



TONBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB
DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4 May 2017



1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The chairman thanked everyone for attending and noted the numbers were up on the previous year.

He congratulated Chelin Miller on being awarded an ARPS and John Hunt on winning The International Society of Wildlife and Nature Photographers "Animals in Action" award with his "White Tailed Sea Eagles in Aerial Spat" photo. The image also featured as a double-page spread in Amateur Photographer.

He was still looking for contributions from club members to "Times of Tonbridge". Both he and Brian Barkley had already submitted articles.

2a. Apologies for Absence (15 in total)

Lol Beacham, Dave Brooker, Graham Bunyan, Jacky Bunyan, Jenny Clark, Joan Gow, Gavin Hoey, Ann Paine, June Porterfield, Gordon Quinnell, Nick Ryan, Pam Sherren, Colin Smith, Peter Tulloch, Carmel Yearwood

2b Names of attendees (43 in total)

Barbara Baldock, Brian Barkley, Dave Belcher, Barry Bone, Trevor Brand, Clive Brewer, Janet Brewer, Colin Burgess, John Butler, Denys Clarke, Norman Cochrane, Peter Cope, Alan Cork, Ray Crowle, Terry Day, Peter Ditchett, Mick Dudley, Philip Easom, Keith Evans, Muffi Forbes, Don Foster, Richard Gandon, David Godfrey, Mike Hart, Malcolm Hedges, Marilynne Hill, Tony Hill, John Hunt, Colin Hurley, Penny Lewington, Carole Lewis, John Lewis, Helen Mossman, Steve Oakes, Annik Pauwels, Paul Penrith, Philip Smithies, Mary Southby, Sarah Stoneley, Liz Turton, Roger Wates, Les Welton, Brian Whiston

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM held on 12 May 2016

Approved with one abstention.

4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous AGM held on 12 May 2016

Note: numbers refer to Draft Minutes of last year's AGM

10.01 The proposal to maintain subscriptions at 2015-16 rates was overturned by the membership and an amendment to increase Full Membership from £47 to £50 and adjust other rates pro rata was adopted.

11.01 The proposal to drop 'Slide' Competitions not accepted by membership. Open Slide Competitions would be held on the same nights as Open Print Competitions in order to reduce the pressure on time during Open PDI Competition nights.

There were no additional comments from the membership.

5. Reports:

No reports were read out as they had all been distributed. Additional comments made at the meeting are indicated below

5.01 Chairman's Report (Alan Cork)

5.02 Secretary's Report (Marilynne Hill)

5.03 Treasurer's Report (Muffi Forbes)

Adoption of the TCC Accounts:

Proposer: Muffi Forbes on behalf of the Committee Second: Alan Cork

Approved with one abstention

5.04 Print Secretary's Report (Nick Ryan)

See 12c.

5.05 PDI Secretary's Report (Ann Paine)

5.06 Slide Secretary's Report (Malcolm Hedges)

5.07 External PDI Secretary's Report (Ann Paine)

5.08 External Print Secretary's Report (Ann Paine and Nick Ryan)

5.09 Image Discussion Group Report (Paul Penrith)

5.10 Enhancing your Images Group Report (Ann Paine)

5.11 Distinctions Group Report (Marilynne Hill)

5.12 AV Group Report (Philip Smithies)

5.13 TONDIG Report (Carole and John Lewis)

A supplementary report by Carole was read out and is included in Appendix B

5.14 Annual Outing Report (Joan Gow)

5.15 Social Secretary / Members' Liaison Report (Joan Gow)

There were worries that many seats would not be filled on the coach on the forthcoming outing to Salisbury which could result in additional expense for the club. A number of attendees offered to advertise the outing at (for example) the local U3A groups on a first-come first-served basis. A show of hands indicated that the membership would not be averse to paying slightly more towards the cost of the outing in future to ensure the club didn't have to subsidise it.

5.16 Pixel Makers' Report (Keith Evans)

Keith added that volunteers were always welcome.

5.17 Webmaster's Report (Paul Penrith)

5.18 Publicity Report (John Hunt)

5.19 Grain Editor's Report (Carole Lewis)

A supplementary report by Carole was read out and is included in Appendix A

5.20 Programme Secretary's Report (Malcolm Hedges)

5.21 Archivist's Report (Philip Smithies)

5.22 KCPA Report (Alan Cork)

5.23 Annual Exhibition Report (Alan Cork)

Panels are now stored at the school instead of Paul's garage and the school may be able to loan us its van to help transfer them in future.

