



## TONBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB

REPORTS FOR THE 55<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021



Compiled and edited by Philip Smithies

### INTRODUCTION Philip Smithies

At all AGMs until 2013, it was customary for Reports from key club members to be read out during the meeting – something which took an enormous amount of time. In 2014, I started to issue illustrated reports (along with the agenda) before the meeting which had two advantages: (i) the AGM took a much shorter length of time and (ii) people had the advantage of seeing again some of the season's most successful images as well as those of fun events like the Annual Outing.

As usual, my grateful thanks go to everyone who supplies their reports and those whose images are shown at the end.

#### 01 Chairs' Report – Colin Burgess and Philip Smithies

This report is a 'first' for at least two reasons. Not only is it the first time that it has been written by joint Chairs, but it is also the first time that we are reporting on a year in which the Club has not had any physical meetings. We have set a further record by becoming the first-ever club chairs to serve three years (slightly less than three in Philip's case although he is the only Chair ever to have served two non-contiguous terms).

So we begin by commenting on those two aspects. As far as our year of acting in a joint capacity as Chairs is concerned, it has been a great success from our perspective (and hopefully from the Club members' point of view as well!). We have complementary skills. Colin has appreciated Philip's exemplary attention to detail, dedication and commitment whilst Philip has welcomed Colin's willingness to chair our Committee and other meetings and to act as a 'front man' whilst occasionally bringing his diplomatic skills into play! Together we have enjoyed our team effort and will do all that we can to support Cathy and Denys when they take up the baton from December 2021. In our view, joint appointments are definitely a good template for the future. We would also like to thank all those members who have encouraged us when the going has got difficult and our fellow Committee members for their support.

Turning now to the manner in which the Club has been required to meet during the various stages of the pandemic, neither of us ever imagined that our curtailed 2019/20 season would run into a further year in which we had to operate entirely on Zoom in the 'virtual' realm. However, necessity is the mother of invention and those of us who have been able to join in with the online meetings and competitions are now much more experienced, whether we like it or not, in the intricacies of Zoom. The cries of "You're on mute!" have diminished, if not gone away altogether. Whilst we miss seeing our fellow members face to face there have been some advantages to meeting virtually and it's been really helpful to hear positive feedback and helpful suggestions from some of our members.

It's difficult to make any firm predictions, but given the current reduction in infections, easing of lockdown restrictions and progress of the vaccination schedule, we do sincerely hope that we will be able to meet face-to-face next season. The Committee is therefore planning on that basis, recognising that there is a possibility that those plans may have to change should the national guidance dictate. So – assuming that we are able to meet physically once again – we will need help with setting up and putting away, as well as people to sign up for the tea rota (presuming that we will be able to provide refreshments). We would also love to see some new members joining us, as well as getting the opportunity to meet our new members from the current season for the first time in the flesh!

We know that some of our members have been unwell with Covid-19 and we're really glad that they have made a good recovery, albeit with some after-effects. It's been difficult to keep up with everyone's personal situation, but we do hope that you have all kept as safe and well as possible.

With grateful thanks to Liz Turton and Carmel Yearwood, our programme over the past season has been both varied and stimulating. We've also had very positive feedback about the 'lockdown' and 'local' competitions that have been organised and, in a time when it has been difficult or impossible to get out of the house to take images, many members have demonstrated their ingenuity and imagination both around their homes and in their back gardens!

Our main Thursday Programme has once again been enhanced by our Monday Subgroups. With some changes in the leadership of those groups, we are very grateful to David Godfrey, Tony Hill, Dave Brooker and Colin Smith for their input to those groups. Colin Burgess would also like to thank Philip Smithies for his leadership of the AV Group and for running some Enhancing Your Images groups (because otherwise he would go unjustifiably unmentioned!). Another of our members, Alan Cork, also gave a very helpful presentation on Distinctions – so if that has whetted your appetite then do speak to Marilynne Hill who will continue to run the Distinctions Group.

Our experience of using Zoom for Subgroups has shown that it brings some definite advantages for some aspects and, following some very helpful and positive feedback from group attendees (including several who would not otherwise have been able to attend) we will continue to run some of those groups using Zoom. More information is included elsewhere in the AGM papers and reports.

Tonbridge prevailed once again in our annual battle with Orpington. Unfortunately however, last season's victory in the Mersea Island Photographic Society Trophy was not repeated, but we still came a creditable fourth out of 12 clubs. We look forward to the forthcoming three-way battle between Tonbridge, Torbay and Aperture (Woolwich) and this also gives us a good opportunity to reflect upon the very successful informal alliance that we have enjoyed with both those clubs – thanks go to Kevin Yates and Pam Sherren for their part in making that happen and we look forward to it continuing next season. We are still in need of an External Competition Secretary if we are to maintain our wider presence in the Camera Club world.

The paralysis instigated by the pandemic has meant that there has been no annual exhibition or outing. If we are to have either of those events in the post-pandemic world, we will need people to step up and organise them – they certainly do not happen by themselves!

Similarly, whilst we have been prevented from running our programme of mini-outings, we really look forward to a resumption of them. Before lockdown we had seen a good number of members stepping up to organise outings to various locations with photographic promise and we hope that this both sociable and motivating activity will restart, with club members coming forward to organise them.

We have already mentioned (and thanked) some of our Committee Members, namely Marilynne Hill (Secretary), Kevin Yates (Treasurer), Liz Turton (Programme Secretary) but we would also like to thank and acknowledge those who have not yet been mentioned by name: Cathie Agates and Denys Clarke (joint Vice-Chairs), and Colin Hurley and Jeremy Stock (Joint Print Secretaries). Tony Hill and David Godfrey also deserve our sincere thanks for their support and input through the season. Pam Sherren has done a fantastic job of setting up our PhotoEntry System, which has revolutionised and simplified the system for entering images into competitions.

