



**TONBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB**  
**MINUTES FOR THE 58<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
**Held at Southborough Football Club (SFC).**



## 1. Chairs' Opening Remarks

Colin welcomed everyone to the new venue and invited those present to share their thoughts about it. He noted that 27 people were present – a high number for meetings these days.

## 2a Apologies for Absence

Marilynne and Tony Hill; Kenny Maciver; Robert Merrifield; Julie Salwey

## 2b Present

Cathie Agates; Ken and Sue Ash; Barbara Baldock; Colin Burgess; Lesley Burnand; Denys Clarke; Alan Cork; Philip Easom; Bryan Ellis; Keith Evans; David Godfrey; Colin Hurley; Nicola King; Simon Lane; Matthew Little; David Lucy; Colin and Jenny Nye; Steve Oakes; Sue Pennicott; Philip Smithies; Ian Standing; Jane Thornton; Roger Wates; Les Welton and Kevin Yates (27 in total)

## 3. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Approved

## 4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

None

## 5. Reports:

No reports were read out as they were issued at the same time as the Agenda. Additional comments made at the meeting are noted below. Colin thanked Philip for his efforts in compiling the Reports.

5.01 *Chairs' Report* *Colin Burgess and Philip Smithies*

5.02 *Secretary's Report* *Marilynne Hill*

5.03 *Treasurer's Report* *Nicola King*

Adoption of the TCC Accounts:

Proposer: Nicola King on behalf of the Committee      Seconder: Denys Clarke

Agreed unanimously

5.04a *Internal Competitions Report* *Philip Smithies*

5.04b *PDI Secretary's Report* *Philip Easom*

Colin thanked Philip Easom on behalf of the club membership for his efforts in organising the running of the evenings where the projector was needed i.e. most of them – and entering images into DiCentra.

5.04c *Print Secretary's Report* *Jeremy Stock*

5.05 *Photographer of the Year* *Marilynne Hill*

5.06 *External Competition Report* *Philip Smithies/Colin Burgess*

5.07 *Image Discussion Group Report* *David Godfrey*

5.08 *AV Group Report* *Philip Smithies*

5.09 *Grainmakers' Report* *Keith Evans*

This is Keith's last season organising these meetings and Colin thanked him, on behalf of the club, for his efforts over the last ten years. Keith outlined what was required in administering the post – nothing onerous – and pointed out that those who had participated had enjoyed the experience of talking to other clubs and that reports from the clubs had been overwhelmingly positive. We are delighted to report that Kevin has since agreed to take over from Keith – thank you Kevin.

5.10 *Webmaster's Report* *Philip Smithies*

5.11 *Publicity Report* *Not available as there is currently no post-holder\**

Colin thanked Matt Little on behalf of the club membership for the beautifully designed posters he created publicising individual meetings. Subsequently, Ian Standing agreed to be our Publicity Officer and join our Committee – thank you Ian

5.12 *Programme Secretary's Report* *Lesley Burnand and Marilynne Hill*

Colin thanked Lesley on behalf of the club membership for putting together such an excellent programme.

5.13 *Archivist's Report* *Philip Smithies*

5.14 *KCPA Report* *Alan Cork*

Alan noted that it seemed highly likely that the organisation would continue as a new President and committee had been formed.

5.15 *Exhibition Report* *Colin Burgess*

Colin advised that there would be another Exhibition at the Arts Centre over two weekends in the autumn at dates to be confirmed. He thanked everyone who helped to make the Exhibition such a success and singled out Kevin and Jeremy for their exceptional contribution.

5.16 *Awards/Trophies* *Philip Smithies*

## 6 Chairs' Reflections

Both Colin and Philip outlined their thoughts about the 23-24 season. We noted the deaths of three members – Bill Wheeler, John Hunt and Brian Barkley – and how much each had contributed to the club.

We are very grateful to Lesley for finding our new venue especially after being let down so often by the school over (for example) short-notice cancellations, non-availability of the screen on many occasions and all too often having to meet in a cold or underheated room.

We have been fortunate in having such a wonderful committee and we are grateful to all of them for their invaluable contributions. It's a pity there aren't more of them as it can be very difficult to keep everything running smoothly with only eight members. In particular, the continuing absence of vice-chairs for the fourth year – probably unconstitutional! – leaves us wondering how, or indeed if, the club can continue when we step down as co-chairs after an unprecedented six seasons. We keep hearing of clubs which have folded (something which seems to have accelerated post-covid) because of a shortage of committee members. We are pleased that the recent reintroduction of mini-outings has proved so successful and hope that others will be arranged. They are arguably one of the best ways to acquire new ideas and learn new skills as well as the opportunity to socialise. We are looking forward to the new season and are very hopeful that a new venue could lead to an increased membership from the local area and allow members to have a much more pleasant experience at meetings.

