



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Newton Abbot Photographic Club
Held at the Courtenay Centre, Newton Abbot
On 29th April 2025 at 1930 hrs**

1. Apologies

Gordon Aspland

2. Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on 30th April 2024

Proposed by Kevin Bennett Seconded by Maria Selley – all in favour

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

The 2024/25 season has been an interesting one:

We seem to have lost some well-established members and to have gained some keen new ones. Our membership numbers have remained at around the mid thirties, and our attendance seems to average 24 (usually plus a dog!)

Our speakers have covered a diverse range of topics: flowers, Madagascar, street photography, food and event photography, and taking everyday stuff and making it into photographic works of art. My highlight by far was the hugely talented and entertaining Jack Boskett, who brought to us Railways to Royalty.

During our internal competitions we've had some interesting judgements passed down to us from a variety of judges: I shall not single out anyone for praise or criticism – remember that it's largely down to personal taste. Despite some of the judges' comments (or lack, of) in my opinion the winners of these competitions were highly deserving of their accolades.

I don't want to pre-empt the report from our external competitions secretary, Alan, but we didn't fair too well in our inter-club competitions. Some of this may be down to a lack of printed images from which to choose, or it might be because other clubs entered better images. Again, it's all down to personal preference – although I'm still bemused by one winning image involving the moon and a short piece of string.

It was hoped that our pop-up exhibitions involving the four local schools would encourage some people to join us, but this has not been the case. Several of the committee invested a lot of time and effort into making this work: the evenings were successful in as far as they were well attended and the schools were over the moon

with them. For this year's event we introduced feedback forms on which we asked if attendees were interested in joining the club: 15 said yes, 14 provided email contact details and were sent an introductory offer that equated to a discount – no one took it up. There may well be a future exhibition involving the schools, but the onus may well be upon them to provide the exhibition space on their premises, and NAPC's effort may be reduced.

Looking towards the next season, then, the committee has agreed that we must do something to encourage people to join, and to assist new members. As we will discuss shortly, the programme will be slightly different in the new season, in the hope that we can be more inclusive of newer or less experienced members. Hopefully, if we can show that we are here to help (and not just compete) we may improve our retention of members and encourage people to join us.

Sadly, we are losing a highly valued member – Mike Cowley. Mike has organised the Locations Group very efficiently and has been a highly enthusiastic member of the club and committee. He will shortly be leaving the beauty of South Devon for the startlingly different landscape of Lancashire – and Preston Marina. **I'd like to offer a vote of thanks for all of Mike's efforts: he will be greatly missed.** This was echoed by all the members present.

We're also losing our external competitions guru, Alan Boothman, although he will remain a member and will still run the AV Group. For many years, Alan has been involved in selecting images for inter-club comps, representing NAPC at external events, and staying on top of the calendar of such events. It was only when Alan announced he was standing down and offered the committee a resume of what was involved that I realised that his effort has been nothing short of magnificent. A successor is lined up – Chris Marsham, subject to a vote by the membership – but we could really do with someone to shadow the role in the next year or two to take *his* place. **So, I offer a vote of thanks to Alan for all his efforts over many years – he'll be a tough act to follow.** This was echoed by all the members present.

I've said enough, so it just remains for me to wish you all a lovely summer, and offer my thanks for all your efforts and participation in club activities.

Kevin Bennett
NAPC Chair
29/04/2025

5. Treasurer's Report

NEWTON ABBOT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25	31.3.24
INCOME		
Subscriptions	1,755.00	1,612.50
Refreshments & Raffles	367.87	274.30
Sponsorship	<u>470.00</u>	<u>310.00</u>
	2,592.87	2,196.80
EXPENDITURE		
Rent/Zoom	1,160.27	1,685.13
Speakers	505.00	430.79
Judges	119.60	222.80
Printing, Postage, Stationery and Engraving	200.60	140.00
Advertising	97.09	388.80
Equipment/Public Liability Insurance	99.44	99.44
WCPF Subs & Insurance	73.10	96.20
External Competition Entries, Salon etc.	25.00	
Website and Computer costs	105.60	55.20
Kitchen & raffle expenses	53.46	161.88
Donations and gifts	<u>77.95</u>	<u>20.00</u>
	2,517.11	3,300.24
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over expenditure for year	<u><u>75.76</u></u>	<u><u>(1,103.44)</u></u>