Whilst we have a functioning Committee, there are still a number of significant vacancies, namely Vice-Chair(s) and External Competition Secretary(ies). Kevin Yates has agreed to act as Treasurer for one more season, but we will be looking for a replacement for him in the coming year, and Liz Turton is also looking for someone to take over her role as Programme Secretary in the course of the next season. The club cannot function effectively if these important posts are not filled.

Our membership has declined, from 78 to 63, but we know that some people were not able to join in with the virtual meetings and we hope that many of them will return next season. More information on our virtual 'attendance' figures is given at the end of the reports.

So at the end of a different, but nonetheless photographically stimulating season, it simply remains for us to thank you all for your support and to look forward to seeing you all face to face at the beginning of our new season in September. As we plan to come back together, please help us to help each other by respecting and following all the guidelines that will be in place at that time. Let's greet each other as though we were using a telephoto rather than a macro lens, making sure that we don't over-expose, and that way we will all stay safe to enjoy what we hope will be a much brighter future!

With our best wishes and kind regards,

Colin Burgess and Philip Smithies  
Co-Chairs, Tonbridge Camera Club.

## Statistics for Attendance and Competition Entries

**Table 1 – Average Attendance at Thursday Meetings since 2012-13** (Prepared by Philip Smithies)

Competition / Season	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
PDI Open	32	35	39	46	47	48	52	60	60
Print Open	-----	34	42	44	49	42	52	54	58
Record	-----	24	37	27	22	43	50	50	43
Portrait	-----	-----	34	39	35	44	43	44	49
Natural History	-----	-----	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	49	47	52
Talks	40	34	48	39	44	43	50	57	54
In-house	31	37	42	49	42	43	49	52	42
Average	37	36	41	42	44	44	50	52	53

1 Average attendance has tailed off recently but is slightly up on last season, averaging 37 – despite that fact that membership is down to 63 from 78 last season (and 100 ten years ago). The best attended evening was “Tides and

Tempest” (46); the lowest attendances were for “Improve your Photography through Distinctions” and “Sequence Competition” (28).

41	36	36	41	46	40	41	32	37	34	38	43	36	33	34	41	35	37	28	32	33	28	31
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2 9 members have not been to a single meeting this season; 3 people have only been to 1.

3 Overall membership continues to decline although the absence of physical meetings was certainly a factor this season. We all need to try to recruit additional members if the club is to survive – for example, how can we attract the talent we see on the FB page “Tonbridge Photographic Collective”? Other clubs are also seeing a decline in membership and attendance.

## 02 Secretary’s Report – Marilynne Hill

An even more challenging season than the last one with no meetings being able to take place face-to-face.

Unlike the preceding season, we started the year with a full complement of Officers and the 3 Committee Members named below on the Committee:

### Officers

Joint Chairs	Colin Burgess and Philip Smithies
Joint Vice-Chairs	Cathie Agates and Denys Clarke
Secretary	Marilynne Hill
Treasurer	Kevin Yates

### Committee Members

Member	Steve Oakes
Member	Jeremy Stock
Member	Liz Turton

However, several roles were unfilled at the start of the season, namely Enhancing Your Images Group Leader, Assistant Programme Secretary, External PDI Secretary, External Print Secretary and Exhibition Co-ordinator. Philip Smithies took on the role of Enhancing Your Images Group Leader and more recently I offered to assist Liz by booking the judges for the 2021/2022 season, so I guess I have taken on the role of Assistant Programme Secretary. The other roles remain unfilled which in a normal season could have had serious consequences for the club but as we all know this has not been a normal season. No external print competitions were held, and the Annual Exhibition could not be held either so the fact that these roles were unfilled did not impact the club adversely. Selections were made for external PDI competitions even though there was no External PDI Secretary. Assuming a return to a semblance of normality next season we need these vacancies to be filled; we cannot rely on just ‘muddling through’. More importantly, after December when Cathie and Denys take up their positions as Joint Chairs the role of Vice-Chair will once more be vacant. Also, both Kevin Yates and Liz Turton have indicated that they will be standing down from their respective roles of Treasurer and Programme Secretary at the end of the 2021/2022 season. While the 2022 AGM seems a long way off, if no one comes forward to take on these roles Tonbridge Camera Club will cease to exist, and I am sure no one wants that.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. The use of Zoom has enabled us to book speakers that we would not usually be able to have in person at the club due to the cost of travel and accommodation. Another major success this season has been our collaboration with Torbay and Aperture Woolwich which also meant we were seeing a lot of new speakers drawn from outside our normal catchment area. We intend to continue with this collaboration next season. There have been so many fantastic presentations and talks this season, some of which I have unfortunately missed, and no doubt you will all have your own favourites which may not appear on my list but for me a few of the stand-out talks have been Intentional Camera Movement and Multiple Exposure by Steve Kingsmill, A Little Byte of Barbie by Barbie Lindsay, An Evening with Colin Harrison, It’s All in the Mind - an Introduction to Photopsychology by Ken Scott, Smartphone Photography by Jeanette Lendon and Architectural Photography, in search of the “genius loci” by Iñaki Hernández-Lasa. At the time of writing this report the season is not yet over so hopefully there will be more to come.

