



**Daventry Photographic Society**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Mayfield Sports Club**  
**Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7:30 pm**

**Attendees:**

Rob Dawson, Mike Fuller, Martin Godfrey, Michael Green, Graeme Hall, Mike Hemmings, Chris Hobson, Karl Hyde, Bee Jackson, Judy Jennings, Colin Prickett, Roland Puleston Jones, Farrell Symonds, Andrew Taylor, Susan Thomas, Linda Wilson.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received from Linda Arris, Chris Baldwin, Stuart Batchelar, Dave Hollis, Bob Holt, Andrew Lockwood, Christine Prickett

**2. Approval of AGM minutes of 4th March 2025**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the last AGM. The approval of the minutes was proposed by Mike Fuller and seconded by Colin Prickett.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

1 It was noted that the 2026-27 calendar and the competition guidance have been uploaded onto the DPS website. A few dates still remain empty but will be filled in due course and we are well set for the year.

2 Following a thorough review of the management of the Walker Cup by the committee and members, some minor changes will be made to the scoring by judges of the monthly competitions in the coming year. The Graham Brown Memorial Trophy has been brought into the Walker Cup as one of the monthly competitions under the title of 'The Natural World'.

3 The subject of membership fees will be covered in the finance report.

4 The election of committee members will be covered in the committee report.

**4. Chair's/Committee's report.**

The Committee's report was read by Andrew Taylor as follows:

This year the club has again operated without a named chairperson, but each committee member has taken responsibility for specific areas of operation to ensure the full functionality of the club.

The forthcoming year will see some changes to committee with Peter King stepping down. Thanks go to Peter for his service on committee, including his generosity in hosting a number of committee meetings at his home. Susan Thomas will also be

stepping down, and thanks go to Susan for all the work she has done, especially the discipline she has applied to the banking and financial operation of the club.

Having taken a few weeks away from committee duties earlier in the year, it's been good to have Linda back, with all her enthusiasm, and performing her duties as club secretary once again. One of our newer committee members this year was Christine Prickett who has made an excellent job of one of the more difficult roles of programme manager. As you know Christine has been unwell lately, but she has not neglected her duties, and we wish her a quick return to full strength. Martin Godfrey has also been welcomed to the committee team and plays an important role operating the projection system and competition software. As always, we would welcome approaches from any club member who wishes to put themselves forward to join the committee.

This year has offered another interesting and varied programme with some excellent speakers. We have held a full programme of well contested competitions and although entry levels have been low at times, we have seen a recent improvement in numbers. However, the committee's concerns over the volume of entries led to a debate on the future of our competitions. We sought and received written representations from members, and we held a live debate a few weeks ago. Consequently, several improvements have been made, details of which have already been rolled out to members. We hope that we will now see a resurgence in entries in our club competitions this coming year.

Members will also be aware that a new competition management platform called Pixoroo is to be used this coming year. This replaces our aged Photo Entry system and members will see the benefits Pixoroo has to offer as we all become acquainted with the software. Particular thanks go to Colin Prickett and Martin Godfrey who have worked on setting the system up and will operate the system going forward. (It was noted that PhotoEntry would be used as a backup to Pixoroo only for the first monthly competition this year.)

We had success in our annual competition against the Jaguar club this year. The scoring was extremely tight with only two points between us, but it was an excellent win for DPS. Congratulations to all those who submitted entries for the competition. Unfortunately, we didn't fare so well in the Badby challenge, finishing mid-table.

We have enjoyed some good trips out and social events this year, including a visit to Lincoln for the "Lincoln Big Morris". There was also a "doggy" themed walk at Everdon Stubbs, and the summer social was an evening of bowls and pizza at Mayfield. Our Christmas social event was an excellent evening playing skittles at Barby where it was also good to see Bob joining us for a few games. Many thanks go to Bee for organising all of these events.

There has been an interesting range of member talks this year, including Graham Hall on his "Journey into Photography" and Mike Fuller gave us a practical session on portraiture. Andrew Taylor gave a talk entitled "Life in Contrast" and Colin Prickett gave us two talks, one on New York and more recently, an interesting session on

“Building a Website”. Colin also arranged a fascinating talk from his nephew Ian, who spoke of his intrepid adventures in Antarctica with Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

So, looking back on the year, when it comes to variety and entertainment, I think we do pretty well for a small club.