	31.3.25	31.3.24
Reserve Account		
Surplus brought forward	5,951.04	7,054.48
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	75.76	(1,103.44)
Expenditure on Equipment	<u>(7.50)</u>	
	<u><u>6,019.30</u></u>	<u><u>5,951.04</u></u>
Represented By		
Barclays Bank Current Account	5,916.16	5,946.91
Cash in Hand	<u>103.14</u>	<u>4.13</u>
	<u><u>6,019.30</u></u>	<u><u>5,951.04</u></u>

I have examined the books and records of the club and consider the above to be a true and fair view of the club's affairs as at 31 March 2025

L.S.Bond

L.S. Bond

17/4/25

A suggestion was made to consider investing some of the funds into either an annual or 6 monthly investment bond or similar. The Treasurer to look into this.

There was confusion about 'Rent/Zoom' item under Expenditure. This was clarified to mean Courtenay Centre Rent and Zoom costs and not just Zoom costs.

6. Secretary's/Programme Host Report

On the admin side everything went smoothly this season. We have had a few up and downs with the Courtenay Centre but feel our relationship with them is on solid ground. The movement of the display boards from the locked cupboard to the corridor near a fire exit is only temporary and arrangements are being made to return them to another locked cupboard in the main Hall. We will have no access to the Hall next season due to it being booked by a dance school. They have been told that on occasion we will be in for chairs and the display boards.

I feel I can breathe again having coming to the end of this season. I look forward to reverting back to my role as Programme Host now that Maria has taken on the role of Programme Secretary. Just one speaker was a disappointment despite having a fascinating subject. One bereavement and one illness saw us minus two judges at short notice. It worked with one as they sent in their written critique. Not so much with the other as it was just scores as they fell ill literally at the last moment.

Despite my saying I would not carry on next season I have decided to stay on for one more year only and that's definite.

7. Internal Competition Secretary's Report

Now that all competitions are completed, it's time to reflect on how the season went.

A total of 24 members have entered the competitions, with the last digital comp. having the largest number of entries at 66. 20 members have received some level of award in at least one competition which seems to me to be a good spread.

Unfortunately, on two occasions this season, our external judge has been unable to attend in person, for perfectly understandable reasons. The first of these was able to provide us with scores and critique before the event; the second (Master Photographer), just scores without critique or reasons behind her scoring. Given that part of the rationale for competitions is that they provide constructive feedback for improvement, this does raise the question of whether this was of value.

It was noticeable that there were a number of members who failed to remember the specific rules around the Master Photographer competition, particularly regarding age of the image. Also, our themes are not always transparent to the external judge and can lead to a different interpretation to that of club members! It has been discussed at committee whether this particular competition should be re-configured or retired, with the recommendation that we retire it.

It has been noted that participation in the Appreciation Evenings has been strong with many more members submitting work and talking through their images, possibly encouraged to do so without there being a competitive edge.

Finally, my thanks go to Kevin and Kirsty for stepping in to manage the laptop etc. when I have been unable to attend, and also to Peter Brooks for offering to train up to support the competition role.

8. External Competition Secretary's Report

External Competition Results

After a very successful 2023/4 season, where we won all the competitions against local clubs, we have had mixed external competition results in 2024/5.

A narrow defeat to Plymouth in the four club DPI Challenge Shield, hosted by us, was followed by last place in the four club South Devon Photographic League Print Round. We were nearly half way down in the 48 club list for DPI at WCPF, where the only "questionable" solace is that Exmouth did worse. A better result in the SDPL DPI Round improved our position overall in that League to third, but we slipped again in the three club Paul Stevens Trophy, which was also hosted at NAPC.

Special Thanks

I have now stepped down from the External Competitions role, and 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. Gordon has also taken the weight of collecting, delivering and preparing prints where required.