5.24 Photographer of the Year (Marilynne Hill)

Tony Hill and Pam Sherren were the only people who had entered all the relevant competitions Pam's total score was 659 but Tony was the winner with a total score of 664.

Note from Philip Smithies: Following on from questions from Peter Cope and Don Foster, it seems that TCC only recruited three additional members as a result of the Newcomers' Day. The current membership is 93. The committee would urge people to "spread the word" to organisations to which they belong!

6 Chairman's Review.

The Chairman expressed his grateful thanks to everyone who made such a huge contribution to the club and apologised if he inadvertently missed anyone out. He noted that over thirty-five people's names would be mentioned.

- Muffi Forbes: an excellent job under extremely difficult personal circumstances.
- Barry Bone: efficient auditor
- Marilynne Hill: a time-consuming post carried out extremely efficiently
- Philip Smithies: Special mention for someone who is described in the Programme as 'electronic archivist' which completely understates his important role in the club, acting as the glue that holds everything together!
- Malcolm Hedges (assisted by Annik Pauwels): extraordinarily efficient Programme Secretary with next season's programme complete.
- The PDI Team: Ann Paine assisted by Colin Smith and Dave Brooker. A time-consuming job done exceptionally well
- Social Secretary: Joan Gow (now retiring), who had to overcome illness at the start of the season, assisted by Sarah Stoneley, Sonia and David Peek and Mike Hart. Responsible for the tea/coffee rota, dinner, Annual Outing and Dinner plus refreshments at the Exhibition
- Internal and External Print Secretary: Nick Ryan aided by John Butler, John Hunt, Carole and John Lewis and Peter Ditchett.
- Sub-groups: all the subgroup leaders (Ann Paine, Paul Penrith (with help from Keith Evans, John Hunt and John Butler), Marilynne Hill, Carole and John Lewis and Philip Smithies (assisted by Don Foster)
- Website: Paul Penrith
- Publicity: John Hunt
- Trophy Coordinators: Liz Turton and Helen Mossman
- Grain Makers and Pixel Makers: Keith Evans with guest speakers

- Exhibition:
Roger Wates and David Parkinson (assembly organisers) assisted by Liz Turton, Mick Dudley, Richard Gandon, Colin Hurley and Colin Smith plus the numerous stewards.
Nick Ryan and Philip Smithies for organising the Prints and PDIs respectively.
Sarah Stoneley and Mike Hart: refreshments.
Brian Barkley: organising purchase of exhibition frames.
Dave Brooker: Organising and transporting panels and miscellaneous equipment, with help from Richard Gandon, to and from the exhibition. Preparing and designing flyers, the Exhibition programme, club programme and presentation certificates and mementoes.
- Cathie Agates: New standard as Greeter
- Colin Burgess: Announcer *par excellence* and now Vice-Chairman.
- Graham Bunyan, Mick Dudley and John Butler for an outstandingly successful Newcomers' Day
- Annik Pauwels, Richard Ames and Gavin Hoey, ably assisted by Tony Hill, for another outstandingly successful event: the Knole Portraiture Workshop
- All those who contributed to the success of the in-house Chambers' evenings, AV evening and Grain Makers evening

7 Election of Officers

Chairman:	Alan Cork	Proposer: Philip Smithies	Seconder: Muffi Forbes
Vice-Chairman:	Colin Burgess	Proposer: Peter Ditchett	Seconder: Sarah Stoneley
Secretary:	Marilynne Hill	Proposer: John Hunt	Seconder: Muffi Forbes
Treasurer:	Muffi Forbes	Proposer: Terry Day	Seconder: Peter Cope

All elected unanimously

8 Election of Committee

Malcolm Hedges	Proposer: Alan Cork	Seconder: Philip Smithies
Ann Paine	Proposer: John Hunt	Seconder: Richard Gandon
Annik Pauwels	Proposer: Cathie Agates	Seconder: Sarah Stoneley
Colin Smith	Proposer: Peter Ditchett	Seconder: Cathie Agates
Philip Smithies	Proposer: Alan Cork	Seconder: Muffi Forbes

