



**TONBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB**  
**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12 May 2016**  
*Prepared by Philip Smithies for issue on 24 May 2016. Updated with corrections on 15 April 2017.*



**1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the club's 50<sup>th</sup> AGM and was pleased to see the relatively high attendance.

**2a. Apologies for Absence**

Jacky Bunyan, John Butler, Jenny Clark, Peter Cope, Peter Ditchett, Denys Clarke, Peter Greenwood, Douglas Hands, Robin Harmsworth, Marilynne Hill, Tony Hill, June Porterfield, Peter Tulloch

**2b Names of attendees**

Cathie Agates, Barbara Baldock, Brian Barkley, Lol Beacham, Trevor Brand, Barry Bone, Clive Brewer, Janet Brewer, Dave Brooker, Richard Brown, Graham Bunyan, Colin Burgess, Alan Cork, Mick Dudley, Keith Evans, Muffi Forbes, Ron Gaisford, Richard Gandon, David Godfrey, Joan Gow, Mike Hart, Malcolm Hedges, Gavin Hoey, Colin Hurley, Penny Lewington, Carole Lewis, John Lewis, Helen Mossman, Ann Paine, Annik Pauwels, Paul Penrith, Nick Ryan, Mike Shave, Philip Smithies, Colin Smith, Sarah Stoneley, Liz Turton, Roger Wates, Les Welton, Brian Whiston and Carmel Yearwood (forty-one in total)

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM held on 7 May 2015**

Approved with one abstention.

**4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous AGM held on 7 May 2015**

Members were reminded of the action which had been taken over matters arising from last year's AGM. Note: numbers refer to Draft Minutes of last year's AGM

- 4.01 A "Who's Who" gallery was set up on the website. Despite several requests, a number of people had not supplied images.
- 4.02 The questionnaire was prepared and the results and conclusions distributed to all members earlier in the season. The issues of (i) why some members attend few if any meetings (ii) how to attract and retain members have been discussed in committee on numerous occasions.  
A4 posters publicising the club and its events were created by Malcolm Hedges and placed in local libraries / camera shops (including Mayfield, Southborough and Tunbridge Wells) by Malcolm, assisted by Joan Gow in Crowborough. The school has advertised our presence in its newsletter to parents. John Hunt has obtained a great deal of publicity for the club. Despite these initiatives and publicity for the Exhibition, only a handful of new members have joined and this increase does not compensate for those who have left. Reasons given for people leaving are family commitments, pressure of work and moving from the area. Other KCPA clubs are reporting similar issues.
- 10.02 The Constitution was amended to reflect the agreed proposals.
- 10.03ff The new Competition rules were introduced in September 2015.

There were no additional comments from the membership.

**5. Reports:**

No reports were read out as they had all been distributed

- 5.01 *Chairman's Report (Philip Smithies)*
- 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                      Seconder: Philip Smithies  
Agreed with one abstention and one against
- 5.04 *Print Secretary's Report (John Butler)*
- 5.05 *PDI Secretary's Report (Ann Paine)*
- 5.06 *Slide Secretary's Report (Malcolm Hedges)*
- 5.07 *External PDI Secretary's Report (John Butler)*
- 5.08 *External Print Secretary's Report (John Butler)*
- 5.09 *External Slide Secretary's Report (No longer required)*
- 5.10 *Image Discussion Group Report (Paul Penrith)*
- 5.11 *Enhancing your Images Group Report (Ann Paine)*  
Graham Bunyan expressed his gratitude for Ann's exceptional running of the group
- 5.12 *Distinctions Group Report (Marilynne Hill)*
- 5.13 *AV Group Report (Philip Smithies)*
- 5.14 *TONDIG Report (Carole and John Lewis)*
- 5.15(a) *Circulating Portfolios PDIs Report (Denys Clarke) No longer running*
- 5.15(b) *Circulating Portfolios Prints Report (Brian Whiston) No longer running*

5.16 *Annual Outing Report (Joan Gow)*

5.17 *Mini Outings (Group no longer running)*

Graham Bunyan said that he was very happy to give guidance and support for anyone who wished to take over these groups. Later on in the meeting, he noted that such outings provided an ideal opportunity to receive one-to-one tuition on photographic techniques and using cameras

