

# DEVIZES CAMERA CLUB

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held May 19th 2020

The meeting opened at 7-30 p.m. and was held via Zoom Video-Conferencing (on account of the Covid-19 Pandemic).

The agenda, minutes of the previous meeting, committee reports and submitted resolutions had been emailed to all members.

### 1 Present

Steve Hardman (Chairman), plus 32 members.

### 2 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

### 3 Approval of Minutes of the 2019 AGM

Acceptance of the minutes of this meeting was proposed by Mike Saunders, seconded by Craig Purvis, and approved unanimously.

### 5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

### 6 Annual Reports of the Committee

The reports from each Officer on the Committee, together with those from the Landscape Group and Website Administrator, had been circulated previously and are reproduced in full as an Appendix A to these Minutes.

### 7 Resolutions

**Resolution 1:** To be decided on a simple majority of votes cast. Proposed by Dave Eagle, Seconded by David Wilkinson, on behalf of the Committee.

*It is proposed to expand General Competition Rule 1.2 to read:*

*“All elements of a photographic image must have been taken by the photographer by whatever photographic medium is used, and the copyright must be owned by the photographer.*

*Where another artist’s work is necessarily included (for example street art, posters, paintings, drawings or statues) in an image entered for competition, it must be self-evident that the work is NOT the work of the photographer, and cannot be mis-interpreted as such.*

*It is intended that images submitted for competition must be entirely the work of the Photographer. In composite images, all component images must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source, including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks and clipart, are not permitted.”*

**Rationale/Discussion:** The basic intent is covered by the existing rule, but this brings greater clarity of what is and is not permissible. This is particularly necessary given the greater availability of royalty free images and clipart, and the ability to weave such images seamlessly into other images. In response to a question by Clive Rathband, it was confirmed that this wording is consistent with PAGB guidelines.

The resolution was carried by 97% to 3%.

**Resolution 2:** To be decided on a simple majority of votes cast. Proposed by Steve Hardman, Seconded by Dave Gray, on behalf of the Committee.

*Irrespective of whether members attend in person or attend virtually using an internet service such as Zoom, they will pay the on-the-night charge of £2.50, or £1 for those under the age of 21.*

**Rationale/Discussion:** The Coronavirus pandemic has led to our developing alternative ways to come together for club nights, principally the ability to use internet service platforms such as Zoom to run virtual meetings. At this point, there is no knowing how long some of our members may be prohibited from attending in person. On the more positive side, virtual meetings open up greater possibilities to have speakers giving presentations remotely rather than travelling to Devizes in person, and also we may wish to attract members from beyond the Devizes catchment area.

In any event, on-the-night fees are an important revenue stream for the club, which over the year pays for our visiting speakers and judges. To maintain the quality of our programme, it is important that all attendees pay the on-the-night charge, whether they attend in person or via an internet meeting service such as Zoom.

Clive Rathband asked whether we are still paying speakers and judges for our Zoom meetings. Frank Collins confirmed that if a fee has been agreed, this is payable although travel expenses are not.

The practicalities of payments by BACS transfer or cheque were discussed. Clearly if payment was made for each and every meeting attended, there would be a significant workload for the Treasurer to reconcile the bank statement with the attendance register. It would be preferable for people to pay for multiple meetings, which then raised the question of whether payments should be in advance or in arrears. Longer term, Zoom may develop the facility to require payment as part of the meeting entry process. The Committee undertook to take these points into account when setting up the payment mechanisms, and will seek to offer multiple options to cater for members' preferences.

Meantime, the Resolution is simply asking for acceptance in principle for payment to attend a Zoom meeting. The Resolution was approved by 94% to 6%.

## 8. Election of Offices

The following had been nominated to serve on the Committee during 2020-21:

	Candidate	Proposed By	Seconded By
Chairman	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray	Frank Collins
Secretary	Dave Gray	Steve Hardman	Frank Collins
Treasurer	Lynda Croft	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray
Programme Secretary	Frank Collins	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray
Competition Secretary 1	Dave Eagle	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray
Competition Secretary 2	David Wilkinson	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray
Competition Secretary 3	Gerald Clarke	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray
Battle Secretary	Dave Gray	Steve Hardman	Frank Collins
Membership Secretary	Caroline Wright	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray
Committee Member 1	Bridget Codrington	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray
Committee Member 2	Mike Saunders	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray

It was noted that Craig Purvis is the club's Publicity Officer, but does not sit on the Committee.