At one point it seemed as if there would be no sub-group meetings being held this season but in fact the switch to Zoom proved to be surprisingly easy and successful. The consensus among members, as indicated by their responses to the survey, is that not only is Zoom working well for sub-group meetings but in some instances, when demonstrating techniques for example, it can be as good as or even preferable to face-to-face meetings. Members cited several other benefits to using Zoom so the intention at this point is for the continued use of Zoom for a lot of the sub-group meetings with face-to-face ones when needed.

At the end of last season our membership stood at 79 including 3 Honorary members plus 1 carer. Unfortunately, 17 members failed to renew their membership but throughout the season we gained 5 new members, so our current membership stands at 67 including the 3 Honorary members and 1 carer. As quite a few members said their reason for not renewing was that they did not like Zoom meetings I hope they will re-join next season when we hope to resume face-to-face meetings. We obviously need to address the trend of declining membership so the Committee will continue to make every effort to respond to members’ concerns. If you can suggest ways in which we can improve your experience at the club and/or things we could do better, please let us know.

### 03 Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the TCC Accounts – Kevin Yates

The Club finances are in good shape overall but last year we did have a small deficit (loss) of £286 compared to a surplus (profit) of £106 in the previous year. Nonetheless the Club has total assets of £9,080 with cash on hand and in the bank totalling £6,907.

COVID restrictions have made the year-on-year comparisons interesting to say the least. Revenues are down, subscriptions and door fees, but so too our expenses, judges' fees, exhibition etc. The nett result is that our bottom line this year is similar to that of last. However, from a purely financial prospective I do have one concern that could be masked by the pandemic restrictions and that is a reduction in membership. We have dropped from 78 fee paying members to 63. Let's hope that members return once we can resume face to face meetings.

Although esoteric to many we will, during the course of this year, need to change our accounting software. I have been using a free software package called Wave and it has been excellent. It tracks all expenditure and income from downloaded bank statement and cash payments receipts. Unfortunately, this American company is concentrating on its domestic market so will no longer provide support to Europe. The change will take place in June/July this year.

Finally, if you have any questions regarding the accounts feel free to call me 07803 830906

#### TONBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB

##### BALANCE SHEET

as at 31st March 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible Assets	2,498	2,939
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	0	0
Cash at Bank and in Hand	<u>6,907</u>	<u>6,812</u>
	6,907	6,812
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>325</u> 6,582	<u>385</u> 6,427
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	£ <u>9,080</u>	£ <u>9,366</u>
<b>MEMBERS' CAPITAL</b>		
Balance brought forward	9,366	9,260
Adjustment re capitilisation of old equipment	0	0
Surplus/[-deficit] for the year	<u>-286</u>	<u>106</u>
Balance carried forward	£ <u>9,080</u>	£ <u>9,366</u>

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Approved: K. Yates  
                    Hon Treasurer

The Accounts have been prepared from bank statements, other documents, and information received.

.....  
Prepared by: A.G. Barnes  
                    Accountant

147 Forest Road,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent TN2 5EX

### 04 Internal Competitions (Philip Smithies)

To try to keep spirits up, during the summer we ran three "Lockdown" Competitions: Flower Power (27 participated), At Home (22 participated) and a TCC vs Torbay competition.

Throughout the season, we ran a series of so-called "Local" competitions with 33 members in total submitting images although the average number participating in any particular competition was only 21. Images from "Local" and "Lockdown" competitions can be used in future seasons' "normal" competitions.

The new system for submitting entries – PhotoEntry – has been extraordinarily successful with hardly anyone experiencing problems. It enables entries to be submitted (and changed) until midnight on the Thursday before the competition.

This season, judges have seen and judged all images before the competitions making running them so much easier. The comments have perhaps been much more helpful and considered as a result although the downside may be that there has been a little less spontaneity in some cases. We've used PowerPoint rather than DiCentra and there seems to have been no reduction in visual quality.

It's easy to get disillusioned with judges but always remember that most of them freely admit that there's a lot of subjectivity in judging. Please don't let judges put you off entering competitions because members enjoy seeing your images.

We will continue to use PhotoEntry for ALL competitions (PDI and Prints) as set out in the new rules (which will appear on the website soon) and in the discussion documents sent out by Marilynne on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 (describing PDI procedure) and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (describing Print procedure) and to which no one raised any objections.

If the Exhibition takes place, PhotoEntry will be the obvious way to register/submit entries

I really cannot thank Pam Sherren enough: she set up the PhotoEntry system and continues to give invaluable support. She's probably heartily fed-up with my lengthy phone-calls to her asking for assistance. Fortunately, once you understand the numerous quirks of the software, it is extremely easy to set up competitions and after that's done, they look after themselves!

## **05 External Competition (Philip Smithies)**

The usual KCPA Competitions weren't held this season.

In the absence of anyone prepared to take responsibility for organising TCC's entries into external digital competitions, Colin Burgess and I undertook this role, taking advice from some of the club's more experienced and successful photographers. We tried to include the work of as many photographers as possible.

We beat Orpington in the annual "TCC-Orpington battle" and came 4<sup>th</sup> out of 12 in the MIPS Challenge (Mersea Island Photographic Society). The consensus seems to be that this competition works much better via Zoom and enables those who are interested to join in the meetings of the other participating clubs – although not one Tonbridge member took advantage of this facility. It has been interesting to see how differently the same images fare with different judges – ranges of 12 to 20 are not uncommon.

Is anyone prepared to take on the organisation of External Competitions? Colin and I really do have enough on our plate.

## **06 New Members' Liaison – Philip Smithies**

Unfortunately, because of covid restrictions, we were unable to hold our usual introductory sessions for new members.