5.18 *Social Secretary / Members' Liaison Report (Joan Gow)*

5.19 *Grainmakers' Report (Keith Evans)*

5.20 *Webmaster's Report (Paul Penrith)*

5.21 *Publicity Report (John Hunt)*

5.22 *Grain Editor's Report (Carole Lewis)*

5.23 *Programme Secretary's Report (Malcolm Hedges)*

5.24 *Archivist's Report (Philip Smithies)*

5.25 *KCPA Report (Alan Cork)*

5.26 *Annual Exhibition Report (Alan Cork)*

5.27 *Photographer of the Year (Marilynne Hill)*

## 6 Chairman's Review.

The Chairman explained that he didn't want to repeat what he'd written in his Chairman's Reports or for his article in Grain.

He expressed concerns about attendance and a certain lack of involvement. Although membership was down to 88, he wasn't too worried about that as it fluctuated hugely in the past. For example, in 2002-2003 it reached 98 having been 86 the previous season.

His main concern was attendance which this season averaged 44(≅.50%) Even the biggest and best names attracted disappointingly low numbers e.g. Will Cheung = 52; Gavin Hoey=45. Low attendance is very dispiriting for people who had put a lot of time and effort into organising meetings e.g. only 31 attended MIPS. One third of the members attend less than ten times per season. The President of the KCPA, Alan Lomakin, had told him that disappointing attendance is common throughout Kent.

He drew attention to a certain lack of involvement e.g. the Questionnaire (completed by only eighteen people), mini-outings, annual dinner and sub-groups.

He finished by expressing his grateful thanks to everyone who made such a huge contribution to the club and apologised if he inadvertently missed anyone out.

The Committee:

Alan Cork was a superb Vice-Chairman who had made an exceptional job of organising the Exhibition (with support from many people but especially David Parkinson, Roger Wates, Nick Ryan and Carole and John Lewis)

Muffi Forbes was a commendably efficient treasurer, haven taken on the role in the most difficult of circumstances. (Barry Bone did an excellent job as Auditor.)

Marilynne Hill was an efficient Secretary and had run the Distinctions Group with considerable success.

Malcolm Hedges (supported by Annik Pauwels and Richard Brown) had been an exceptional Programme Secretary with next season's programme having been almost completed several months ago and work well underway on the 2017-2018 season. He also made a superb job of running the Slide Competition

Ann Paine, supported by Dave Brooker, Alan Cork and Richard Brown, had run the PDI competitions and talks extraordinarily well (Ann also ran the EYI Group – see 5.05)

John Butler, supported by Peter Ditchett, for being Print Secretary and organising External competitions; the most notable achievement was TCC winning the Ross Cup for the twentieth time.

Joan Gow for her hard work at Social Secretary which includes organising the Annual Dinner and Annual Outing

Outside the committee there are many others whose contribution is invaluable:

Carole and John Lewis: Grain and Tondig

Keith Evans: Grainmakers

Dave Brooker: in addition to being part of the PDI team, he designs and produces the programme and exhibition booklets as well as various flyers and the presentation certificates and mementoes.

Paul Penrith: maintaining and updating the website and running the ID Group

John Hunt: Publicity – quite exceptional this season.

Liz Turton and Helen Mossman: organising the Trophies and key aspects of the Presentation Evening

Colin Burgess: an announcer par excellence – something which occupies a great deal of time at many meetings.

Everyone who ensured the success of In-House Chambers' and AV Evenings.

## 7 Election of Officers.

|                |                |                          |                           |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairman:      | Alan Cork      | Proposer: Peter Ditchett | Seconder: Colin Smith     |
| Vice-Chairman: | Richard Brown  | Proposer: Peter Ditchett | Seconder: Colin Smith     |
| Secretary:     | Marilynne Hill | Proposer: Peter Ditchett | Seconder: Dave Brooker    |
| Treasurer:     | Muffi Forbes   | Proposer: Peter Ditchett | Seconder: Norman Cochrane |