The nominations were taken en bloc, and unanimously approved.

## 8. Any Other Business

8.1 Graham Sawyer/Dave Dowding wished to thank the Committee for responding so quickly to the Covid-19 Pandemic and setting up meetings using Zoom, and also for their clear instructions on how to use it.

8.2 Steve Hardman reported that the competition to design a new Logo had resulted in 2 entries attracting equal marks from Committee. The choice between these 2 was therefore put to the AGM, and Logo B was approved by 61% to 39%

8.3 Frank Collins announced that due to Covid-19 restrictions, there would be a Summer Programme of 7 fortnightly meetings taking the club through until September and the 2020-21 Season.

There was much discussion on charges, and whether payment should be in advance or arrears. Joan Ryder-Rathband asked especially whether visitors would be allowed to attend, and under what terms. It was agreed that those attending (members and visitors) should pay either £15 at the start of the Programme or £2.50 per meeting attended. In order to control attendance by visitors, it was agreed that they would need to be invited by a club member, and that club member would forward the visitor's email address to Dave Eagle. Dave will use Zoom's hosting functionality to restrict entry to club members plus their invited guests.

The Summer Programme was approved by 97% to 3%.

8.4 Summer Social – Steve Hardman announced that we still planning to hold the club's Summer Social on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Precise details are still being worked out, but they are expected to include a Photographic competition and a Quiz.

8.5 Robert Harvey asked the minutes to record his special thanks to Steve Hardman & Dave Eagle for keeping the club going through the Covid Pandemic

8.6 Tony Leach asked that in amongst all the enthusiasm for Zoom virtual meetings, we do not forget the importance of social interaction, for which Zoom is a poor substitute.

# **Appendix A – Officers’ Reports**

## **DEVIZES CAMERA CLUB**

### **Report from The Chairman for Annual General Meeting on May 19th 2020**

Well, what a year this has been – no chance of second year syndrome for me – it has been busier than ever with a myriad of changes and problems, none of which could have been foreseen in September.

The start of the year saw another Biennial Exhibition of prints held at Devizes Museum. There were a huge number of positive comments and it also helped in recruiting quite a few new members to the Club. Many thanks to Caroline Wright and Dave Gray for the organisation along with the many other members who assisted in making it such a successful event.

As ever, we have had a superb programme of speakers and competitions ranging from haunting images of Chernobyl to stunning landscape and nature images and creative sessions together with practical evenings of light painting and studio work. Thanks to Craig Purves, in conjunction with Robert Harvey, for setting this programme up. However, for personal reasons, Craig stood down early in the season and Frank Collins nobly stepped into the breach. Craig has continued to do an excellent job in maintaining the Club’s profile on social media.

The competitions have been a great success again this year and heartfelt thanks are due to our excellent competition secretary team of Dave Eagle, David Wilkinson and the afore mentioned Frank. We have also purchased a new laptop and external hard drive to ensure that we have adequate back up in case of equipment failure.

Thanks are also due to Caroline Wright who has very efficiently acted as membership secretary and Richard Atkinson, ably assisted by Peter Tasker, who have looked after the financial side of the club. Mike Saunders has, as ever, provided wise counsel and also been a great help in setting up for the meetings.

This year Dave Gray has combined the roles of Club Secretary and Battle Secretary and he can be totally relied upon to do a superb job in his own quiet and efficient manner. He has also organised the Landscape Group meetings and been unstinting in his help in technical and post processing workshops.

No meeting would be successful without the usual tea interval and I would like to thank Bridget Codrington for all her work in providing refreshments and persuading a band of volunteers to help her. The website has been a mine of information, ably run by Pam Mullings with regular meeting reports from Pam, David Fraser and Kate Stephens.

Field trips have included Imber Village and the Dorset coast and a very successful Landscape Group trip to Northumberland. It seemed to be that after this the difficulties really started to set in. Problems with unavailability of speakers due to illness and other issues we had to instigate many changes to the planned programme. With lots of hard work behind the scenes, we managed

to put together an almost seamless number of changes and the programme continued until the fateful appearance of Covid-19.