We have also built on our good relationship with Daventry Museum over the course of the year and have changed the images we have on display on two occasions in order to maintain a complementary theme to the main exhibitions in the museum. We've had our “architecture” themed display and have recently changed over to a theme of “sport and leisure”. We hope to keep the space for as long as possible and will continue to refresh images from time to time. Thank you to all those who have contributed work to the exhibition.

We did have some concerns earlier this year regarding our continuing use of the Mayfield premises. However, we're pleased to report that this was resolved, although we will have to accept an increase in rental fees imminently. The new system of the bar opening until 7:30 and then members locking up and returning keys seems to be working well. We also have the benefit of the kitchen here, and thanks go to Chris Baldwin, Christine Prickett and Linda as first reserve, for keeping us supplied with coffee and biscuits. Given the facilities we enjoy here at Mayfield, including the all-important storage space, we are pleased to have maintained our relationship with Mayfield's proprietors.

So finally, as we enter the new financial year a big thank you to Susan Colin Prickett who has produced this year's accounts. Colin will now report on the club's finances with his treasurer's report.

## **5. Treasurer's report 2025 and approval of accounts**

Colin explained that the report was drafted by himself and Susan Thomas who was stepping down as Treasurer. Colin will be taking over her responsibilities until a replacement can be found.

The Statement of Income and Expenditure showed that income received in 2025 was £2,956 and expenditure was £2,951 giving us a surplus of £5 compared with the deficit of **-£699** which was forecast in the last budget. The explanation for this variance was partially due to an expected fall in membership during the year which did not happen, resulting in improved membership and attendance income. In addition, we saved expenditure in Guest Speaker costs through the use of Zoom, the waiving of rental fees during the summer, and Susan's success in finding a more cost effective insurance company moving us from Hive to Ansvar. Everything else was close to our projected budget but these 3 items saved us £715.

Next year's budget will be a different story, however, as Mayfield Park has had to raise their rental charges from £12 per hour to £15 per hour – an increase of 25%

commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. With all else being equal we were therefore projecting a £1,200 loss in FY2026 (and even more in FY2027).

The Committee and members carried out some due diligence work to investigate less costly premises in the local area but had to conclude that Mayfield Park still offered very good value for money. The Committee had no option but to accept the rental increases and look at ways of covering this additional annual cost.

Unfortunately, this has to come mainly from our membership charges but, in order to keep these to a minimum, we also decided to accept a potential financial loss in this year's budget as there were no pressing needs for any equipment purchases.

The final decision was to increase Annual Membership Fees from £30 pa to £40 pa and to increase the Weekly Attendance Fee from £3 per week to £4 per week, leaving us with a forecast deficit this year of - £344.

With some good husbandry, and maybe a few more members, we might see this deficit reduced further.

It was noted that the Final Accounts (Income and Expenditure) had not been circulated to members prior to the AGM. A copy of the 2025 statement is to be circulated with these Minutes.

The accounts were approved: proposed by Mike Fuller and seconded by Roland Puleston Jones.

## **6. Approval of independent examiner**

The appointment of Allen Absolom as Independent Examiner for a further year was approved: proposed by Bee Jackson, seconded by Michael Green.

## **7. Election of management committee 2026-27**

a. *Election of Chairman.* No members have offered to stand as Chairman for the forthcoming year. However, committee members are confident that these responsibilities can continue to be successfully jointly handled by the management committee.

b. *Election of committee members*

As announced in the Committee's Report, Susan Thomas and Peter King are to stand down from their roles on the committee and thanks were given again for the roles they had played.

Martin Godfrey has been attending meetings for some months particularly to ensure his involvement in matters relating to the management of DPS competitions and the technical aspects of the running of the monthly competitions. He has agreed to formally join the committee and was duly elected to the committee, proposed by Bee Jackson and seconded by Karl Hyde.

Chris Hobson offered to stand as a new committee member and was duly elected, proposed by Farrell Symonds and seconded by Michael Green.