## **07 Image Discussion Group Report – David Godfrey**

This year the Image Discussion Evenings were a bit different. As a temporary bridge during Covid lockdown times to keep folks connected and support the program of competitions I agreed to run the Image Discussion Evening meetings via zoom with excellent technology support by Philip Smithies.

All evenings were well supported with folks submitting images prior to the meeting allowing preview and preparation. A wide range of images were submitted during the season including those that went on to do well in competitions to those that we could not quite rescue.

Using zoom did provide the opportunity to demonstrate how to make the suggested changes / improvements so this may have caused some overlap with the objectives of the EYI meetings.

A poll of members provided views as diverse as the images seen during the season with folks liking the use of zoom to demonstrate a before and after view of images plus the convenience of Wi-Fi connection rather than traveling to a meeting but many felt the connectivity of face-to-face meetings and club atmosphere was missing.

Attendance for the six meetings has been 25, 25, 19, 21, 20 and 17.

## **08 Enhancing your Images Group Report – Philip Smithies**

The first three meetings of the season consisted of Zoom workshops covering Adobe Camera Raw (led by Philip Smithies), Adobe Lightroom (led by Colin Smith) and Affinity Photo (led by David Brooker). They were well-attended (16, 16 and 24, respectively) and the feedback was very positive. Disappointingly, although the meetings were recorded, very few people indeed looked at them.

In the fourth meeting, we held a "Repair Shop" session in which David Godfrey, Tony Hill and I demonstrated using Photoshop and Lightroom ways of improving images which had been submitted by members. This also was well-attended

(23 people) and well-received and seemed to offer a promising way forward. However, so few images were offered for March's and April's meetings that both were cancelled. Incidentally, all three of us have given one-to-one tutorials using Zoom.

You will understand why I think the group no longer has a future and will not be included in next season's programme.

## **09 Distinctions Group Report – Marilynne Hill**

Since the 2019/2020 season was curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic no Distinctions Group meetings have been held. The reasons for this were twofold; firstly, attendance at the meetings prior to lockdown were usually quite low and I did not think it would be worthwhile scheduling regular monthly meetings and secondly, I did not think the meetings would work using Zoom. Distinction's meetings rely heavily on the attending members critiquing images robustly and rigorously as applying for a Distinction is fairly costly. However, although I am certain face-to-face meetings will be required, I now think there is a place for some Zoom meetings and the benefits it can bring. For example, if images are sent in advance to the group mentors, they can view them at 100% or greater making it easy to identify and correct those annoying digital artefacts which could be the difference between success and failure. They would also be able to identify and demonstrate potential beneficial changes that could be made.

The aim of the Distinctions Group is to encourage, advise and support members wishing to obtain qualifications or distinctions from national and international photographic organisations. These are principally the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) or the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) but advice can also be given about Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP) and British Photographic Exhibitions (BPE) distinctions.

Since Alan Cork's excellent presentation on 11<sup>th</sup> March there has been a surge of interest among members in gaining a Distinction and I honestly believe that attending the Distinctions group with the ultimate aim of gaining a Distinction can be a route to success. I have observed marked improvements, sometimes quite dramatic, in the quality of images produced by members attending the Distinctions group. This is not just in the standard of photography but in image selection and presentation. Photographers often have a great emotional attachment to images and it can hurt to have them criticised so this group might not appeal to the faint hearted. However having a goal to work towards will make you more focused and help to improve your general level of photography and the support and encouragement of the mentors and other attendees is equally important.

For next season I envisage a mixture of face to face and Zoom meetings. In the past Tony and I have hosted meetings with several members coming round with prints and PDIs and we are happy to do so next season. I am extremely grateful to Cathie Agates as she has kindly volunteered to host meetings at her house in Crowborough as well. A room at the school can also be booked as and when required.

I hope that when our meetings resume that those members who were thinking about trying for a Distinction will return and I would love to see some of our newer members coming along as judging by the standard of the work I have seen from them achieving a Distinction is well within their grasp. I would also encourage everyone who is serious about applying for a Distinction to take advantage of the excellent online mentoring services provided by the RPS and the PAGB. Going for a Distinction is something that anyone in the Club can aim for and actually gaining a Distinction is just the icing on the cake.

Stay safe and keep well.

## **10 AV Group Report – Philip Smithies**

The AV Group is in a very different position to four years ago when attendance averaged 20, 11 people regularly made AVs and we could afford to have guest speakers on a regular basis. This season, attendance has averaged eight.

The group's fortunes have not been helped by the loss of three very active members over the last three years. Also, many club members who used to make AVs no longer do so.

Whilst there is still a demand, I will continue to run a monthly Zoom-based meeting but on the first Monday of the month. Regular attendees are aware that with so few AVs being produced, it is a struggle to keep the group going.

On a more positive note, I organise monthly AV meetings open to all members of KCPA clubs. This has been more successful than I ever could have expected with over thirty attendees and more than enough AVs for every session. Disappointingly, hardly anyone from TCC attends.

It has been confirmed that this season's KCPA-AV Competition will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

## **11 TONDIG Report – Tony Hill**

I found that presenting post processing techniques via zoom was a huge benefit over doing it live. When one thinks about the enormous hassle of taking computers, drives, keyboard and mouse and tablets to a venue and setting it all up to project and collecting it all together afterwards - always a rush and usually something small gets lost...comparing that to the ease of doing it on Zoom (assumes that someone else like Philip has set up the hard bit) means that I won't ever do another live computer demo at a venue. Quite clearly if people want computer demos, we have the ideal vehicle in Zoom in the future.