As I look through the minutes of our committee meeting of 12 March, I see we had optimistically set dates for four further field trips as well as the trip to the Dolomites in September. There were already serious concerns for our meetings, and we took the decision not to hold club evenings at the Sports Club from March 17, before lockdown was eventually forced upon us. At this stage it was becoming clear that it would be some time before we could meet in person again, so we looked into using Zoom for virtual meetings; everyone on the committee thought it was a good idea so, after some trials, we have since been using Zoom for competitions and speaker presentations and it has proved very popular. Remarkably there were only some slight changes to the programme and may thanks to Robert Harvey for giving his presentation on “Outdoor Photography during Lockdown”. Many thanks to Dave Eagle who has also put a huge amount of time and effort into this to make our remote meetings work.

It may well be that even at the beginning of next season we will not be able to meet together and so we are planning to use Zoom to host meetings. If we can meet physically – and maintain social distancing – then we hope to be able to provide “hybrid” meetings whereby those members who cannot attend in person can still see the evening’s proceedings. One of the issues arising from this is the evening fee which currently is voluntary. I hope that you will support the proposal, which is upcoming, that all members pay the £2.50 attendance fee even if it is a Zoom meeting. We are currently looking at ways in which this can be collected. One of the advantages of using Zoom is that we are not limited geographically for our choice of speakers and judges and even if we have a “live” meeting we can still have a remote presenter. I do feel that that many opportunities may come out of our present adversity and we can make positive additions to our way of operating.

Devizes Camera Club continues to be in rude health, financially we are sound with a strong membership and a varied programme. How things will pan out in the next year is not certain, but I do feel that we are in a good position to move forward. A huge amount of work goes on in the background and we are always looking for more willing volunteers to help out. If you feel you can help or you have ideas for the Club please don’t hesitate to contact one of the committee.

I hope that we will all be able to meet again in the not too distant future.

Stay safe, keep well

Steve Hardman, Chairman

May 2020

## **Report from Club Secretary**

### **for Annual General Meeting on May 19th 2020**

The Committee has had another busy season, holding meetings in every month except June 2019, including a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January which had to be held in The Bear Hotel, Market Place, as the Sports Club was still closed for Xmas. Thank you to all the Committee members who freely give of their time and energy to make sure Club affairs run as smoothly as possible.

During the course of the year, we lost Craig Purvis as Programme Secretary, who resigned for personal reasons. Robert Harvey stepped in as an interim Programme Secretary, liaising with our booked external speakers, and then Frank Collins took on the role on a full time basis, including organising the programme for the 2020-21 season. Thanks to Robert and Frank for stepping into the gap. Frank's sideways move did however mean that the Competition Secretary workload then fell entirely on Dave Eagle and David Wilkinson. We really need a third person to join the team for the next season.

The 2019-20 season started with the Biennial Exhibition, held at Devizes Museum, which was another excellent showcase for the photographic talent we have within the club. Thanks largely to Caroline Wright, who organised workshops in printing/mounting/framing, we managed to attract entries from several Beginner members who had never previously entered any club print competitions. Unfortunately, the Museum is unavailable to host our next planned Exhibition in 2021, as they have a major Thomas Hardy exhibition already booked, so one of the Committee's problems for the coming year is to decide whether to postpone the exhibition or seek alternative venues. We do already have an exhibition booked for the Art House Café in Melksham during November 2020, obviously dependent on Coronavirus restrictions being relaxed by that time.

Club equipment has been on the Committee's agenda through much of the year. Our projector screen was partially repaired by Craig during last summer (involving some spillage of blood), but is still very fragile. We have been negotiating with the Sports Club to use their fixed screen in the main hall, with the sticking points being that the controls are behind the bar. In the absence of bar staff, this is a locked area. If we cannot resolve this, a new screen may be required at a cost of approx £150.

Likewise the club's laptop was, at the start of the season, over 6 years old and starting to run very slowly. We had approved a budget to buy a replacement, biding our time to get a good deal in the sales. However, when the old laptop proved incapable of running the AVs on the 'AV Spectacular' night (January 14<sup>th</sup>), we decided to buy at the best price we could find. Hopefully, this will last the club another 6 years, and we do still have the old one as emergency backup. At the same time, we also purchased an external hard drive to use for archiving competition entries over the years. Thanks go to Dave Eagle for making sure we have purchased a new laptop suitable for our needs.