All elected unanimously

9 Election of Auditor

Barry Bone	Proposer: Roger Wates	Seconder: Muffi Forbes
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Elected unanimously

10 Proposals by Outgoing Committee

10.01 *Proposed Subscriptions and Door Fees for 2017-2018 Season remain the same as 2016-17*

Proposer: Muffi Forbes	Seconder: Alan Cork		
Category		Current	Proposed
Full Membership		£50.00	£50.00
Joint Membership (2 at same address)		£83.00	£83.00
Junior (Under 18)		£ 8.00	£ 8.00
Full time Student/Unemployed Person		£18.00	£18.00
Full Country Membership		£33.00	£33.00
Ordinary Country Membership		£18.00	£18.00
Door fees:		£ 2.00	£ 2.00

Carried unanimously

11 Proposals received from Individual Members

None

12 Membership Consultation by out-going Committee

(a) *With increasing difficulty in raising sponsorship, how should Grain be funded in the future?*

Both Alan Cork and Philip Smithies praised the exceptional quality of Grain and its importance to the club. However, Philip said he was saddened that a number of people didn't even read their copies and wondered how many felt it was a waste of money.

Following on from 5.19 above, Philip pointed out that next season two editions of Grain without adverts – which would happen if, as seemed likely, no one came forward to act as Carole's Administrative Assistant – would cost over £1000. As the likely guaranteed income to the club from subscriptions and door fees is approximately £6400, this represents a sizeable chunk of our income.

One solution was for Grain to go digital which would result in the saved money being available for (for example) a new print box, a higher-resolution projector and more high-quality guests. John Lewis in an article in Grain 111 had covered the numerous advantages of digital magazines over printed ones. However, Carole would probably not be willing to continue as Editor of a digital magazine due to copyright concerns.

Philip said that he and Dave Brooker had been investigating ways of saving money on printing. As an example, one on-line company in Holland could print the magazine for 40% of the current cost and they felt that this was a possible way forward. Concerns were expressed over copyright and quality issues when ordering from an on-line printer. The Chairman said his preference would be to retain the printed version but to use a cheaper print company.

(b) *Format of Exhibition Programme will be a pdf based on exhibition Excel Spreadsheet.*

- *Is there a need for information other than name, title, distinctions, panel numbers and price?*
- *Should we continue to print Judge's and Chair's comments?*

After discussion, it was agreed that the Exhibition Programme would continue as it had for the 2016-17 exhibition, and in digital form only, with the addition of sale price of the prints on display. Hard copies for the membership were felt to be no longer necessary although some copies would be kept on the desk for visitors to use.

(c) *How can we encourage members to produce prints for Open Competition?*

It was noted that print numbers were declining, both at TCC and elsewhere. Contributors to the discussion felt that this was partly down to time, partly down to cost and partly down to the fact that images were often seen for just a few minutes before disappearing into a box. A few people said they were tempted to enter Print Competitions but weren't sure where to begin. John Lewis pointed out he'd always been willing to help people with the production of prints. It was suggested that "Fifth Tuesdays" could be used for Print workshops, as could November's TONDIG meeting. Denys Clarke and Mick Dudley expressed an interest in demonstrating mount cutting. Malcolm Hedges commented that several evenings in next season's programme would be of interest to actual and potential print workers.

Helen Mossman agreed to liaise with local Estate Agents "Wood and Picher" about the display of prints there.

Ron Gaisford suggested a "Photo Trail". (See Appendix C)

(d) *Future of one-off workshops such as Knole – [e.g. macro, landscape, architectural, street photography].*

- *Workshops with informal/formal training element*
- *What costs are acceptable per person per event?*
- *How to identify event leaders [club member/external] and overall coordinator?*

After discussion, it was felt that such workshops would be useful and enjoyable although the exact format (formal v. informal) would be determined by attendees' requirements and leaders' preferences. A straw poll showed much interest in such workshops. Ann Paine had offered to act as overall coordinator and people who wished to organise such courses should liaise initially with Ann

Tony Hill felt that the Newcomers' Day had been undercharged and that the workshops being offered should charge more realistic rates as happened at Knole Workshop

(e) *External KCPA Competitions:*

Should we pre-test short-listed Ross Cup prints and Diamond Jubilee PDIs by submitting them to the KCPA Exhibition? If so, should the club pay?