**NOTE: In items 7, 8 and 9, all post-holders were elected unanimously.**

**7 Election of Officers 2023-2024**

Co-Chairs:	Philip Smithies	Proposer: Cathie Agates	Seconded: Robert Stocker
Co-Chairs:	Colin Burgess	Proposer: Nicola King	Seconded: Sue Pennicott
Vice-Chair(s)	Vacancy/Vacancies	<b>VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED</b>	
Secretary:	Marilynne Hill	Proposer: Ian Standing	Seconded: David Lucy
Treasurer:	Nicola King	Proposer: Julie Salwey	Seconded: Marilynne Hill

**8 Election of Committee 2023-2024**

Cathie Agates	Proposer: Robert Stocker	Seconded: Ian Standing
Lesley Burnand	Proposer: Simon Lane	Seconded: Sue Pennicott
Denys Clarke	Proposer: Marilynne Hill	Seconded: Roger Wates
Jeremy Stock	Proposer: David Lucy	Seconded: Mandy Verney

\*Ian Standing subsequently volunteered to act as Publicity Officer and was eagerly coopted onto the committee.

**9 Election of Auditor 2023-2024.**

Kevin Yates	Proposer: Nicola King	Seconded: Jeremy Stock
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Nicola thanked Kevin for his efforts in his role as Auditor.

**10 Discussion Items and Proposals by Outgoing Committee.**

**10.01 Subscription fees**

Proposer: Nicola King	Seconded: Colin Burgess
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*Subscription fees will increase as shown below in the 2024-2025 season*

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Current 2023-2024</b>	<b>Next season 2024-2025</b>
Adult	£65	£69
Joint (2 at same address)	£105	£109
Junior (under 18)	£7	£11
Student/Jobseeker's Allowance	£20	£24
Full Country Membership	£40	£44
Ordinary Country Membership	£20	£24
Door fees	£2	£2 (unchanged)

It was noted that an additional £40 per person, payable when membership fees are renewed, would cover admission fees for the entire season.

The Motion was approved unanimously.

**10.02 New venue – Southborough Football Club SFC**

It was clear that people were very happy with the new venue. The vast majority arrived early and made good use of the bar; a considerable number stayed behind to socialise – and make more use of the bar. It was therefore hoped that this pattern would continue next season but the opening of the bar (from 7.00 p.m.) would depend on sufficient use being made of it. There seemed to be the likelihood that tea and coffee would also be available.

The membership via Colin and Philip expressed their gratitude that Lesley had found such a welcoming venue. The mid-evening break would continue but possibly be of shorter duration. The club would pay for drinks of guest speakers and judges.

**10.03 External Competitions**

Proposer: Philip Smithies	Seconded: Colin Burgess
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*That TCC withdraws completely from all external competitions (Orpington Battle / MICT / TCC vs Torbay vs Aperture Woolwich) EXCEPT those run by the KCPA such as the Diamond Jubilee and Ross Cup subject to identifying a small group of members who would select images and do the necessary administration*

Rationale: These competitions take many hours to set up but interest in them and attendance at them is so small that the effort involved cannot be justified.

A couple of people queried the method by which images were chosen but it was explained that this season all but one image had received 19 or 20 in this season's competitions and that it had proved possible to use many more members' images because of the

high standard. There had to be a balance between choosing the “best” images (recognising the subjectivity involved) and using images from as many members as possible.

David Godfrey offered to assist with the selection of images for KCPA competitions.

Motion approved with 23 in favour and four abstentions.

#### **10.04 TCC WhatsApp Group**

Proposer:

Secunder:

*That TCC introduces a dedicated WhatsApp Group open to paid-up and Honorary members.*

In the end after a short discussion, no motion was put.

The new WhatsApp group would **NOT** replace global emails, but would be used as a more accessible means of communication between members who wished to join it. It could be used to advise members additionally of important information e.g. changes of times, short-notice cancellations and forthcoming mini-outings, especially those created almost on the spur of the moment.

It would not include routine reminders e.g. about competitions where information could be dispensed via global emails from PhotoEntry.

It is recognised that not everyone is happy with the use of WhatsApp so members would be invited to “opt-in” when they complete their subscription/renewal forms.

One way forward would be that the current WhatsApp Group devoted to mini-outings could be expanded to become the new group as outlined in the main paragraph above.

However, it seems sensible to defer a decision on the exact nature of the group until the committee has had time to discuss the matter more fully at the meeting next month.

*Note: It must be emphasised again that the current Mini-Outings WhatsApp Group is open to **absolutely every member**: it is emphatically not some exclusive little group. If you want to be added, please email Philip Smithies. You can leave the group at any time, of course. I apologise if this hadn't been made clear to everyone.*

#### **11 Proposals received from Individual Members**

None

#### **12 AOB**

It was suggested that the club name could be changed to reflect the move away from Tonbridge and the fact that we welcome members from a large area of West Kent. This idea had been discussed in committee and rejected on administrative and banking grounds. However, the matter will be discussed again at the next Committee meeting in June.