

Minutes of Meeting

NAPC Meeting via Zoom on 16th March at 1930.

Present: Chris B, Kevin, Kirsty, Gail, Clive, Christina, Chris M

Apologies: Maria, Pete, Peter, David

Welcome:

Kevin welcomed the committee to the last meeting of the season.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Were approved with all in favour

Matters Arising from Minutes

David Clapp has been booked, more further on.

Pop Up Exhibition

Not as good as CC. Lower attendance due to late advertising. Coombeshead next year. Check with schools re possible change of dates. Clive marked school 'competition' but had no feedback from schools.

Reports:

Treasurer

My forecast for the end of year is that we should have an approx. £500 surplus
See end of Minutes for spreadsheet.

Secretary/Programme Host

On the whole this season has gone well. There was a bit of 'fire fighting' over external competitions and we really need to think about where we are going with this. I am concerned about the 'apathy' within the membership to step up and help keep the club going. As it is we are set for next season but after that it could go either way, in my opinion.

Members' Secretary

Membership now sits at around 42, although a couple of members have barely if ever attended since joining us.

Meetings have been well attended, with 23 – 26 members for many evenings, and a bumper crop of 33 on 18/11/2026 – monthly challenge, waves etc. Less well attended – but enjoyed by those who did attend – were the practical evenings, with 13 – 17 attended. Guest speakers have proven popular, with evenings on the high side of average. Our most recent speaker – Chris Chapman – attracted 23 members and around 20 non-members.

I do wish to hand over this role at the end of the season, as being chair, webmaster and members' sec keeps me rather busier than I'd like to be!

Programme Secretary

Maria did a great job this season but sadly has had to step down. Her programme for the 26/27 season was nearly complete. I have filled in the spaces for speakers and judges. Additionally I have added in 3 'Practical' sessions. That leaves two evenings empty. I stand down from the committee at the end of this season and it would be good to have these two evenings filled before I go as I cannot see anyone at the moment wanting to fill this role or that of Programme Host.

Internal Competition Secretary

All 5 open competitions have now concluded, with just the Image of the Year to go. Across the 5 competitions, the number of members entering has ranged from 12 (print) to 23 (DPI), and it has been good to see some of the newer members entering their work. For those who like numbers, a total of 274 images have been entered. 22 members have received some form of award in at least one competition. The appreciation evenings have also been well supported and seem to be a popular way of sharing images without the pressure of a competition.

External Competition Secretary

First my profuse apologies for getting the selections for the Paul Stevens trophy that were sent to Torbay mixed up such that the same sent to the club were not identical. I have already apologised to Kevin for the mistake and the hassle and embarrassment created. Several possible causes but would probably not have happened if we had actually been selecting the prints rather than via digital copies. This is where a remote selector is not ideal.

That aside, to date the club has done reasonably well in competitions, with some high scores in DPIC. Good luck in the next two.

Since taking on the role as a temporary fill in it has obviously not been easy. It is important that those selecting are active in the Club and are present when images are shown so that they do hear comments from external judges as well as Club members. However there has to be a coordinator – hence the need for an External Comps liaison officer come secretary. But I sense little enthusiasm for the role. I also get the impression that other clubs also struggle.

Without Interclub activities and engagement with WCPF activities, the Club is likely to be working in a vacuum without appreciating the quality and breadth of work of other photographers. Just as external speakers can provide inspiration enjoying the work of neighboring clubs is also worthwhile. Clubs need not be so local and other joint competitions can be held via zoom etc. Thus, I think it would be a pity if NAPC dropped out of such comps due to the lack of a coordinator.

Keeping tabs of all the images members put forward for competitions or as part of their talks (if they would like the club to use such images) is essential – hence the

need for a database. The current database is getting a bit unwieldy. The task of selecting is exacerbated by the need to be cognizant of the different criteria for each external comp and of which images were used when. With this latest round of selections, I was finding it difficult to keep tabs of past use and which PDIs were actually prints or not.