As a personal opinion, I feel that the benefits of Zoom eclipse any problems that it may present. As just an example of some points:

1. You don't have to travel – less time and hassle involved.
2. You don't have to rush a meal before travelling or wait to eat until the middle of the night. You can eat and drink throughout the presentation.
3. You can leave or do something else if it's rubbish.
4. You can sit comfortably!

Whilst it was easy to present post-processing techniques, I felt that me doing most of the stuff could get a bit boring for people plus there's also the fact that doing a full 2-hour presentation on anything is pretty time-consuming. I would feel better about continuing to do Tondig if some other presenters could be found to give some variance to the syllabus/style and some much-needed respite for a lone presenter. Or perhaps it could be run like an ongoing Chambers' evening with each member doing a full presentation on something once every 7 years.

Attendance so far: 26, 20, 25 and 15

## **12 SUBGROUPS FROM SEPTEMBER 2021 – Philip Smithies**

### **THE BACKGROUND**

In what follows, I have taken into account:

- the recent survey in which I invited attendees' views about the future of subgroups – and in particular whether we should continue with Zoom.
- the views of subgroup leaders as outlined above in the Annual Reports
- the discussion on the way forward which was held on 13th April with (in alphabetical order) Cathie Agates, Colin Burgess, Denys Clarke, David Godfrey, Marilynne Hill, Tony Hill and Philip Smithies

### **PROPOSALS**

We are suggesting for next season:

1. The majority of subgroup meetings will take place with Zoom although there will be occasions when only face-to-face meetings will do.
2. Most meetings will continue to take place on Mondays although there is nothing to stop additional ones taking place on other days.
3. Distinctions Meetings will take place as and when required and probably at the home of Marilynne and/or Cathie.
4. AV Meetings will continue but will meet on the first Monday of the month.
5. ID, led by David Godfrey, will meet on the third Monday of the month as at present.
6. EYI and Tondig will cease to exist and will be replaced by a new subgroup called "Masterclass" which will meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.
7. "Masterclass", probably coordinated by Tony Hill and me (and possibly others) will be topic-led either by subject e.g. Landscape or concept e.g. The Principles of Layers in software.
8. Each meeting will normally consist of one or two topics and will be led by club members (and possibly by invited guests) with expertise in the area. The group leaders will approach different members to invite them to lead the meeting. We would also like to urge individual members to volunteer to lead groups on subjects which interest them.
9. The approach would include (a) a discussion about compositional approaches and camera settings (b) post-processing (c) discussion about and digital enhancement of members' images related to the topic.
10. The emphasis will be on inter-activity rather than sitting through two hours of being talked at.
11. When discussing software, we will concentrate on pointing people in the right direction rather than step-by-step instructions which is increasingly important as so much different software is being used.
12. Those of us who currently offer one-to-one help via Zoom will be more than happy to continue with this. We will compile a list of members who would be willing to do the same. The onus will be on members to submit their images.

### **MINI-OUTINGS**

Mini-outings have proved enormously popular as they provide an opportunity to chat to other members, take photographs and pick up new ideas. In the 2019-2020 season, nearly twenty were organised (although covid meant that some had to be cancelled) organised by nine different people.

We would encourage all of you to organise mini-outings – these can range from the well-prepared (e.g. the visit to Strawberry Hill House) to the very simple (let's meet in Scotney castle car-park at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday) with “spare” Mondays and/or specific “Masterclass” sessions focusing in advance on suggestions/techniques for photography as well as follow-up meetings discussing the images we obtained and post-processing.

The changes outlined above might act as a selling point for potential new members who aren't impressed with the standard camera club diet of speakers and competitions – and we really do need new members as has been noted previously.

### **13 Social Events including Annual dinner, and mini-outings**

N/A this season

### **14 Grainmakers' / Pixelmakers' Report – Keith Evans**

N/A this season although Philip Smithies, sometimes in conjunction with Dave Brooker, has given talks via Zoom to four different clubs.

### **15 Webmaster's Report –Philip Smithies**

My main role continues to be to “populate” the website including keeping the programme and Members' Area updated. As I've said before, each time Wix (our website host) issues new updates, their “improvements” seem to make life much more difficult. There continue to be defects in the templates we use and which Wix promises it will address but which it never does. For example, when you click on “Members' Area”, you are presented with a log-in saying “Guest Area” and the word “Guest” cannot be replaced with the word “Members”. There are numerous other examples of which perhaps the most irritating is that the gallery templates won't accept filenames of 19 or more characters and that most filenames therefore have to be manually entered (copied and pasted) which is very time-consuming. It would be good to have black backgrounds for gallery pages but, alas, this is something that Wix refuses to address. Sadly, I could go on with countless other examples of where Wix seems determined to make life as difficult as possible.

The competition results are complete from 2013/2014 to the end of the 2019/2020 season. I did not include entries for local and lockdown competitions because (i) they're all available on the PhotoEntry site and (ii) they can be reused in future competitions so there's not much point including them twice.

As for next season, I'm in two minds about including competition results on the website. It's time-consuming, very few people look at them and they're available on the PhotoEntry site. Perhaps one of you reading this would like to take over this part of the webmaster's role – or maybe all of it?

Also in the Members' Area is a “Who's Who” Gallery with mug-shots of club members. The majority of members are included although there are still a few people who haven't supplied photographs.

If you have any suggestions for ways in which the website could be improved, please let me know.

### **16 Publicity Report**

N/A this season

### **17 Programme Secretary's Report – Liz Turton**

Here's to a less tumultuous season for 2020/21! This is how I ended my report as Programme Secretary a year ago, little did I know.