Besides the projector screen, we have had various other issues with the Sports Club. We were successful in having Disabled Parking signage erected in the car park. We have also asked for a key to the Sports Club's outside door, following three consecutive Landscape Group meetings which found the outside door locked, leaving members to wait outside in the cold while a key holder

could be found to let us in. This is now awaiting approval from the Sports Club's insurers. We also had an incident when the building fire alarm went off part way through the club night, leaving us to evacuate but then needing to know what other action is needed. We have asked the Sports Club questions such as who to contact, who will contact the fire brigade etc, but are still awaiting a reply.

Of course, many of the issues the Committee have been dealing with suddenly became low priority when face to face meetings were suspended because of the Coronavirus pandemic. During early March, we were already alert to the dangers, though following Government guidance at the time and suggesting that although our meetings were continuing, our members should decide whether to attend based on their own circumstances. We then had the lockdown announcement and lost 2 meetings before trialling Zoom software and deciding that it offered a viable way of keeping the programme running, albeit from the comfort of our own homes. Thanks especially go to Dave Eagle for trialling its various features, checking out its reported weaknesses, and arranging a short term subscription to enable us to beat the 40 minute rule. Indeed, it is thanks to this work that we will be able to go ahead with our 2020 AGM, though we have not worked out a way to present the trophies to the seasons' Competition Winners.

Looking forward, we are still likely to be living under some restrictions even into the start of the 2020-21 season, but can be confident that Zoom will enable us to continue enjoying the inspirational, the tutorial and the social side of club life.

Dave Gray, Club Secretary

May 2020

## **Report from Club Treasurer for Annual General Meeting on May 19th 2020**

The club finances were in good order for the financial year up 31<sup>st</sup> March. We lost only three meetings in March due to coronavirus and have a relatively small deficit of £168 for the year. The balances of the club have been maintained at a healthy £6505.

The club increased subscriptions from September because as members of the Sports Club we were to be asked to contribute a substantial sum to rescue the Sports Club from a critical financial situation. This request from the Sports Club has not materialized this year but the future of all clubs is uncertain, at the present time.

We have maintained membership numbers with 65 paid subscriptions and 8 Life members. The increased fees resulting in an income of £2,487 of which £1650 was paid to the Sports Club.

Subscriptions at meetings paid for the bulk of the club's activities and the fee increase to £2.50 resulted in a take of £2,760 an increase of £253 on the previous year. The average attendance was 33.5 per meeting. During the year we had 56 visitors attend who paid the higher subscription of £5 per meeting.



The club had a need to replace our laptop and add a backup drive during the year and equipment costs shows a figure of £723. This one-off cost has resulted in a small deficit for the year.

We are in a reasonably sound position to weather the current disruption to our activities and the committee is looking into means of presenting and financing a programme for next season.

I would like to thank Peter for all his work collecting subs, keeping the records and banking, also Eddy Lane whose has once more examined our accounts.

Richard Atkinson - Honorary Treasurer

May 2020

## **Report from the Programme Secretary for the 2019-20 Season**

With apologies to Oscar Wilde, to lose one scheduled Speaker in a season is unfortunate, to lose two might be regarded as careless – but to lose the entire season after you take over is definitely without precedent in my 35 years in the Club!

Our Programme for this season was the final one arranged by outgoing Programme Secretary Robert Harvey, before he concluded his 4 years in office at the AGM last year. Robert as always had put together an excellent and varied programme for the season with presentations on composition, editing, creativity, nature, landscape, and travel themes, with some practical evenings also included.

All ran very smoothly until I stepped into the Programme Secretary's role in mid-January; I was then immediately faced with three successive speakers who for various personal reasons had to reschedule, or withdraw from the programme entirely. That resulted in changes to 5 successive meetings, culminating in the excellent and entertaining presentation by Bob Holman on 10<sup>th</sup> March on iPhone photography.

Far from the programme then settling down on the schedule originally planned, 10<sup>th</sup> March of course turned out to be the final meeting of the 2019-20 season in the Sports Club. Like many Clubs up and down the country, after a short interval we have very successfully migrated the meetings to Zoom, with the very capable assistance of Dave Eagle on the technical side, and the Programme was able to resume from 7<sup>th</sup> April. The speakers that we have missed have been rescheduled mostly for the 2021-22 season, including Roger Crocombe who will be following up his online presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> April with a visit to us in person to show us more of his work.