Before handing over the role I will endeavor to tidy up the database and try and make it more user friendly.

The final external comp of the season is the Devon Clubs battle in May. This is due to be hosted by Exeter CC. I do not have a date. In the past NAPC has been quite successful. Requirements are 5 PDI and 5 prints as a panel. If the Club is going to take part then it needs to come up with a panel to impress, which needs coordinating.

Christopher Marsham

Committee Vacancies 26/27 Season

External Competition Secretary

This was the only vacancy discussed. It is a job share but at the end it does come down to one person to hold the database, which is currently not too tidy. Perhaps using just one month's competition awards only which would make it a lot easier. Perhaps it would help if an explanation was given to members of how competitions, external and internal work. Identifying what judges are looking for. KB to post the description that was in the handbook. Prints should be seen not just looked at via Zoom. Various discussions then came off this and were covered in later items. The committee voted in favour of continuing with external competitions. Members to be encouraged to look at this and other vacancies and not feel press ganged.

Programme Secretary

Programme Host

Secretary

Membership Secretary

Role Vacancies and Role Descriptions

KB circulated this and everyone agreed with the descriptions.

Facebook Public Group

EXTERNAL FACEBOOK PAGE

As noted by the Chair in his 'Roles and Responsibilities' document 'publicity' for NAPC is difficult to achieve in the digital age. However, we do have two digital opportunities to promote the club namely, our Website and the External Facebook Page/Group.

Currently, the External Facebook Page is a mess and doesn't reflect positively and/or accurately on the club. The Chair has pre-approved all committee members' (plus Carol) to post on the page. In my view, this has not helped the situation as we get a hotchpotch of posts with no clear theme or objective.

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EXTERNAL FACEBOOK PAGE?

As far as I am aware this has never been discussed.

POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide information about the club to NON-MEMBERS.
2. To publicise/promote the club and its activities.
3. To increase recruitment to the club.

In terms of Objective 3, it has been spectacularly unsuccessful. As far as I am aware we have not attracted a member through the Facebook Page. Kevin and I have both messaged supposed 'members' of that Facebook group encouraging them to become members with no success and only the rarest of replies.

If NAPC still wants to keep the External Facebook Page an outward presence (which it probably should) can I suggest the External Facebook Page should attempt to satisfy objectives 1 & 2 above in order to provide an opportunity for non-NAPC individuals to see what they might be missing in the club and what they might gain from NAPC membership?

WHO SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO POST ON THE EXTERNAL FACEBOOK PAGE

As much of the information in Objective 1& 2 above will duplicate, or link to, information that will be in the public sections of the NAPC website **I propose that it should be curated by the Webmaster (or Deputy Webmaster).**

I would suggest that to give it some uniformity **ALL POSTS must be approved by the Webmaster (or Deputy Webmaster).**

WHAT SHOULD GO ON THE EXTERNAL FACEBOOK PAGE?

The list below is a suggestion of what could/should be posted. The content does not all have to be created by the Webmaster and the creation of specific posts can be delegated to others (suggestions in brackets – possible addition to the role description for those posts?).

1. Preview each upcoming calendar event at the club. (*Programme Secretary*)
This should be Programme Host
2. Post a report on each event. In the case of competitions, show the gold, silver, bronze awarded images and a (positive) word or two about the judges to keep them onside. (*Programme Secretary and Internal Competitions Secretary*) *This should be Programme Host*

3. In the case of Locations Group activities; post previewing the event and a small (max ten) selection of images and a comment on what a wonderful experience it was after the event. (*Locations Group Coordinator*)
4. Report on each interclub competition and outcomes (with a few images) (*External Competitions Secretary*)
5. Regularly encourage people to join and tell them when we meet and that they can come along to a couple of meetings for free etc. (*Webmaster/Membership Secretary*)
6. Such other posts as the Webmaster considers consistent with the 'Look and Feel' and the objectives agreed for the External Facebook Page.

WHAT SHOULD NOT GO ON THE EXTERNAL FACEBOOK PAGE?

