



## Minutes of the Newton Abbot Photographic Club

Annual General Meeting held at the Courtenay Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

### **Apologies:**

Chris Rose\*; Alan Boothman; Heather Davies; Chris Parker

\*Chris Rose asked that his appreciation of Chris Brown's Chairmanship during the past five years be placed on records. *Chris B has been terrific, precise, knowledgeable and reliable and he will be sorely missed.*

### **Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Proposed by Joanna Humphrey

Seconded by Mike Cowley

All in favour

### **Chairman's Report**

Fortunately this season has escaped the disruption of its immediate predecessors which threatened the livelihood of the Club. We have survived a torrid time and here we are, in good shape. To thank for that are all who have served on the committee at any time during the last few years and, of course, all our members who support the Club's activities through thick and thin.

At this AGM several current committee members will step back from their roles and I want to thank them on my own behalf and on behalf of NAPC for all their sterling work and enthusiasm. Alan Boothman has been President for the last five years, as well as our Competition Secretary for more than fifteen. His experience and organisational ability in both roles will be missed. Gordon Aspland has been another committee stalwart, most recently as Programme Secretary, working typically hard to create interesting programmes of indoor meetings, including for next season. Carol Smart has made the role of Members' Secretary her own. She has been the first point of contact for prospective new Club members and has looked after the interests of all members while representing them on the committee. She has also managed communications to all members and run the Club's website and social media presence.

Heather Davies has been tenacious in seeking publicity opportunities, achieving regular cover of our activities in the local press. Heather has also created and published the NAPC Handbook each year, including securing advertisers, the revenue from whom helps make the Handbook a profitable enterprise. I am pleased to report that Heather's offer to complete the 2023-24 Handbook for us has been readily accepted.

Let us not forget those who are standing for re-election to the committee and who, if elected, will continue to drive the Club forward. Chris Marsham, as Vice-Chairman, has provided valuable support to me and the rest of NAPC in a variety of ways. He is always willing to help and also acts as our WCPF Representative.

Pete Browning, as Treasurer, keeps a watchful eye on the Club's finances and reports to the rest of the committee essential information on the state of the Club's income and expenditure. Prompt and efficient payments continue to be made to suppliers, judges and guest speakers which helps maintain our reputation as an efficient organisation within the wider community. Kirsty Peake, having assumed the Programme Host role last year, added to that the job of Club Secretary and has carried out the combined responsibility admirably, keeping the administration of the Club's affairs running smoothly. Meanwhile, Dave Geeves moved to the new role of Tech Team Leader and assisted by Sheridan, has clearly demonstrated that management of the technical aspects of our activities is in safe hands. Mike Cowley took over the mantle of Locations Group Co-ordinator a year ago and quickly devised a programme of outdoor photoshoots which have proved varied, interesting and popular with all participants. A fresh programme is already in preparation. Kevin Bennett has been an equally valuable new committee member, as will be David Knowles who responded to my appeal and volunteered to re-join the committee..

Finally, special thanks to non-committee members: Joanna Humphrey, who has continued to look after the refreshments at our weekly meetings, Geoff Mullinger who every Tuesday ensures the room is correctly set up for whatever meeting is due to take place, Sheridan James, previously mentioned, who assists with setting up, running and dismantling the technical equipment on which we depend and all those unsung heroes who help out with whatever they can.

After a busy five years as NAPC chairman, I too am stepping down at this meeting. I have enjoyed that position but it is now someone else's turn to have a go. Thank you all for your support and friendship and for making Newton Abbot Photographic Club a pleasant place to belong.

### **Secretary's Report**

I volunteered to add this role to my already existing one within the Club. This year has run smoothly. The Courtenay Centre has been very flexible with our changing rooms. As I look towards next season the CC has moved to an online booking service and I still await instructions on how to use it.

My thanks to all the support I have had from the Committee during this year, especially Chris Brown. He has been an exceptional Chairman and I am delighted that his guiding hand will still be with us in his new role as President.

## Treasurer's Report

### Newton Abbot Photographic Club

Financial Report 1 Apr 22 to 31 Mar 23

Balance Sheet	1-Apr-22	31 Mar 23	Increase	Bank Balance
Barclay's Current	7,721.70	7,048.96	-672.74	7,048.96
Cash	0.00	5.52	5.52	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,721.70</b>	<b>7,054.48</b>	<b>-667.22</b>	

