipment, and the payment for the website. This year we have also paid for the new competition system run by Simon, and following the success of the system in use I anticipate that this will be an ongoing annual expense.

Board purchase – Howard undertakes the bulk purchase of mount board on behalf of members twice a year; we subsidise 5 sheets of mount board and 2 rolls of tape per member per year, when they purchase these items through the Club.

Transport covers the cost of delivering the MidPhot entries.

Miscellaneous this year has covered the MidPhot entries where the Club pays for up to 8 entries per member, gifting of members' contributions and subscriptions to Afrikids and Prostate Cancer (rounded up to £100 each by the Club), a donation of £150 to Newport Baptist Church towards the purchase of the speaker system, payment to the member whose photograph was sold at the Market Drayton exhibition (referred to above), and a thank-you gift.

Refreshments – the cost of these has decreased considerably this year (more than £40).

Socials is for paying for the Christmas dinner and the Summer Social and Presentation Evening which is next Tuesday.

As at 11 June 2016 there is £5,234.79 cash in the bank. From those funds we have an upcoming liability of £881.00 to Lilleshall Golf Club for the Summer Social and of £60 for the final 2 weeks' rent of the hall. These known liabilities bring down the balance of income over expenditure to £1,567.65 and the cash balance to £4293.79.

At the same stage this year we had £3291.08 cash balance, so we are currently in a very good financial position.

The invoices for the trophy engraving have not yet been received, nor have we had the invoice for this year's website fees. We also need to allow for the printing of next year's programmes, and provision for a gift for our retiring president Geoff Sellars.

In conclusion, we have had a very good year and are now in a position to afford some high profile speakers for next season.

I would just like to thank Edward, Colin and Trish for very ably covering for me again this year.

I commend this report to the meeting.

Yvette Turpin

12 June 2017