I would not allow images from non-NAPC members on the External Facebook Page.

If the site is curated, individuals seeking membership of the Facebook Page can be informed that they will be able to see posts, add comments and share content of the Page on their own Facebook feeds. They will be told that only paid-up NAPC members can post on the page.

As noted previously, Kevin and I have both contacted people who have posted images and none have joined; so why should we be giving them a platform? ***Allowing posts by people who are not members of NAPC and have no relationship with the club makes no sense and detracts from our messaging.***

FINAL THOUGHT

In my view the Facebook Page and the NAPC website are the only effective publicity we can rely upon on a regular basis. In my view, both the External Facebook page and the NAPC website should be curated by the Webmaster to ensure consistent and uniform messaging/promotion of the club. I am aware that this increases the work load of the Webmaster. With this in mind and in order to ensure continuity/security I suggest the Committee should consider creating a role of Deputy Webmaster to spread the load and ensure continuity and consistency.

KB to put together an R&R to circulate to committee and then talk to Carol Smart as to whether or not she would be prepared to be involved.

End of Season Dinner

GB said that Stover is booked and that we would be sitting down for dinner at 7pm.
KB suggested that the number should be increased to 35 - 40

Fees – Annual and Additional

The committee agreed that there would be no increase in membership fees and that this would be stated at the AGM. There would also be a statement covering Special Events which would cost £5.

26/27 Programme

KP had lunch with David Clapp and during that time the conversation turned to photographic clubs. All have the same problems: set number of competitions and speakers and income only from club subscriptions. David has offered to do a workshop/practical evening for us – in fact he offered to do one every two months. We could do more 'professional' practical evenings by asking David to run one, then possibly Kay and another evening with Mark with his lighting plus Clive plus a model. These evenings would be at a cost of £5 per person towards fees.

Members' Equipment Survey

Deferred to next meeting as Peter not at meeting

Appreciation Evenings 26/27

Members would be asked to write down six themes. A vote will be taken at the AGM for the top six. A change of style would be that members could submit, if wanted, one from each theme at each evening. Remove the Open category.

AOB

Chris Rose is no longer able to attend the club but wants to stay a member. He is donating his equipment to members and Chris B is producing a list. Chris R to be told that he will continue as a Special Member for no fee as donating his equipment.

KB to email Mifsuds to thank them for their contribution to the raffle.

Balance Sheet	1-Apr-25	Current	Increase	Bank Balance
Barclay's Current	5,916.16	6,037.07	120.91	6,237.07
Cash	103.14	68.00	-35.14	
Total	6,019.30	6,105.07	85.77	
Income & Expenditure				
	FY24/25	FY25/26	Increase	%
Income				
Raffles & Refreshment Sales	367.87	313.02	-54.85	63%
Sponsorship	470.00	0.00	-470.00	0%
Subscriptions	1,755.00	2,195.10	440.10	100%
Total Income	2,592.87	2,508.12	-84.75	93%
Expenditure				
Competition Judges	-119.60	-151.10	-31.50	65%
Donations & Gifts (Auditor)	-77.95	-157.25	-79.30	315%
Equipment & Public Liability Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
Equipment Repairs & Renewals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
External Competitions	-25.00	-60.00	-35.00	600%
Printing, Postage, Stationary & Engraving	-297.69	-8.00	289.69	21%
Raffle & Refreshment Expenses	-53.46	-106.89	-53.43	86%
Speakers	-505.00	-503.19	1.81	109%
Travel & Hospitality	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
Venue Costs & Zoom	-1,160.27	-1,090.88	69.39	98%
WCPF Fees & Insurance	-172.54	-182.74	-10.20	196%
Website & Computer Costs	-105.60	-131.64	-26.04	338%
Total Expenditure	-2,517.11	-2,391.69	125.42	105%
Surplus Income over Expenditure	75.76	116.43	40.67	28%
Equipment Purchases	-7.50	-18.00	-10.50	0%
Total Income	68.26	98.43	38.99	23%