A number of people felt they weren't sure what was required for such competition. It was pointed out that if more people visited the exhibitions and attended the judging sessions, they would gain a clearer insight. Despite a quite lengthy discussion, there was no consensus on the best way forward although the club paying for entries was not favoured.

There were comments that as the KCPA Exhibition had 3 judges and the Ross Cup and Diamond Jubilee were judged by a single judge, the outcome was not likely to be the same.

13 AOB

- 1 Several members expressed concerns over problems with the school sound system and wished that judges/guests would use lapel microphones. The matter would be discussed in Committee
- 2 Muffi Forbes advised that on-line banking would be available for the new season
- 3 John Butler requested that the Committee consider preparing Stewards' Rotas to address the problem of limited numbers of people helping with setting up/taking down. This too would be discussed further in Committee.
- 4 John Lewis asked that the committee consider introducing on-line submission of PDIs rather than via email
- 5 Malcolm Hedges expressed his grave concerns over the future of the club especially regarding the unfilled posts:
 - (i) Someone is needed now to shadow Malcolm as Programme Secretary in the 2017-2018 season and take over completely in 2018-2019 because otherwise there will no programme.
 - (ii) Someone is needed now to take over as Social Secretary. If no one takes on the role, the immediate effect is that there will no refreshments at Thursday meetings. There will also be no Club Dinner or Club Outing.
 - (iii) There had been no vice-chairman for most of this season and when Colin Burgess takes over as Chairman in May 2018, he could be in a similar position.

In summary, not only is the committee very low on numbers with many taking on two or more roles but key positions are unfilled with severe implications for the club's future.

APPENDICES A, B and C FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE

APPENDIX A – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON “GRAIN” by Carole Lewis

In the most recent edition of Grain (# 121), there are 58 pages costing £516 but only 8 adverts with an expected revenue of £315, so there will be a deficit of £201.

I have sent out invoices to all the advertisers and the next stage (in most cases) will be for me to send reminders and phone them up when that doesn't work.

Many people put in a great deal of time to support our club; the amount of work involved is never understood until the task is undertaken.

For me to continue as Editor, I need to find an Administrative Assistant to deal with the entire administration regarding the advertisers (needs polite telephone manner and competence with emails). It's not difficult but it is time-consuming and needs determination.

It involves: asking if they want to advertise again and requesting artwork; ensuring responses are received by the deadline; sending out invoices when Grain is printed and giving copies of invoices and magazines to Marilynne for posting; following up to make sure their payments have been received.

I shall provide comprehensive instructions with examples and any advice needed.

With Grain costing over £1000 per season, the advertising can't cover this anyway. But without it, the club will need to find another way to fund Grain because I'm not willing to continue with this part of the task. I am happy to continue as Editor but it will be without adverts if an assistant can't be found.

APPENDIX B – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON “TONDIG” by Carole Lewis

On Tuesday 25 April 2017 we held a fun challenge on 2 topics:

1) Patterns and 2) Primary colour conversion to monochrome, with a small prize for the best final image in each category.

The winners were: Colin Smith for Patterns and Cathie Agates for Mono Conversions.

Summary:

Although the individual evenings throughout the season attracted relatively small numbers of people, 42 different members attended 1 or more of our meetings, showing that we catered for a variety of interests covering many of the members.

One important person I forgot to mention in my initial report was Marilynne Hill, who provided refreshments on most of our evenings (Muffi Forbes stood in for her when Marilynne was on holiday). Marilynne attends most of TCC's Tuesday Subgroups to keep us all going with drinks and biscuits and deserves many thanks.

APPENDIX C – “PHOTO TRAIL” by Ron Gaisford

How a “Photo Trail” works is that a theme is chosen, shops in the High Street. are asked if they will be kind enough to display a single photo on the agreed theme, the local press is contacted and asked if they will print an article about it and encouraging people to scour the windows in the town to look at the photos. The shopkeepers like it because (a) it doesn't cost them anything, (b) they get a free plug in the local paper and (c) it gets people looking in their windows and may bring in some extra custom. For the club, it won't cost anything as members doing prints must have a large collection of prints that could be reused instead of gathering dust, it may encourage more people to do prints and finally it may interest more people in joining the club and therefore more income. It could be modified to perhaps a changing display in one of the many coffee shops in the town, a friend of mine displays his paintings like this and he manages to sell quite a few.