Income & Expenditure	FY21/22	FY22/23	Increase	%
<b>Income</b>				
Raffles & Refreshment Sales	0.00	291.38	291.38	44%
Sponsorship	965.00	310.00	-655.00	32%
Subscriptions	1,870.00	1,770.00	-100.00	106%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,835.00</b>	<b>2,371.38</b>	<b>-463.62</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Competition Judges	-153.90	-221.00	-67.10	100%
Donations & Gifts (Auditor)	0.00	-20.00	-20.00	40%
Equipment & Public Liability				
Insurance	-163.46	-294.65	-131.19	284%
Equipment Repairs & Renewals	-35.78	0.00	35.78	0%
External Competitions	-20.00	-30.00	-10.00	300%
Printing, Postage, Stationary & Engraving	-102.26	-137.01	-34.75	353%
Raffle & Refreshment Expenses	-8.93	-35.28	-26.35	21%
Speakers	-621.00	-550.00	71.00	95%
Travel & Hospitality	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
Venue Costs & Zoom	-1,193.88	-1,601.38	-407.50	104%
WCPF Fees & Insurance	-15.60	-71.60	-56.00	77%
Website & Computer Costs	-89.97	-42.00	47.97	108%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>-2,404.78</b>	<b>-3,002.92</b>	<b>-598.14</b>	<b>106%</b>
<b>Surplus Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>430.22</b>	<b>-631.54</b>	<b>-1,061.76</b>	<b>-140%</b>
Equipment Purchases	-1,172.61	-35.68	1,136.93	3240%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-742.39</b>	<b>-667.22</b>	<b>38.99</b>	<b>92%</b>

## Financial Forecast 1 Apr 23 to 31 Mar 24

<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Forecast</b>	<b>FY23/24</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Raffles & Refreshment Sales	660.00
Sponsorship	310.00
Subscriptions	1,770.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,740.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Competition Judges	-174.10
Donations & Gifts (Auditor)	-50.00
Equipment & Public Liability	
Insurance	-103.89
Equipment Repairs & Renewals	0.00
External Competitions	-10.00
Printing, Postage, Stationary &	
Engraving	-38.86
Raffle & Refreshment Expenses	-165.00
Speakers	-680.75
Travel & Hospitality	0.00
	-
Venue Costs & Zoom	1,306.38
WCPF Fees & Insurance	-93.21
Website & Computer Costs	-38.99
	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,661.18</b>
<b>Surplus Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>78.82</b>
Equipment Purchases	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>78.82</b>

Chris Marsham Proposed the acceptance of the accounts and Joanna Humphrey seconded this.  
All in favour

### Competition Secretary's Report

After more than 15 years in the post of Competition Secretary, this is now my last report on the competition activities of the Newton Abbot Photographic Club.

There has been some recovery, this season, in the number of members who support competitions, rising to 25 from last year's low of 19, and surpassing the 23 members on Zoom during the Covid period. Average images have now risen to 49 PDI and 44 Prints per month. This still gives judges plenty of time for critique, but another 20% increase would be easy to accommodate.

Entries to Images of the Year were also up, giving a wide selection of member successes in the three categories. The full table of winners from the monthly competitions will be revealed at the Club dinner on May 2nd when the engraved cup will also be handed to the winner of **Photographer of the Year 2023**.

### External Competitions

Our External Competition performances in the PDI Challenge Shield at Plymouth, the SDPL PDI round at Exmouth, and both PDI and Print competitions at WCPF (DPIC) were all below our normal standard this year, so it was a welcome surprise to end the season with a win in the Paul Stevens Trophy at Torbay and second place in the SDPL Print round at Dawlish.

### Special Thanks

I first want to express my thanks to the group of selectors who have assisted me for many years. Gordon, Chris Marsham, and Christina have always been available, often at short notice, to make choices on our image entries from the thousands of images submitted to monthly competitions. This is not an easy task, requiring some four mornings per season, but has fortunately become easier with the advent of Zoom.

Next, Sheridan has provided a very welcome relief from my past setup duties, and this has got even better with the involvement of Dave Geeves on PDI DiCentra projection.

Finally, there is Geoff Mullinger, who continues to arrive early on Tuesday's and magic up the seating arrangements we all have grown to expect to see when we arrive.

### **Programme Secretary's Report**

This year has gone surprisingly well with no cancellations of speakers or no shows from judges as we have had in previous years. I have been particularly pleased with the support members gave for the Monthly Challenges with full evening turnouts of work. This I think led to a very good Master Photographer competition. I would particularly like to thank Kirsty, our programme hostess who made it all happen and allowed me to concentrate on developing a new programme for next year.

Next years programme is nearly completed. I have booked eight outside speakers and two in house speakers. This includes Andrew Cooper, the nationally acclaimed natural History film maker who used to work with Sir David Attenborough. He has made his home in South Devon and I was lucky to meet him last year. Three of the speakers will be by zoom and I am recommending that we all zoom those evenings and encourage members to invite friends to join in, it could be a good recruitment exercise. For example, Teignbridge U3A has two photographic groups totalling 25 members and I would like them to be invited on those nights.

It concerns me that nobody has stepped forward yet to take over from me next Autumn in order to start work on the 2024-25 programme. This could be by a small sub-committee and I'll be around for the first year to help and advise.

### **Programme Host's Report**

The system for this is now running smoothly. Gordon and I have worked well together this season in getting this year's programme ready for me to manage. During the summer I will set up the spreadsheet for next season.