Our thanks therefore go as always to our speakers, with a special mention to those who stepped in at the last minute, and to those who adapted their talks to present to us over Zoom.

Migration to Zoom has brought about a revelation of the capabilities of modern technology, both for running competitions and speaker presentations. It brings with it not just a means of maintaining Club meetings during times when our normal meeting venue is not available to us, but also of bringing to the Club speakers from much further afield who would normally be inaccessible to us on grounds of cost or practicality. It is reasonable therefore to assume that we will be making more use of the technology in the future.

One immediate possibility is the option of our arranging some additional meetings across the summer months, when normally of course the Club would not be running. There is a separate discussion item on the AGM Agenda about this to gauge member support for the concept.

In the meantime, the Programme for 2020-21 is virtually complete. We have as always tried to arrange something for everyone, with some practical evenings and two studio sessions through a variety of visiting speakers ranging from wildlife and landscape through street and sports photography, the Red Arrows, and drones. Highlights to savour include:-

- Sue Morris - "Waiting for the Herds",
- an evening of photographic discovery with award winning BBC Natural History cameraman Phil Savoie,
- Chris Weston – "Animals on the Edge"
- Tom Way – "Wildlife through a Lens"
- Richard Baker on the Red Arrows and Street Photography
- A return visit from Nick Upton
- And our very own Robert Harvey "Photographing Wiltshire"

There will be the usual fun Christmas knock-out competition and Ladies -v- Gents Battle, and there will be a new event towards the end of the season in the form of the great Post Processing Challenge, when teams will be given a selection of RAW images and the challenge of what they can do with them!

Programme Planning being the long-lead operation that it is, I have already made a start on speaker bookings for 2021-22; the best speakers often have to be secured 18 months or more in advance.

I am always on the look-out for potential speakers for our programme, especially those who add something different to the mix, or a new approach or take on a subject, so if anyone comes across a potential speaker, please do let me know. I have compiled already quite a long list for future invitation, but the more the merrier please!

My thanks go to the Committee for their support during an 'interesting' transition into the Programme Secretary role, and to the Club members for supporting the events. Here's to a smoother season in 2020-21!

Frank Collins - Programme Secretary

May 2020

## **Report from the Competition Secretary team for the 2019-20 Season**

We started the competition year having to say goodbye to our then serving Competition Secretary Roly Barth due to ill health. Roly has since recovered and is now in rude good health but has taken the precaution of fleeing the area to ensure that he can avoid being dragooned back into the Competition Secretary role. We should take this opportunity to say thank you to Roly for the huge amount of work he put in during his tenure as Competition Secretary.

Following Roly's enforced absence, the committee took the decision to expand the Competition Secretary role from one to three people, and we now have David Wilkinson, David Eagle, Frank Collins in role (although Frank is also seeking to escape with an attempted move into the Programme Secretary role).

The move to three Competition Secretaries is more in line with how other Camera Clubs fulfil the function, and in order to maintain our coverage across Print & PI competitions as well as absences, we will have to replace Frank should he succeed in his attempt to exit the Competition Secretary role.

The Corona Virus has unavoidably impacted the ability of the club to run competitions, nevertheless we have held 11 of the club's 12 competitions, losing only one, the PI league competition, to the lockdown regime. The PI League competition fell just as the lockdown was beginning to bite, and given the amount of work required to produce and enter 3 themed sets of five images each, and the fact that everyone would be voting remotely using (at the time) untried software, it was felt that we couldn't do the competition justice, so the decision was taken to remove the PI League from this year's competition calendar.

From Mid-March, we have been using the Zoom video conferencing software, and although this technology has been new to some judges and presenters, we have successfully managed to use it to run three competitions.

- Print 02
- Projected Image 03
- Print and Projected Image of the Year

Attendance for the online sessions has been good, with up to 41 members attending. Given the outlook for continued social distancing, it seems likely that the club will continue the use of Zoom in some capacity to cater for those remaining in isolation and unable to attend club meetings.

