



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Newton Abbot Photographic Club
Held at the Courtenay Centre, Newton Abbot
On 28th April 2026 at 1930 hrs**

1. Apologies

Clive Figes, Steven Haines, Graham Honeywill, Dave Geeves, Pete Browning, Martin Allen

2. Approval of Minutes of the AGM dated 26th April 2025

Proposed by Kevin Bennett, Seconded by Peter Brooks, all in favour

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report (including Members' Secretary)

For me, the 2025/26 season has been a mixture of success and grave concern.

Success – we have around 42 members, including some new and keen people. We've had a number of inspiring speakers. The ones that stand-out for me are –

- Mark Walker (studio lighting)
- Kay Wilson (insects etc)
- Chris Chapman (Dartmoor – sadly missed by Chris Brown)

Others may differ in their views!

We've also had a healthy number of entries for our internal competitions – especially so for the Image of the Year.

Meetings have been very well attended, often with twenty-seven to thirty attendees. The exception to that was the practical evenings, attracting thirteen to seventeen. More on that later.

We also continued with the Pop-Up exhibition, this time holding it at Newton Abbot College. It was not as well attended as the Courtenay Centre versions, but it was still a success, judging from the feedback on the night. The downside was that it was held on a Tuesday, and our regular club night was split between there and the Courtenay Centre. Perhaps we should consider holding the Pop-Up on a different night.

Grave Concern – We are losing committee members: **Club Secretary, External Comps Sec, Programme Sec** and **Programme Host** being the main ones. For the

past few years some committee members have carried out multiple roles, and to some extent this will carry on. The fact is that without a functioning committee the club cannot exist.

We have had no nominees for the role of External Comps Sec for the next season: without someone in that role we will lose the interaction with other clubs in the area. That is a massive loss, as far as I am concerned.

Whilst we have a full programme set out for the next season – thanks to Maria and Kirsty – we have no nominees for the role of Programme Sec. This means there will be no one to set up the 2027/28 programme. No programme = no club.

The Club Secretary vacancy is also concerning: the Club Secretary is a driving force, keeping on top of meetings and minuting them; kicking the chair person (metaphorically) into action, and keeping things organised.

I think it is safe to say that the out-going role holders are willing to help and advise any incoming committee members, so there will be help and support for anyone stepping up.

We can probably scrape by without the External Comps Sec, but without **Programme & Club Secs we are doomed**. I would hate to be the Chair who oversees the demise of NAPC, eighty-five years after its inception, but it is looking that way.

There is still time – TONIGHT - to step up and help. I appreciate that some members cannot volunteer for health and/or personal reasons, or they already have a busy schedule, but take a moment to consider: if you can help out, please do: we can even consider a job share: a lead (sitting on the committee) and a helper.

We have nomination forms here with us, and we can pause while you get yourself nominated and seconded! Please, please consider the future of the club.

Practical Nights

I mentioned earlier the fact that our practical nights were not very well attended.

These evenings were re-introduced after a survey of members indicated that they were needed. The format for them has been, chiefly, that Maria & Gail went to great lengths to set up a variety of props and work stations and then everyone mucked in to help, advise and learn from each other.

On the whole they seemed to be popular with those who attended, but a general view was that they were of limited use and the format could not be repeated endlessly. Therefore the committee has decided that instead of carrying on that format, we would have guest speakers demonstrating certain aspects of their editing or photographic techniques. These will be in addition to our normal programme of speakers, and therefore attract an additional cost. We will need to charge £5 per attending member per session. Balance this with the fact that there will be no rise of the annual membership fee.

Conclusion

Thank you all for your input this season. I believe that we have some excellent photographers amongst us and many keen learners (and I include myself in the latter category). I just hope the club can survive.

5. Treasurer's Report

NEWTON ABBOT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2026

	31.3.26	31.3.25
INCOME		
Subscriptions	2,195.10	1,755.00
Refreshments & Raffles	402.86	367.87
Sponsorship	<u>0.00</u>	<u>470.00</u>
	2,597.96	2,592.87
EXPENDITURE		
Rent/Zoom	1,240.88	1,160.27
Speakers	522.11	505.00
Judges	231.10	119.60
Printing, Postage, Stationery and Engraving	8.00	200.60
Advertising	0.00	97.09
Equipment/Public Liability Insurance	99.44	99.44
WCPF Subs & Insurance	83.30	73.10
External Competition Entries, Salon etc.	60.00	25.00
Website and Computer costs	131.64	105.60
Kitchen & raffle expenses	124.58	53.46
Donations and gifts	<u>157.25</u>	<u>77.95</u>
	2,658.30	2,517.11
(Deficit)/Surplus of Income over expenditure for year	<u>(60.34)</u>	<u>75.76</u>

	31.3.26	31.3.25
Reserve Account		
Surplus brought forward	6,019.30	5,951.04
(Deficit)/Surplus for year	(60.34)	75.76
Expenditure on Equipment	<u>(18.00)</u>	<u>(7.50)</u>
	<u>5,940.96</u>	<u>6,019.30</u>
Represented By		
Barclays Bank Current Account	5,788.15	5,916.16
Cash in Hand	<u>152.81</u>	<u>103.14</u>
	<u>5,940.96</u>	<u>6,019.30</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 2026

L.S. Bond

L.S. Bond

Two questions were raised on the accounts: (1) Why was there such an increase in Kitchen and Raffle expenses when there were no raffle expenses? (2) What is the reason for the increase in External Competition Entries? These questions will be passed on to the Treasurer as he was unable to attend the AGM.