All elected unanimously

## 8 Election of Committee.

|                 |                           |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joan Gow        | Proposer: Colin Burgess   | Seconder: Carmel Yearwood |
| Malcolm Hedges  | Proposer: Colin Burgess   | Seconder: Sarah Stoneley  |
| John Lewis      | Proposer: Carmel Yearwood | Seconder: Sonia Peek      |
| Ann Paine       | Proposer: Dave Brooker    | Seconder: Colin Burgess   |
| Annik Pauwels   | Proposer: Carmel Yearwood | Seconder: Iain Capie      |
| Colin Smith     | Proposer: Alan Cork       | Seconder: Philip Smithies |
| Philip Smithies | Proposer: Helen Mossman   | Seconder: Liz Turton      |

All elected unanimously

## 9 Election of Auditor.

|            |                           |                        |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Barry Bone | Proposer: Philip Smithies | Seconder: Muffi Forbes |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|

Elected unanimously

## 10 Proposals by Outgoing Committee.

### 10.01 *Proposed Subscriptions and Door Fees for 2016-2017 Season*

Proposer: Muffi Forbes      Seconder: Philip Smithies

The original proposal was that fees and subscriptions would remain unchanged next season.

After a lengthy debate about finances (summarised in Appendix 1), an amendment to the original motion, proposed by Mick Dudley and seconded by Carmel Yearwood, to raise subscription fees to £50 for full members with other member's fees increased pro-rata (or as near as possible) was agreed with 33 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions. Next season's rates will be

| Category                             | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Full Membership                      | £47.00    | £50.00    |
| Joint Membership (2 at same address) | £78.00    | £83.00    |
| Junior (Under 18)                    | £07.50    | £08.00    |
| Full time Student/Unemployed Person  | £17.00    | £18.00    |
| Full Country Membership              | £31.50    | £33.00    |
| Ordinary Country Membership          | £17.00    | £18.00    |
| Door fees:                           | £02.00    | £02.00    |

## 11 Proposals received from Individual Members

### 11.01 *That "Slides" be dropped from TCC competitions with effect from 2016/2017.*

Proposer: Mick Dudley      Seconder: Graham Bunyan

After a lively discussion (see Appendix 2) a vote was taken. 4 were in favour, 23 were against and 7 abstained. The motion was therefore rejected.

## 11 AOB

Helen Mossman queried whether anything could be done about the problems of the inconsistency of sound equipment. The Chairman mentioned that he had raised the matter with the school on numerous occasions – most recently on the previous day. He had been advised that each group in the school used different settings and did not always put the levels back to their original settings. It was agreed that a meeting of all user groups would to be held during the summer to finally resolve this issue. Ron Gaisford added that not all of the microphones had labels and therefore some were on the same channel resulting in a gradual loss of performance.

Colin Hurley felt that in open PDI competitions the amount of time judges spent on individual images was very limited and disappointing for an author who had spent a considerable amount of effort to present a good quality image. The Chairman agreed and pointed out that judges had just over one minute per image but that many, despite constant reminders and prodding, still didn't use their time effectively and often rushed through part two. Malcolm Hedges noted the most judges weren't prepared to preview the entries which would enable them to manage their time more efficiently. Colin Hurley wondered if it would be preferable to have one PDI per person per competition but a straw poll showed no enthusiasm for the idea.

Ron Gaisford suggested a register of people's camera equipment would be useful so that you could speak to people with particular gear to get technical assistance. Alan Cork commented that he had recently spoken to several members of other clubs who had tried to do this for the same reasons but had a very low response to the request. The Chairman pointed out that EXIF information

was often included below images on the website. John Lewis confirmed that he was always prepared to provide help with camera equipment and Carmel Yearwood thanked him for his help on a previous occasion.

Brian Barkley offered a vote of thanks for the Chairman in recognition of his exceptional work over the preceding two years seeing the club through one of its most turbulent periods and putting us in a very strong position for future years. He felt that Philip had been an exemplary chairman.

The meeting finished at 9.20

#### **Appendix 1: Key discussion points made in Item 10.01 as recorded by Alan Cork.**

Annik Pauwels asked what would be the effect of reducing the door fee to £1. Muffi Forbes responded that the extra cost is required to help achieve a balance. 35 meeting x 44 average attendance would represent a loss of £1,540.