I would like to thank Gordon for his support and acceptance of my help in running the programme. Gordon has set us up well for the next season. I would be wrong if I didn't mention my grave concern over the fact that we have no Programme Secretary or alternative to set up the 24/25 season, the planning of which will need to start in September. I have made it quite plain that I will not take this on by default. The Programme needs a Secretary and a Host as it is extremely challenging to be involved in running a current programme as well as planning the next year's.

### **Members' Secretary Report**

After approximately 10 years I will be standing down from the Committee. I have met with Kevin to familiarise him with updating the Website and administration of the Members' Secretary role.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is 41, 37 Paid, 4 Honorary, with a couple of potential new Members for September.

Numbers present at meetings for this season, has averaged at 21 per evening. The most attendance was 28, for a Speaker evening. In comparison, the season prior to Covid lockdown, we had 53 Members, and the average attendance per evening was 30.

5 Members, 3 of which are honorary members, haven't attended at all this Season, but one has been active throughout, entering competitions and attending outings. So it's good to know that a non-attending member can still be an active member.

### **FACEBOOK GROUP**

There are 58 Members, including Full members. It's good to see that a few Members have put things of interest onto the group. Unfortunately, I have been unable to keep updating lately, so the more input from Members will make it more interesting.

Good luck to Kevin and the Committee for the next season.

### **Publicity Officer's Report**

**WEB SITE** - I have been working with Carol to make sure that the website is kept up to date with club activities, and general club promotion.

**FACEBOOK** – the members Facebook is kept up to date. Members can make contributions about photography – visits to Locations Group photo shoots, different places where they have taken interesting photos, asking for help with camera gear or post processing software.

**MEMBERS' HANDBOOK** – this was produced and printed in time for the start of the season last September, and preparation for the publication for next season will start shortly. The sponsors/advertisers all seem keen to continue with us which is good news and gives us a profit after production costs.

**PRESS RELEASES** – these continue to be sent at regular intervals and we have had good coverage in the Mid Devon Advertiser.

## Location Group Report

Historically, Locations Group outings occurred during the club active season, September to May. However, in response to demand from Group members, this year's programme started in June. There have been eleven outings to date, therefore, with one more to come to complete the year's programme. Joanna has kindly agreed to lead this one as I shall be away on holiday.

Subject to confirmation of demand, it is intended to continue a twelve month programme in the upcoming season. Ideas for possible outings have been circulated to members for comment and additions and the programme will be populated over the next few months, hopefully again mapping onto the Master Photographer themes.

The first nine outings featured in Joanna's excellent AV presentation which included over four hundred images from the outings that had occurred before the presentation was shown to members on 11 April.

## Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2023/24

President	Chris Brown	P: Carol Smart	Sec: Mike Cowley
Chairman	Vacant		
Vice Chairman	Chris Marsham	P: Kevin Bennett	Sec: Chris Brown
Club Secretary & Programme Host	Kirsty Peake	P: D. Knowles	Sec: Chris Marsham
Treasurer	Pete Browning	P: Dave Geeves	Sec: Kirsty Peake
Programme Sec.	Vacant		
Pub Officer & Members' Sec	Kevin Bennett	P: Kirsty Peake	Sec: Mike Cowley
Comp Sec & Tech Leader	Dave Geeves	P: Kevin Bennett	Sec: Chris Brown
Location Group Co-ordinator	Mike Cowley	P: Kirsty Peake	Sec: David Knowles
Programme Team Member	David Knowles	P: Mike Cowley	Sec: Chris Brown

It was proposed that this Committee be voted on enbloc.

Proposer     Joanna Humphrey  
Seconded    Christina Burton

## Membership Subscriptions

In view of the very healthy state of the Club's finances, the current cost of living challenges it was decided to retain the current subscription levels.

## Master Photographer 2023-24 Themes

The themes for next year's Master Photographer competition will be:

Transport  
Water  
Long Exposure  
Day on the Coast

Chris M pointed out that the theme for the Kingshayes Trophy is Water. Entries will have to be in by February and results announced by the WCPF at the Bovey Tracey Golf Course in March 2024.

### **Recruitment**

Gordon A has said that he will continue to run his New Members' Group. This is also open to all members who may want some advice regarding a photograph. These evenings are normally once a month on a Monday between 7 and 8pm via Zoom.

There was a general discussion about encouraging new members to the club. The Committee had discussed a celebration of 80 years of the club (1942 – 2022) and KB had explored the possibility of using the Library but that was not cost effective.

Newton's Place was also discussed but it has a poor footfall because of its position. GA said it was £100 per day and hard work to set up.

Bovey Tracey Golf Club was also mentioned but again the question of footfall raised concerns.

Carol said that an event held by the club at the TAAG (Teignmouth Arts Action Group) had been a success.

Christina mentioned that there were empty shops in the centre of Newton Abbot. From that developed a suggestion of a Photographic Trail in Newton Abbot where people could vote for their favourite print and a prize of the print of their choice. Library was again mentioned as it does attract young people. Perhaps setting up a slide show in the Library. Pubs were also mentioned.

The new committee would start again to explore ways of attracting new members.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The meeting ended at 20.25 and there had been 22 members present.