



**TONBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB**  
**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE 56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**



## 1. Chairs' Opening Remarks

Cathie welcomed everyone to the 56<sup>th</sup> AGM and was pleased to report that the meeting was quorate.

## 2a Apologies for Absence

Barbara Baldock, Terry Day, Jeremy Stock, Caro Shaw, Bill Wheeler, Maureen Heywood, Carmel Yearwood, Michael Maltby, Alan Cork, Mick Dudley, John Hunt, Nicola Bolton, Steve Wickens, and Mandy Verney

## 2b Present

Denys Clarke, Cathie Agates, Philip Smithies, Colin Burgess, Kevin Yates, Marilynne Hill, Liz Turton, Nicola King, Lesley Burnand, Helen Mossman, Pat King, Steve Oakes, Colin Smith, Les Welton, Philip Easom, David Lucy, Bryan Ellis, Jenny Nye, Colin Nye, Tony Hill, David Godfrey, Colin Hurley, Sue Pennicott and Simon Lane

## 3. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Approved unanimously

## 4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Attendance/Membership was discussed at the last AGM – see Section 5 of last year's AGM Draft Minutes. Although membership increased slightly this season, average attendance has dropped significantly since Christmas with some Thursday meetings only seeing attendances of fourteen or fifteen. The season's average is 24 compared with 36 last season. The matter has been discussed numerous times at committee meetings without any firm conclusions being reached. Different opinions were expressed about Zoom vs face-to-face with (amongst other things) some preferring the convenience of Zoom and others preferring the greater opportunities to socialise with face-to-face meetings.

## 5. Reports:

No reports will be read out as they were distributed at the same time as this Agenda.

5.01	<i>Chairs' Report</i>	<i>Denys Clarke and Cathie Agates</i>
5.02	<i>Secretary's Report</i>	<i>Marilynne Hill</i>
5.03	<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	<i>Kevin Yates</i>

Adoption of the TCC Accounts:

Proposer: Kevin Yates on behalf of the Committee      Seconder: Denys Clarke

Approved unanimously

Kevin was pleased that Nicola King would take over the role of Treasurer and that she had already saved the club £350 by acting as unpaid Auditor.

5.04	<i>Internal Competitions Report</i>	<i>Philip Smithies</i>
5.05	<i>External Competition Report</i>	<i>Philip Smithies/Colin Burgess</i>
5.06	<i>New Members' Evening</i>	<i>Not held because of covid restrictions</i>
5.07	<i>Mini-outings</i>	<i>None this season</i>
5.08	<i>Image Discussion Group Report</i>	<i>David Godfrey</i>
5.09	<i>Masterclass Group Report</i>	<i>Philip Smithies</i>
5.10	<i>Distinctions Group Report</i>	<i>Marilynne Hill</i>
5.11	<i>AV Group Report</i>	<i>Philip Smithies</i>
5.12	<i>Social events (e.g. Annual Dinner and Outing)</i>	<i>None held this season</i>
5.13	<i>Grainmakers' Report</i>	<i>Keith Evans</i>
5.14	<i>Webmaster's Report</i>	<i>Philip Smithies</i>
5.15	<i>Publicity Report</i>	<i>John Hunt</i>
5.16	<i>Programme Secretary's Report</i>	<i>Liz Turton</i>
5.17	<i>Archivist's Report</i>	<i>Philip Smithies</i>
5.18	<i>KCPA Report</i>	<i>Alan Cork</i>
5.19	<i>Exhibition Report</i>	<i>Kevin Yates</i>
5.20	<i>Photographer of the Year</i>	<i>Marilynne Hill</i>
5.21	<i>Awards/Trophies</i>	<i>Philip Smithies</i>

## 6 Chairs' Reflections

It has been a difficult couple of years because of covid restrictions and it was hoped that attendance would revert to pre-covid figures. Denys thanked Philip S. and Colin B. for extending their tenure into January to relieve pressure on him and Cathie. He also thanked other members of the committee for their sterling work particular Liz – an exceptional Programme Secretary from 2018 (assisted by Marilynne in recent years) – and Kevin – who had brought finances into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He welcomed new members Nicola (Treasurer) and Lesley (Programme Secretary) to the Committee and urged other members to join.