Dave Geeves is also to be thanked for projecting when we have hosted the competitions, and for sending me the images from our internal competitions to be included in the image base for potential selection.

The Future

I will be preparing a handover package for ongoing use by my successors, with helpful details and some possibly useless history! This will include our future commitments and procedures plus the current image base.

9. Programme Secretary's Report

It has been a challenge putting the programme together for next season, but I have enjoyed putting a varied and practical programme together.

With so many talented photographers in our club, I am hoping the programme for next year will challenge us all. Especially with the practical evenings where we can share all our knowledge, however small with each other.

10. Election of officers and committee members for 2025/26

Joanna Humphrey proposed and Mike Cowley seconded that all existing committee members be re elected. All in favour.

Christina Burton was proposed by Joanna Humphrey and seconded by Brian McClean to join the Committee as Locations Group Coordinator. All in Favour

Clive Figes was proposed by Maria Selley and seconded by Karin Brooks to join the Committee. All in Favour

11. Membership Subscriptions

Proposal One: Proposed by Kevin Bennett and Seconded by Pete Browning that the membership subscriptions remain as they are.

After a discussion a second proposal was made.

Proposal Two: Proposed by Peter Brooks and Seconded by Clive Figes that there be a £5 increase across the board, excluding students.

Proposal One was withdrawn and members voted for Proposal Two. Membership Subscriptions will be increased by £5 across the board, excluding students.

12. Changes to Programme

Appreciation Evenings

Last season we ran Appreciation Evenings with 3 photographs from named topics and 3 Open. This culminated in the Master Photographer Competition.

The Appreciation Evenings were well supported but entries to the Master Photographer did not reflect all the people who had joined in on the Appreciation Evenings.

With our aim now of encouraging all members to participate and learn and, if they want to, feel confident to enter a competition the committee has decided a slight change to the format. Next season we will hold Monthly Challenges with 3 photographs from named topics and 3 Open. All members will be invited to discuss the photographs during the evening. Bearing in mind that each one of us has a different view on life which will be reflected in the feedback. Photographs from Monthly Challenge evenings will be eligible for entry into competitions, should the photographer so wish and be chosen for inter club battles, again should the photographer so wish.

There will be no Master Photographer competition next season.

Selection Sub Committee

It is very difficult nowadays to decide which photograph should be chosen for external competitions. It is sometimes very difficult to see into the minds of judges! Chris M has taken on the role, for the moment, of External Competition Secretary. With his guidance we are inviting members to be part of a floating team of selectors for external competitions. Christina and Gordon are already members of this sub committee and have said they will stay on. This is a great opportunity for members not only to have a say in which photographs get chosen but to expand their knowledge of setting up for a photograph.

External Print Competitions

We haven't done so well in competitions this year and it has been the print side that has let us down. There was a call for more print competitions but we feel that this is not the answer. Not everyone has the facilities to print off photographs or even mount them or even store them. What has been suggested is that when there is a good PDI the photographer is asked if a print can be made. If they do not have the facilities then this will be done for them.

Practical Evenings

Next season we have a good spread of practical evenings. This is a real way of learning from each other. There is one evening where members are going to be asked to choose the topic. Thinking caps on for this one.

Pop Up Exhibition

Over the past two years we have run very successfully the Pop Up Exhibition. Our objective in offering Pop Up Exhibitions was to raise the awareness of the NAPC by making connections with local schools, with the hope of attracting new members.

As I said in my report we don't have access to the Hall during term times any more. The Courtenay Centre offered us the Grey Room for next year's Pop Up but it is not suitable. We will not be running the Pop Up next year but have suggested to the schools that they run one at one of the schools and with our support. We have also offered them static exhibitions in the schools for set periods of time. Finally we are offering them a PDI competition next February. This will either run as one of our inhouse competitions or run as an interclub/school competition. It is up to the schools to decide. This is also dependent on the schools being responsible for the students.

13. Monthly Challenge topics

- a. Black and White
- b. People at Play and Sport
- c. Waves and/or Circles
- d. Equine

14. Date of Next AGM

28th April 2026

Meeting Closed at 2010 hours