

DEVIZES CAMERA CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held May 17th 2022

The meeting opened at 7-45 p.m. and was held at Devizes Sports Club, with some members attending remotely via Zoom

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

1. Apologies

The meeting was attended by Steve Hardman (Chairman) plus 30 members (22 members present in person and 8 attending via Zoom). Apologies were received from Tim and Hilary Tapley.

2. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 18th May 2021

The minutes from the 2021 AGM had previously been circulated.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous A.G.M.

Approval was proposed by Frank Collins, seconded by Caroline Wright, and carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Annual Reports of the Committee

The Officers reports for 2021-21 had previously been circulated.

Sue Wadman asked whether club competition judges had been briefed that some entries were captured on film rather than digitally. Dave Eagle confirmed that this had recently been recognised as a problem, and that judges would in future be briefed accordingly.

Sue Wadman also asked that future Ladies v Gents Battle judges should bear in mind that it is meant to be a fun competition, with entries from all abilities of member. She thought the tone of some of the comments this year had been quite harsh. Dave Gray agreed to make this clear to future judges of this 'fun but competitive battle'.

6. Election of Officers

The following Officer and Committee nominations had been received.

Position	Person Nominated	Proposed By	Seconded By
Chair	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray	Lynda Croft
Secretary	Dave Gray	Lynda Croft	Frank Collins
Treasurer	Lynda Croft	Frank Collins	Dave Eagle
Programme Secretary	Frank Collins	Dave Eagle	David Wilkinson
Competition Secretary 1	Dave Eagle	David Wilkinson	Gerald Clarke
Deputy to Competition Secretary 1	Jennifer Skjoldbro	Bridget Codrington	Dave Gray
Competition Secretary 2	David Wilkinson	Gerald Clarke	Dave Gray
Competition Secretary 3	Gerald Clarke	Dave Gray	Caroline Wright
Battle Secretary	Dave Gray	Caroline Wright	Bridget Codrington
Membership Secretary	Caroline Wright	Bridget Codrington	Mike Saunders
Publicity Secretary	Bridget Codrington	Mike Saunders	Steve Hardman
Committee Member 1	Mike Saunders	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray
Committee Member 2			

As only one person had been nominated for each position, the Committee was voted for en bloc, and accepted unanimously.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Graham Sawyer was concerned that attendance numbers were falling, and asked what actions the Committee was taking to address this. Steve Hardman responded that the Committee was well aware of the problem, and was taking what action it could. He had recently written to all members reminding them of summer events and setting out some of the highlights to look forward to next season. He had also written a similar letter to previous members to remind them of what they are missing, and especially to inform them that we are now meeting in person at the Sports Club, to restore the social side of club membership. Steve also pointed out that many clubs were struggling to get back to their

pre-pandemic level, and not just Camera Clubs. It was also salutary to note that Warminster Camera Club had now closed, and Calne Camera Club was also only meeting once a month. Robert Harvey thought we were actually doing better than most, based on his experience when giving lectures to other Camera Clubs.

It was pointed out that the club's Biennial Print Exhibitions at Devizes Museum had previously been a good way to recruit new members. Dave Gray said that this had not been possible over the pandemic, and this year, the Museum space is being used for a major Thomas Hardy exhibition. Various suggestions were made: hold a weekend print exhibition at the Sports Club; put some of our prints on permanent display at the Sports Club; put displays in High Street shop windows where the shop has gone out of business; display prints in Doctors' and Dentists' waiting rooms, and in libraries. Steve Hardman agreed that all these suggestions will be discussed at the next Committee meeting. The possibility of advertising ourselves to a younger audience at schools and colleges was also discussed, but discounted because of the care we would need to take over safeguarding issues, having DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks etc.

- 7.2 Steve Hardman introduced the idea of changing the club's name to Devizes Photographic Club. Frank Collins explained that our primary interest is in creating the photographic image, not in the camera equipment used to capture it, and to an outsider, a 'Camera Club' probably gave the impression of a club meeting to discuss equipment. Frank also noted that Salisbury and Frome Wessex had also recently renamed themselves along similar lines. Steve Hardman said that this was a good time to re-brand the club. An unofficial show of hands demonstrated that all present would support a change of name. Steve Hardman said that the Committee needed to work through some of the detailed implications of this – website domain name and amending the website content, bank account details etc. We should then be in a position in the autumn to call an Emergency General Meeting (EGM) to approve the necessary change in the Club's constitution.
- 7.3 Sue Wadman asked about how secure our tenure at the Sports Club was, given that it seemed to be run by the Rugby Club in the winter and the Cricket Club in the summer. Frank explained that the Sports Club was actually run by trustees rather than any one club, and its constitution had been carefully set up to ensure that no one club could take control. The building itself was carefully positioned on land not owned by any of the constituent clubs. Whatever the internal politics between the clubs, our use of the venue is not affected because our relationship is with the trustees.

8. Close of Formal Business

There being no other business, the 2022 AGM closed at 8.35pm