Firstly, Carmel Yearwood, having booked the speakers for the season, decided that there were other claims on her time. Many thanks to her for setting up a great programme for this season. A couple of months later Mick Dudley who had taken on booking the judges contracted Covid 19 and was not at all well. Understandably, he handed the task back to me. Fortunately, he made a good recovery.

As lockdown No.1 came to an end it seemed that the club would be able to meet again at the school but as the summer wore on the decision had to be taken to move the programme up to Christmas on-line. Fortunately the majority of judges and speakers, when contacted, agreed to have a go using Zoom. Sadly print competitions were impossible to run but we only had to replace one PDI judge. After a rocky start we, and the judges and speakers, became more proficient. Huge thanks to Philip Smithies who made the smooth running of meetings possible. Without his attention to detail so many things could have gone wrong. There were some advantages. Judges received the images a week in advance and I think their comments were, therefore, more considered.

As Christmas approached, with yet another lockdown looming, it became obvious that we must plan for the whole season to be held via Zoom. Again, thankfully, all the judges and all but one speaker agreed to speak on-line. Zoom has one big advantage, it allows us access to speakers from almost anywhere in the country, or even the world, not just within a

reasonable drive from Tonbridge. So, the speaker who cancelled was easily replaced and I think lots of us enjoyed Jeanette Lendon's presentation on mobile phone photography – I have certainly seen quite a few photographs taken by standing the phone upside down in a puddle since her talk! Other talks which stand out are Tides and Tempests by Rachael Talibart, Wildlife Through the Lens by Tom Way and All In The Mind by Ken Scott.

Another advantage to using Zoom was being able to join on-line talks arranged by Torbay Photographic Society and Aperture Woolwich Photographic Society with whom we partnered and it was good to see their members attending our talks.

Dare I say it again? Here's to a less tumultuous season for 2021/22!

Plans are that we return to meeting once again at the school. The competition judges have kindly been booked by Marilynne Hill. I have booked the speakers and again there is variety including landscape, fashion, street and night photography. To retain the advantage that Zoom gives in terms of choice there will be four talks via Zoom during the season, two before Christmas and two after but otherwise we can all get together again to share the experience live. Here's hoping!

PS. Any volunteers for taking on the role of Programme Secretary? You don't have to do it all yourself.

## **18 Archivist's Report – Philip Smithies**

The physical and electronic archives are as complete as they can be up to and including the 2019/2020 season.

As for the current season, copies of minutes of all committee meetings and the draft minutes of the AGM, the Annual Reports (this document) and the programme have been/will be archived.

### **TCC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book**



In 2016, I prepared the “TCC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book” – a completely updated version of the “TCC Millennium Book”, a club history by Allan Young and Barbara Baldock, which was issued in 2000. The new book included all the original text plus my account of the club's history since 2000 up to 2016, with contributions by some recent ex-chairmen and with dozens of photographs – most never seen before – in its eighty-eight pages.

Perhaps someone will write a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book in 2066.

The book is available in the Members' Area of the Website:

[https://82a0f9e9-e7ea-42ab-85f1-27e638e8f0c1.filesusr.com/ugd/946144\\_bc9acddcc3294a40a486b97d74f92cd2.pdf](https://82a0f9e9-e7ea-42ab-85f1-27e638e8f0c1.filesusr.com/ugd/946144_bc9acddcc3294a40a486b97d74f92cd2.pdf) .

In the Members' Area is plenty of other information about the club's recent history including the AGM minutes and illustrated reports from 2015-2016 to 2020-2021.

See: <https://www.tonbridgecameraclub.org.uk/agm-minutes-annual-reports>

## **19 KCPA REPORT – Alan Cork**

In the course of a normal year, clubs that win or come second in either the print [Ross Cup] or PDI [Diamond Jubilee] competitions hosted by the KCPA would normally represent the Association at the related National Inter-club Championship [print competition held in October, PDI in July]. However, because the PAGB cancelled the Interclub Championships, along with other competitions for 2020-21 the Ross Cup or Diamond Jubilee competitions winners from the 2019-20 season would have been unable to represent the KCPA in the next National Competitions if the KCPA go ahead with competitions again in 2021-22. So, the decision was taken to cancel all KCPA competitions and the Annual Exhibition for the season in the hope that they could resume in the 2021-22. This also meant that the planned PAGB led Distinctions Assessment to be hosted by the KCPA in 2021 was also postponed. It is worth mentioning that the KCPA select images from the Annual Exhibition to put forward to the PAGB Inter-Federation Competition, normally held in June of each year. This provides a pathway for exceptional club images to the judged at a national level and several from the TCC have been selected over the years.

It is sincerely hoped that with the roll-out of the vaccine, and reduction in disease transmission because of the lockdown, normal service will be possible in the 2021-22 season. Nevertheless, the PAGB have been very active developing a mentoring system which prospective applicants for Distinctions are strongly advised to use. Full details of this assistance are provided on the PAGB website and changes announced in the PAGB e-News, which is free to subscribers. In the meantime, the PAGB have now hosted APMs for PDIs and AVs with on-line adjudications and a closed APM for prints is scheduled for May 2021.

As always, I would strongly advise members thinking of submitting images for a PAGB distinction to use the time available to progress their work in readiness for submission. Others considering entering for Distinctions might also like to consider speaking to members of the Tonbridge CC Distinctions Group, led by Marilynne Hill, for feedback on early image selection which can be done remotely.

## 20 Annual Exhibition – Philip Smithies

For the second year running, we were unable to hold the Annual Exhibition.