Mike Shave asked if door fees were meant to cover any specific costs, such as rent of room and teas or just a general part of the fund. Muffi Forbes pointed out that as a charity, TCC is not a profit-making organisation and funds coming in are not used for a specific purpose. At Hayesbrook, we were paying £30 but are now paying £45 per night for a room – an additional cost to the club. She noted the judges' and guests' costs had increased at a greater rate than in previous years, as had numerous administrative costs.

Richard Gandon proposed that we remove the door fee and just charge a flat fee.

Malcolm Hedges suggested that if we put up the membership fee considerably it would put people off joining at all, especially as there are other clubs in the area whose membership fee would then be more attractive to potential members. He added that we are obliged to put together a programme for a season without knowing the number of members who will join. External costs dictate the cost of these events and so getting the books to balance will always be a challenge. He also pointed out that some members thought the club had lots of money but this was certainly not the case

Barry Bone (Auditor) reiterated that our accounts are based on income vs expenditure, not a profit and loss account otherwise we would be subject to scrutiny by the Income Revenue and potential cost to the club

Ron Gaisford asked if there had been any thought to other means of raising funds? The chairman confirmed that the committee have considered a number of options, one possibility was to reintroduce the raffle, but would be time consuming and not popular with everyone. The idea of charging members to enter competitions had been rejected. We had also considered raising membership fees to cover costs rather than add the cost to the door fee.

Liz Turton said that you cannot get a coffee and tea anywhere for less than £2, so the club, which provides entertainment and education, represents very good value

John Lewis suggested increasing the membership fee to £60 in order to ensure that we have a solid financial future.

Paul Penrith asked if we could foresee any extra costs for the forthcoming season. Alan Cork provided a list of one-off costs borne by the club this year which included new print stands, exhibition panel refurbishment and servicing of the projector. Such costs had both improved the viewing experience of members and helped to ensure that existing equipment remained fully functional for years to come. He did not foresee any substantial costs to the club in the near future, although a higher specification projector will probably be required within the next five years.

Colin Burgess suggested that we have to think about ways to increase membership. He mentioned that his wife was a member of a choir and that they can either paid the full amount up front for a season or every night they attended. He urged all members to do everything they could to recruit new members.

Barry Bone compared TCC with the situation at his sailing club. He suggested that we should increase the membership fee gradually each year rather than create a situation where the fee is increased dramatically after a couple of years which might be adversely viewed by members.

The Chairman asked whether the membership would be in favour of increasing the fee and asked how much they would consider appropriate. Mick Dudley then proposed the amendment as described in 10.01.

In response to a question from Brian Barkley, the Chairman confirmed that honorary members and country members were allowed to vote as agreed at last year's AGM.

## **Appendix 2: Key discussion points made in Item 10.02 as recorded by Alan Cork.**

Mick Dudley presented the case for the proposal. He said that it was clear that very few members enter of whom few appear to be taking/entering new work. He felt that the time taken to set up and show so few entries on busy competition evenings was rarely worth the effort. With the ongoing improvements in digital imaging technology, he believed any slides worthy of submission could be digitised and entered as PDIs.

The Chairman read out a statement by Peter Cope arguing against the proposal which he was saddened to see and felt that the motion was in conflict with the constitution. He argued that slide taking was a real test of a photographer's skill and at the pinnacle of photography

Malcolm Hedges noted that the competitions are self-governing. If there are not enough entries then the competition does not take place. Loss of the opportunity would cause a loss of members. Next season the slides will be presented on the print evening not the PDI competition which should ease the burden on judges and give more time for comments.

Clive Brewer defended the presentation of slides. Firstly, that 10 or more members entered slides last season in Open Competition which is substantially above the minimum. Images must be new to the club not necessarily newly created. Slides have no editing unlike PDIs so you cannot compare them directly. Slide projectors are consistent in their presentation of images, unlike projectors for PDIs. Slide competitions were a strong incentive to come to club and might cause of loss of members if they were removed from competition.

Ron Gaisford asked whether there is a case for having a slide workshop to improve production of slides. Ron has meters and wants to know that they are calibrated. He pointed out that film cameras are available at low prices and film costs only £5 a role. He wondered whether other members should consider taking it up rather than abandon them.

Keith Evans suggested that at least three other clubs that he was aware of welcomed slides and alternative processes were being promoted quite actively. Loss of slides would be regrettable.