6. Secretary's/Programme Host Report

No real issues this season. I have booked the Pink Room for the 26/27 season. On the Programme Host side things have, on the whole, gone smoothly. Maria gave an excellent start to the 26/27 bookings and I have completed these. We have a full programme for next season but no one to run it. As a general comment I am concerned about the survival of the Club due to the lack of response to the vacancies now on the committee. This Club cannot run without a Secretary, Programme Secretary and Host and the all important External Competition Co-Ordinator. I do hope that this time next year we are not sitting here winding up the Newton Abbot Photographic Club.

7. Internal Competition Secretary's Report

All 5 open competitions and the Image of the Year competition have now concluded.

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. And 22 members have received some form of award in at least one competition. The total points across the 5 competitions will be given at the annual dinner and the Photographer of the Year announced.

The image of the year was re-designed to include Mono and colour versions for both prints and PDI entries. This was backed up by a new scoring system whereby each member's scoring gave a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place with marks awarded of 3, 2 and 1 point respectively. This worked well, allowing a greater range of totals and ensuring that the winning entries were clear. Thanks go to Peter Brooks for designing this system and creating a spreadsheet to analyse the results.

The appreciation evenings have also been well supported and seem to be a popular way of sharing images without the pressure of a competition.

8. External Competition Secretary's Report

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 neighbouring 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.

At the end of this report Kevin asked Peter Brooks for his input. Peter has agreed to stay on the committee but not as publicity (see later). He is in the process of setting up a data base for External Competitions and has, in reality, taken on half the job.

9. Programme Secretary's Report

I will not be standing for the next season as programme secretary,

It has been an honour, to do 2 x seasons.

It has been an eye opener what goes into running a club alongside the Committee members.

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

Committee members prepared to carry on are Chris Brown, Christina Burton, Gail Banham, Kevin Bennett, Pete Browning, Dave Geeves and Peter Brooks. Gail has volunteered to take on the role of Membership Secretary. It was proposed that they be re elected enbloc. Proposed by Joanna Humphrey and Seconded by Gordon Aspland, all in favour.

There was a further input from Kevin Bennett about the perilous situation the club could be in without External Competition Secretary, Programme Secretary, Club Secretary and Programme Host.

Gordon Aspland volunteered to rejoin the committee as he does not want to see the club fail. It may be that he works with Peter on the External competition side. Kirsty Peake also followed Gordon's decision based on not wanting to see the club fail and reluctantly agreed to stay on as Club Secretary and Programme Host. Nomination forms for both were completed: Gordon proposed by Chris Brown and seconded by Kirsty Peake. Kirsty proposed by Chris Brown and seconded by Joanna Humphrey. There is still a vacancy for Programme Secretary. However the feeling in the room was more positive.

11. Membership Subscriptions

In view of the fact that we are the most expensive club in the area and the current cost of living crisis, the committee had decided that there will be no increase in subscriptions for the 2026/27 season.

12. 26/27 Programme

A description of next season's programme was talked through. The three Special Events evenings were explained. These three tutors will have to spend time to set up what we are looking for. For that reason we will be charging £5 per member to attend. It was suggested that we could invite other clubs to join in at the Special Events. There is a reintroduction of the Club Swap. We are doing this with Exmouth and Dawlish and Teignmouth. Gordon suggested that we take our AV evening to Dawlish and Teignmouth.

13. Appreciation Evening topics

This to be renamed *Themed Monthly Challenge* (see next topic)

Mono

Slow Shutter Speed

People Working (in or outdoors)

Architecture

14. Reintroduction of Master Photographer

Gordon explained that he had been disappointed when the Master Photographer had been dropped at last year's AGM. He explained that we are the only club without a themed competition. The purpose was to listen to critiques > improve > Master Photographer. He suggested we could do this on the 16th March 2027. Peter Brooks referred the meeting back to the survey. The word critique was felt to be too strong and appreciation too soft. The evenings were to be a challenge event and just for the topic of the theme, no open entries, and up to a maximum of 6 photographs per member. It was felt that two to three more experienced photographers talked the evenings through and encouraging comments from the members. Currently there is a tendency to be too polite! Comments such as 'that's nice' are not really constructive. It was felt that the title Master Photographer was inappropriate and might put some members off from entering. To be renamed Themed Monthly Challenge Competition. R&Rs for this will be discussed at the first committee meeting of the new committee. It was suggested that as long as an image met the requirements of one of the themes it did not have to be entered into a Monthly Themed Challenge.

The Themed Monthly Challenges would lead to the Themed Monthly Challenge Competition on 16th March 2027.

15. What is the Objective of the External Facebook Page

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 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 Host and Internal Competitions Secretary*)
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.

Following this paper produced by Peter Brooks there was a discussion about the public Fb page. With no new members generated from it and some dubious characters found on it, it was time for a rethink.

The public page has to be more disciplined. It should be used to preview events. Report on events. Show winning entries from competitions and information on the Location Groups outings with images afterwards. The public facebook page should be a mirror of the website and must be curated properly. Only NAPC members should post on the page but non members can comment. Carol explained that time to monitor the page has been a problem and she currently has 170 members to go through. It was thought that the easiest way to start again was to simply shut down the current public Fb page and open a new one and start again. People interested in the page will find it again.

Graham Dunn has volunteered to support Kevin in the role of Webmaster
Graham Honeywill has volunteered to set up Instagram and help with the public Fb page.

16. Date of Next AGM 27th April 2027

Final Note: thanks to Peter Brooks we have a three day members' exhibition at Stover over the August Bank Holiday weekend. We do have flyers. It was suggested that we put flyers out at the WCPF Members' Exhibition in May. It may be that we can only do that on the day we are stewarding the event.