Unfortunately, the sad fact is that unless someone is prepared to coordinate and organise them, there will be no further exhibitions and the one held in 2019 will have been the last.

It has been suggested that the future Exhibitions, staffed by a reasonably high number of members, might take place on a Saturday (and possibly a Sunday as well) at somewhere other than the castle and nearer to local activity (e.g. the Angel Centre) with two main aims: (i) to show the best of our photography (ii) to recruit new members which is something that the annual exhibitions at the castle have completely failed to do.

## 21 Awards / Trophies – Philip Smithies

With no formal competitions and no exhibition, no awards were made this season.

Last season, we would have made the following awards and it is anticipated that the names of trophy winners will be engraved in due course. We intend to present certificates at the first meeting of the season.

<b>2019/20 TROPHIES and CERTIFICATES: INTERNAL COMPETITIONS</b>		
<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>SUB-GROUP COMPETITIONS</b>	<b>WINNERS 2019-2020</b>
AV	AV TROPHY Gerry Howlett Memorial Trophy	Philip Smithies (09/03/20)
PRINT	ADUR TROPHY (PRINTS) Adur Electronics Trophy	Dave Brooker (27/01/20)
PDI	TONDIG PDI	Tony Hill (27/01/20)
	<b>PORTRAIT / RECORD / NATURAL HISTORY</b>	
PDI	RECORD PDI Tony Warr Record Trophy	Philip Smithies (05/12/19)
PRINT	RECORD PRINT Tonbridge Printers' Trophy	Colin Burgess + Alan Cork + Philip Easom (05/12/19)
PDI	PORTRAIT PDI	Annik Pauwels (19/03/20)
PRINT	PORTRAIT PRINT Goldsmith Cup	CANCELLED (19/03/20)
PDI	NATURAL HISTORY PDI Tony Warr Natural History Trophy	David Godfrey + Bill Wheeler (12/04/20)
PRINT	NATURAL HISTORY PRINT Wendy Jenks Trophy	CANCELLED (12/04/20)
	<b>OPEN COMPETITIONS</b>	
PRINT	PRINT GROUP A The Founder's Cup (WINNER)	David Godfrey (13/02/20)
PRINT	PRINT GROUP A New Glass Trophy for MOST IMPROVED	Dave Brooker (13/02/20)
PRINT	PRINT GROUP A New Glass Trophy for BEST NEW ENTRANT	NOT AWARDED THIS SEASON
PDI	PDI GROUP A The Newman Trophy (WINNER)	Alan Cork (27/02/20)
PDI	PDI GROUP A HAYSDEN TROPHY for MOST IMPROVED	Colin Burgess (27/02/20)
PDI	PDI GROUP A ALLWORK CUP for BEST NEW ENTRANT	Doni Dupriez (27/02/20)
PRINT	SMALL PRINT TROPHY	CANCELLED (19/03/20)
	<b>SEQUENCE / PANEL COMPETITIONS</b>	
PDI	PDI SEQUENCE	Philip Smithies (09/04/20)
PRINT	PRINT PANEL Norman Denman Cup	CANCELLED (09/04/20)
	<b>"... OF THE YEAR" COMPETITIONS</b>	
PDI	PDI OF THE YEAR	NOT AWARDED THIS SEASON
PRINT	PRINT OF THE YEAR: BROTHER UK SHIELD	NOT AWARDED THIS SEASON
	PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR	David Godfrey (12/04/20)

<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>COMPETITION CERTIFICATES</b>	
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
PDI	Annik Pauwels	OUTING PDI: HIGHEST AGGREGATE SCORE (19/09/19)
PDI	Graham Bunyan	OUTING PDI: BEST IMAGE (19/09/19) STAINED GLASS WINDOW ABOVE THE ORGAN BALCONY
PRINT	Dave Brooker	OUTING PRINT: HIGHEST AGGREGATE SCORE (19/09/19)
PRINT	Denys Clarke	OUTING PRINT: BEST IMAGE (19/09/19) REFLECTIONS OF ARUNDEL
PDI	Keith Evans	STRICTLY COME IMAGING - WINNER (09/01/20)

<b>TROPHIES and CERTIFICATES: EXHIBITION AWARDS (2020)</b>		
<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>EXHIBITION</b>	<b>WINNER(S) + TITLE 2019-2020 CURRENT SEASON</b>
PRINT	PRINTS: PREMIER AWARD	Premier Award <i>Mick Dudley: A Tudor Still Room Table</i>
PRINT	PRINTS: BEST LANDSCAPE Frank Coppins Landscape Trophy	Best Landscape <i>Dave Brooker: Haleakala Volcano, Maui, Hawaii</i>
PRINT	PRINTS: BEST NATURAL HISTORY	Best Natural History <i>Dave Godfrey: Backlit Northern Gannet</i>
PRINT	PRINTS: BEST PORTRAIT <b>NEW AWARD</b>	Best Portrait: <i>Annik Pauwels: A Red Lock of Hair</i>
PRINT	PRINT: BEST MONOCHROME Charles Adams Monochrome Cup	Best Monochrome <i>Nick Ryan: Uncompromising</i>
PRINT	PRINTS: BEST CREATIVE	Best Creative <i>Nick Ryan: The Enchanted Valley</i>
PDI	PDI: PREMIER AWARD	Premier Award <i>Pam Sherren: Winter Walk</i>
PDI	PDI: BEST LANDSCAPE	Best Landscape <i>Dave Brooker: Sunrise Youghal Bay, Co. Cork, Ireland</i>
PDI	PDI: BEST NATURAL HISTORY Natural History trophy	Best Natural History <i>Nicola Bolton: Leopard Moving Kill</i>
PDI	PDI: BEST PORTRAIT <b>NEW AWARD</b>	Best Portrait: <i>Annik Pauwels: Stephanie Wears Black</i>
PDI	PDI: BEST MONOCHROME	Best Monochrome <i>Colin Hurley: Taking a Break</i>
PDI	PDI: BEST CREATIVE Ken Cope Creative Trophy	Best Creative <i>Ann Paine: Abandon Ship</i>