The committee will therefore comprise Martin Godfrey, Michael Green, Chris Hobson Bee Jackson, Christine Prickett, Colin Prickett, Andrew Taylor and Linda Wilson.

c. Farrell Symonds agreed to continue in the role of safeguarding representative and Michael Green will continue as Webmaster and Facebook group manager with the support of Roland Puleston Jones as Facebook Administrator.

## **8. Presentation of awards and certificates.**

### *a. Hollis Trophy*

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Winner:                             | Linda Ariss.   |
| Highest Scores <u>Creative</u> :    | Linda Ariss – Sequence of the Rebel, and<br>Colin Prickett – Still Smoking   |
| Highest Score <u>Landscape</u> :    | Christine Prickett – Storm Approaching                                       |
| Highest Scores <u>Nature</u> :      | Linda Ariss – Barny, and<br>Chris Hobson – Buzz and Bloom                    |
| Highest Scores <u>Portraiture</u> : | Linda Ariss – Peaceful Contemplation, and<br>Linda Wilson – Working Partners |

### *c. Monthly competition winners.*

March – Open – Colin Prickett – The Crossing  
April – Open Mono (Print) – Colin Prickett – Party-Time  
May – Architecture – Bee Jackson – The Chimney  
June – Bokeh – Linda Ariss – Poised and Ready  
July – Ageing and the Elderly – Stuart Batchelar – Smoking Lady  
August – Textures (Print) – Andrew Taylor – The Craftsman’s Tools  
September – Flatlay -Colin Prickett – Inside my Suitcase  
October – Creative (The Peter Cosentino Trophy) – Christine Prickett –  
Images Taken on a Hill above Spice Fields  
November – Urban Living – Andrew Taylor – Spare a Few Square Feet  
December – Sunlight and Shade (Print)– Andrew Taylor  
January – The Natural World (The Graham Brown Memorial Trophy) -  
Linda Ariss – Don’t Swallow a Swallow  
February – Open Panel of Three Prints – Bee Jackson – Old Shop Fronts of London

*d. Print Competition - Winner: Andrew Taylor*

*e. Projected Competition - Winner: Linda Ariss*

f. Walker Cup - Winner: Linda Ariss

(The final leaders report is to be circulated with the minutes.)

g. Chair's Award

The committee's decision (behind Andrew's back) was to give this award to *Andrew Taylor* in recognition of his invaluable contribution to the work of the committee, his chairing of committee meetings and the time and energy he dedicates to the club.

(Thanks to Michael Green for the preparation and printing of the certificates.)

## 9. Any Other Business.

- a) Karl Hyde raised a concern that the club's projector is not up to the standard of a photographic projector, stating that it had been designed to operate in schools. While it was recognised that judges had in the past commented on the difference between the images on the laptop screen and the projected version, it was agreed that the projected images have been improved by the introduction of the grey screen and that both the laptop and projector are frequently calibrated. It was also noted that a replacement projector would be far beyond the budget possibilities at present. Mike Hemmings suggested that we should monitor the difference between the laptop and projected images over the next 3 months following the introduction of the grey screen.
- b) Chris Hobson asked if the club had done any publicity in the recent past to attract new members. Previous local events in which we had participated were quoted eg the Daventry Feel Good Festival and our efforts to circulate pamphlets and raise our profile through local newspapers and free magazines, as well as our improving relationship with the Museum. It was suggested that Chris might want to take up this role as a new committee member.
- c) Mike Hemmings queried whether the amendments to the competition scoring system have been summarised and will be made available to future judges. He was assured that each judge, whether new to us or not, receives instructions about our scoring system as well as the specific guidance for the competition they are judging. It had not been anticipated that the last judge of the season would implement next year's scoring changes, but Colin assured members that the final leaders report had not been affected by this.
- d) Implementation of Pixoroo Competition Software: Colin repeated his recent demonstration of how members access the new competition software and upload their competition entries and responded to questions from members.

10. The date of the next DPS AGM will be 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2027.

To be circulated with these Minutes

Appendix 1

Financial Accounts for Year 2025

Appendix 2

Walker Cup Final Leaders Report 2025-26