Now the Competition year is over, it's time to look back over the stats for the year

Competition		PI		PRINT		AV	
		Entrants	Images	Entrants	Images	Entrants	Avs
01	Projected Image 01	23	66				
02	Nature	19	56	10	24		
03	Projected Image 02	24	71				
04	Print 01			19	53		
05	Mono	21	61	11	27		
06	Christmas KO	30	172				
07	Landscape	21	58	10	26		
08	AV & Creative	4	9			3	4
09	Print 02			13	37		
10	Projected Image 03	21	62				
11	PI League	Not Held					
12	PI & Print of the Year	31	39	22	27		

From the above, we can see that roughly a third to a half of the club's membership submit images to the competitions. While we might like to see that number increase, allowing three images per entry does put us at or around the limit of the images which a Competition Judge is able to critique in an evening. Increasing the entries may therefore reduce the number of images allowed per entrant, but it would be a nice problem to have.

It's a credit to our competition judges that we have managed to run 3 of our competitions each with 80+ images. Despite the volume of images, the critiques have been valuable and well received, with each of the judges commenting on the high quality of the images supplied.

It was nevertheless disappointing to see a low number of entries for the Creative and AV competition, however with more time on our hands during the lockdown, people may be brushing up on their photoshop skills in readiness for next year, fingers crossed.

On a very much more positive note, following Caroline Wright's print mounting workshops in preparation for the 2019 DCC Biennial Print Exhibition at the Wiltshire museum, we have seen a much-improved number of print submissions to our competitions this year. In particular we had a very enthusiastic response from the Beginners group. So many thanks to Caroline for organising the workshop and congratulations on its success.

For next season, we will have to see how the Social Distancing measures affect us. While we can continue to run Projected Image competitions, Print Competitions may be a bit more problematic, but at least we now have a good number of our members printing and mounting!

Dave Eagle, David Wilkinson, Frank Collins, Competition Secretaries  
May 2020

## **Report from the Battle Secretary for the 2019-20 Season**

The season has had its usual quota of inter-club battles, with mixed success for Devizes.

We started on a high note in October, with a return battle with Frome Wessex, this time hosted by Frome. Eddy Lane judged 30 images from each club, and in a high scoring competition, Devizes triumphed by 558 points to 540 points.

Next in the calendar was the Calne Multi-Club PI competition, in which Devizes came 7<sup>th</sup> out of the 9 club competing. The winning club on the night was none other than Frome Wessex.

February is the month where we have a succession of Battles. DPIC (Digital Projected Image Competition) is the Western Counties premier PI competition, with 56 clubs across the region competing. Devizes managed a respectable 14<sup>th</sup> in this one, although we have done better in recent years. The following week saw the Warminster Multi-Club Print Battle, in which Devizes came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 7 clubs taking part, although all the scores were closely matched with just 3 points separating our 6<sup>th</sup> place from the club in 2<sup>nd</sup> place (176 points to 179). Finally, we submitted our Open and Nature entries to the national GB Cup competitions. These are judged behind closed doors, but the results showed Devizes came a disappointing 65<sup>th</sup> out of 71 clubs in the Open section, and 61<sup>st</sup> out of 86 in the Nature section. Clearly we need to do some work on this one for the future.

Finally, and just before the coronavirus put paid to inter-club activities, we had the Quad Battle between ourselves, Swindon, Royal Wootton Bassett and Stratton. This was cancelled as a live event at the last minute, but the judge forwarded the marks, which put Devizes in 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind Swindon.

All in all, a mixed year for our club. It is curious that we used the same core set of images for each of these battles, but individual images did very well in some competitions and relatively poorly in others. Tim Tapley's 'Water Boatman' scored highly in GB Cup Nature, and was accepted into the PAGB's slideset of 'best in show' images, yet was one of our lowest scoring images in the Quad Battle. There will always be an element of judges' preferences, and we have to hope that it works in our favour as much as working against us.

My thanks go to Frank Collins and Gill Cardy for their time spent with me on selecting our entries for each battle. And of course, a big thank you is due to all the members who allowed their images to be used to represent Devizes in these many competitions.

Dave Gray  
May 2020

### **Report from the Membership Secretary for the 2019-20 Season**

We currently have 75 members, this includes 6 life members.

The Biennial Exhibition held at the Wiltshire Museum has helped to raise the profile of the club, this together with a comprehensive programme, some good publicity, including the use of social media have enabled the club to recruit 24 new members this season.

Some of our new members are experienced photographers and some are less experienced photographers, who are at the start of their photographic journey.