**CERTIFICATE ONLY: EXHIBITION AWARDS (28/02/20)**

MEDIUM	NAME	TITLE + AWARD	Highly Commended	Commended
PRINT	John Butler DPAGB APAGB	Caged In		
PDI	Nicola Bolton	Climbing Dune 30		
PDI	Dave Brooker	Surreal Seven Sisters		
PRINT	Colin Burgess	Final Approach Over Farne		
PRINT	Colin Burgess	Well Read Reds		
PDI	Colin Burgess	Fencing Match		
PDI	John Butler DPAGB APAGB	Harvest Mice On Blackberries		
PRINT	Alan Cork LRPS CPAGB	Gannet Stalling in Flight		
PDI	Alan Cork LRPS CPAGB	Gannet Surrounded		
PDI	Alan Cork LRPS CPAGB	Osprey With Catch		
PRINT	Alan Cork LRPS CPAGB	Synchronous Swans		
PRINT	Ray Crowle	Light Show		
PRINT	Mick Dudley	Frosty Romney Marsh		
PDI	Richard Gandon	Old Man At Feux De St John, Arles		
PDI	David Godfrey CPAGB	Arctic Tern Dispute		
PDI	David Godfrey CPAGB	Plop		
PDI	David Godfrey CPAGB	I Want To Be Free		
PRINT	David Godfrey CPAGB	Male Southern Masked Weaver With Completed Nest		
PRINT	David Godfrey CPAGB	Courting Gannets		
PRINT	David Godfrey CPAGB	I Am Almost Human		
PRINT	David Godfrey CPAGB	Unstoppable Force		
PRINT	David Godfrey CPAGB	Last Light Over Edinburgh Castle		
PDI	Tony Hill	Bemused		
PRINT	John Hunt ARPS DPAGB	Determination on the water		
PDI	John Hunt ARPS DPAGB	Avocet Symmetry		
PDI	John Hunt ARPS DPAGB	Juvenile Gannet With Catch		
PRINT	Colin Hurley	Lost in thought		
PDI	Colin Hurley	Shades Of Sweat Pea		
PRINT	Colin Hurley	What are you guarding Man-At- Arms?		
PDI	Annik Pauwels CPAGB	Olivia Amazed		
PRINT	Pam Sherren, EPAGB, EFIAP/p, BPE5*	Through the Gap		
PDI	Pam Sherren, EPAGB, EFIAP/p, BPE5*	Striped Beach Huts		
PDI	Philip Smithies	Lancing College Chapel		
PRINT	Roger Wates	Male Demoiselle Damselfly		
PRINT	Roger Wates	Elizabeth Embroidering		
PRINT	Roger Wates	The Alchemist		
PRINT	Roger Wates	Spitfire FSH3910		
PDI	Roger Wates	Damselflies Mating		
PRINT	Glenn Welch	White Necked Jacobin		

**21 Photographer of the Year Report – Marilynne Hill**

N/A this season.

**21 Images from the season**

A selection of images from the season, in more-or-less alphabetical order by title, are shown on the next few pages.



1947 Jaguar by Robert Stocker



Bayham Abbey by Roger Wates



Best in Show by Sue Pennicott



Blooming by Caro Shaw



Coming in to land by Bill Wheeler



Cornish Coast by Mandy Verney



Cowsic River by Ray Crowle



Down to the Cove by Jeremy Stock



Emerging from the Darkness by David Smeeton



Entertainment in unusual times by Denys Clarke



Fish Supper by Lesley Burnand



Flying Catch by John Hunt



Great Crested Grebe Family by David Godfrey



Golden Gate by Simon Lane



Green Turtle on Reef Edge by Liz Turton



Incense Sticks by Liz Turton



Kingfisher emerging with fish by Glenn Welch



Lake Bled Mist by Pam Sherren



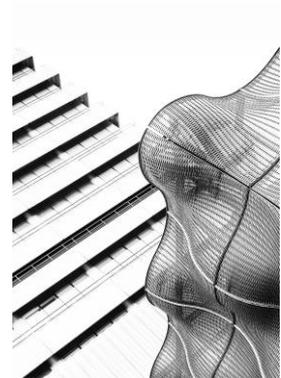
Late Evening Reculver by Philip Easom



Making Faces by Kevin Yates



Morning Light on the Tatra Mountains by Colin Burgess



Organic Design at Guys Hospital by Nicola Bolton



Parliament Building Budapest by Philip Smithies



Red Hot Merc by Paul Fletcher



Pier or bust by David Lucy



Pipe Dream by Tony Hill



Pure Class by Jim Verona



Safra with Pearls by John Watson



Sea Battered Groynes by Bryan Ellis



Splashcicles by Nicola King



Stairs by Colin Hurley



Stationary by Geoff Wheddon



Sunrise over Orkney by Colin Smith



The Caterham's Smooth Speed by Matt Bradbury



The Church in the Marsh by Steve Oakes



The Lighthouse by Sue Dall



Wing Walkers by Penny Skoyles



Woodland (ICM) by Maureen Heywood