He noted that nobody was prepared to act as Vice-Chair(s) and commented that the future for 2023-24 onwards looked bleak as there would be no one to chair the Club which made it difficult to see how it could continue.

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

## **7 Election of Officers.**

Co-Chairs:	Cathie Agates	Proposer: David Godfrey	Seconder: Steve Oakes
Co-Chairs:	Denys Clarke	Proposer: Bryan Ellis	Seconder: Cathie Agates
Vice-Chair(s)	VACANCY/VACANCIES		
Secretary:	Marilynne Hill	Proposer: Simon Lane	Seconder: David Godfrey
Treasurer:	Nicola King	Proposer: Sue Pennicott	Seconder: Denys Clarke

## **8 Election of Committee.**

Colin Burgess	Proposer: Les Welton	Seconder: Denys Clarke
Lesley Burnand	Proposer: John Hunt	Seconder: Simon Lane
Philip Smithies	Proposer: John Hunt	Seconder: Sue Pennicott
Jeremy Stock	Proposer: Steve Oakes	Seconder: Bryan Ellis
Bill Wheeler	Proposer: Ken Ash	Seconder: Les Welton

## **9 Election of Auditor 2022-2023.**

Kevin Yates	Proposer: Denys Clarke	Seconder: Cathie Agates
-------------	------------------------	-------------------------

## **Proposals by Outgoing Committee.**

### **10.01**

After lengthy discussion, the proposal on the agenda was withdrawn and replaced by this one suggested by Kevin Yates and formally proposed by Tony Hill and seconded by Philip Smithies which was accepted by a large majority:

*Subscription fees would increase by 10% (rounded up to the nearest pound) across the board in the 2022-2023 season*

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Next season</b>
Adult	£50	£55
Joint (2 at same address)	£80	£88
Junior (under 18)	£5	£6
Student/Jobseeker's Allowance	£15	£17
Full Country Membership	£30	£33
Ordinary Country Membership	£15	£17
Door fees	NONE	NONE

By a large majority, it was agreed that refreshments would not be served next season.

It was pointed out that room rates would be very likely to increase next season even if we moved to a smaller room. It was also noted that judges' and guests' travelling expenses were certain to increase as well

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

None

## **12 AOB**

1 A lengthy discussion took place about how to attract and retain new members and increase attendance at meetings. Amongst the suggestions (which will be discussed further at committee meetings) were more interactive evenings (like "Not a Cat in Hell's Chance), advertising the club in free papers, more use of Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, "know your camera" sessions, incorporating "Masterclasses" into ordinary Thursday meetings, reactivation of the two-group system for competitions, and determining what members wanted as the results of the extensive survey a couple of years ago may be out of date.

David Godfrey, assisted by Tony Hill, undertook to act as New Members' Liaison and will be the first point of contact for a new member (acting on information supplied by the Secretary or Webmaster). Amongst other things, he could find out the particular skills and interests of new members, as well as organising dedicated meetings.

The Committee is looking into the possibilities of moving to another room (such as the Drama Studio) next season which could provide a better atmosphere.

One member offered to investigate alternative venues but it was pointed out that this had happened some years ago with only one of the forty or so examined proving viable. Even if suitable premises were found, it would almost certainly not be realistic to transfer in time for the new season.

2 Colin encouraged everyone to participate in the Exhibition which would take place in October over the two school half-term weekends – setting-up would take place on the first and the exhibition proper would take place on the second. As before, the venue would be at the Royal Tunbridge Wells Arts Centre in The Pantiles Tunbridge Wells. Members would be entitled to submit three prints of their own choosing. Committee members would investigate how to improve the projection of PDIs.