I hope all members are benefiting from the club and are learning and increasing their knowledge of photography from others.

I hope all members will be returning in the 2020/ 21 season and we can resume a more normal club experience and will soon all be chatting face to face at club meetings and field trips.

Caroline Wright  
Membership Secretary

### **Report from the Landscape Group for the 2019-20 Season**

The Landscape Group continues to be well supported, and indeed, the monthly meetings were seeing attendance increase until Coronavirus put paid to face to face meetings. Presentations at the monthly meetings have included Basic Camera Settings, End-to-End Editing in Lightroom, a retrospective of the Cornwall field trip images, Winter Photography in Northumberland, and Purbeck Coastal Landscapes. Show and Tell remains as popular as ever, and some evenings have been given over completely to members' images, particularly the first meeting back after the summer break, and after the Northumberland weekend away. For those unfamiliar with the

format, we invite those attending on the night to bring a few of their recent Landscape images on a memory stick, which we show on through the club projector. The author can explain a little about each picture – where, when, why etc, and the rest of the attendees can give their feedback and perhaps some gentle critique.

We have had a few field trips this year. We try to hold some of our summer monthly meetings outside if the weather is reasonable, rather than sit inside a darkened room while the sun is shining. Last summer, our June meeting took a few of us to Cherhill Down, to photograph the White Horse and Monument in glorious evening sunlight. Come October, there was a request for a repeat of the Ystradfellte waterfalls trip, although in the event, only five of us made it to see the rivers and waterfalls in spate. Next, over a rather wet Xmas week, several members took advantage of the Imber ranges being open to visit what is left of the old, abandoned village, and especially the church. Then in February a group of eleven headed for the Purbeck coast on a blue sky winter's day, firstly to Old Harry Rocks near Studland, and later variously to Kimmeridge and Worbarrow Bay.

Our main event of the year was a highly successful trip to Northumberland in January. It's a long way to go, so our group of 12 booked into a hotel in Alnwick for a 4 night weekend, to make the most of the long journey there. The weather was on the whole very kind for dawn shoots at Lindisfarne, Bamburgh Castle and Dunstanburgh Castle, as well as an afternoon walk along the Housesteads section of Hadrian's Wall. Other popular venues were St Mary's lighthouse (Whitley Bay), Alnmouth, Amble and even central Newcastle at dusk. Our thanks as ever go to Robert Harvey for arranging our accommodation, and for guiding the group to some of the prime photographic locations.

We now live in strange times with the Coronavirus pandemic, which has put paid to face to face meetings and field trips away from home. However the club's subscription to Zoom provides an obvious route for Show and Tell in future meetings – assuming people have anything to Show and Tell. We will need to see how the lockdown progresses, and the situation may well change between me writing this and our AGM. A few of us are also looking to the wider European situation, having booked a Group trip to the Dolomites in September. This is a fast moving situation, so keep a check on emails and the club website for updates.

Dave Gray  
May 2020

## **DEVIZES CAMERA CLUB**

### **Annual Website Report for the 2019-20 Season**

Devizes CC is a very active club and the website continues to be an important means of communication.

The role of the website is to serve as a club notice board where members can get the latest information on club meetings, results of competitions and battles, competition photographs, and

links to other websites for further information. The website is a good advertisement as many members have joined the club after seeing the wide range of club activities, interesting speakers and the high standard of members' photography.

The Club News section is updated frequently with reports of club meetings, competition results and images as well as articles on other club activities. Members can log in any time in to see the competition points tables and find links to other useful photographic information.

The present website was designed over 10 years ago and apart from some minor changes and additions it still looks much the same – if anyone has any new ideas or additions then please let me now and I will see what I can do.

The website has been designed to display more information and photos than most other camera club websites and to keep records of events going back several years. The search tool is very useful if looking for a specific event.

I would like to thank David Fraser for many of the Club News presentation reports and also new member Kate Stephens who wrote about her first experience of a Landscape Group trip and of showing her images to members for the first time.

Grateful thanks to Dave Eagle for efficiently sending me the competition scoresheets and images so the results can be shown on the website without delay.

If members would like to contribute in some way to the website that would be very helpful. The 'Members Albums' section is very underused and so will be removed unless more members request a personal Album.

If you have lost your password, or have any difficulties or queries then please let me know.

Pam Mullings - DCC Website support  
May 2020

