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**MINUTES** of the **AGM** of the   
Daventry Photographic Society   
held at Mayfield Sports Club and online by Zoom  
on Tuesday,1 March 2022 at 7.30 pm

1. **Present**: Linda Wilson, Chair/Secretary (Z); Colin Prickett, Treasurer;   
   L Ariss; R Dawson, C Emms, M Fuller, M Godfrey, T Goodwin, M Hemmings, R Holt (Z), K Hyde, B Jackson, J Jennings, J Lewis, G McDade, Christine Prickett, R Puleston Jones, A Taylor, S Thomas.
2. **Apologies for Absence**: C Baldwin, B Campbell, M Green, D Hollis, M Hulatt
3. **Approval of AGM Minutes of 2 March 2021**   
     
   The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting: proposed by R Puleston Jones, seconded by L Ariss.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM.
5. **Chairwoman’s Report**The Chairwoman presented her report, a copy is attached as Appendix 1
6. **Treasurer’s Report**

C Prickett reflected on a second year greatly affected by lockdown restrictions and the significance of the Society’s adoption of both Zoom and PhotoEntry software in ensuring its continuity. He reminded members that he was now at the end of his 6th full year in the role of Treasurer and would be stepping down after this AGM.   
  
He said that at the end of 2015 he had reported a Bank Balance of £3,605 and now, 6 years on, with one new projector, two new club laptops, and 2 years of COVID restrictions, he was reporting an end of year balance of £3,190 – which meant he had lost £415 somewhere along the way. He apologised for that!   
  
The Treasurer referred to the signed Accounts for the Financial Year 2021 which were displayed on screen. These accounts were recently approved and signed-off by our Auditor, although he had picked up Colin on two things.

1. A mis-posted sizeable donation of £100 by Carole Emms, who restocked the kitchen and created a COVID-safe canteen at her own expense so that we could return to normal club nights. This has now been corrected in the official signed-off version. Colin called for a very big THANK YOU to Carole.
2. From time to time, we forget to create a receipt for our speakers (and have already done so again this year!). So, we need to be more careful of that in the future.

We had budgeted for a loss of - £732 in 2021 because of falling membership and attendances caused by COVID but anticipating a return mid-year to normal club sessions with all the normal costs that go with it. In fact, we are reporting an end loss of - £645 so very close to target, although this needed qualifying a little:

1. We controlled spend and remained in profit right until the end of the year when the Committee decided to invest in new equipment to end up more-or-less as originally budgeted (laptop, projector stand, and audio equipment – over £1k worth).
2. Our figures include payment of 2 lots of annual insurance because the Treasurer paid this year’s amount a month early in December.
3. Mayfield Park did not charge us for the 4 months of last year after we resumed club nights, and our ‘umbrella organisation’ (Midlands Counties Photographic Federation) suspended their fees for a 2nd year running. We are now back to normal in both cases.
4. We also benefitted from an additional income source by opening up our guest speaker evenings on Zoom to other clubs (who mostly paid via PayPal).

In summary for the year 2021:

Total Income: £2,652 for a membership that peeked at 32 (pre-COVID we were averaging 42)

Total Expenditure: £2,760

Profit / Loss: - £595

Current Bank/PayPal Balance at commencement of 2022: £ 3,190

(Actual as at 1 Mar = £3,220)

Looking forward, the Treasurer reported that he had finally managed to get all of our money out of our PayPal account, although the account still exists with a zero balance and could be reinstated. However, we are back now to “Cash and Bank only” transactions. The PayPal option has also been removed from our website.

For this year’s budget the Committee have decided on another negative forecast of - £595 while we try to rebuild our membership and club attendances and continue to invest with a subscription to Microsoft Office and possibly buying a back-up projector depending on how the year pans out.  
The members applauded Colin Prickett, the retiring Treasurer, and the Chairwoman praised him for his excellent work as Treasurer for the past 6 years and particularly for his contribution to the future continuity of the Society during this particularly challenging period. The Treasurer’s report and the Accounts for 2021 were accepted: proposed by K Hyde and seconded by R Puleston Jones. .

**7 Approval of Independent Examiner**  
The Accounts for 2021 had been independently checked again this year by   
Mr S Bird, who had indicated his willingness to continue in this role. As in previous years, the club will be making a small donation to a local charity of his choice as he does not charge for this service. Members voted to retain him as Independent Examiner again for the current year: proposed by J Jennings, seconded by S Thomas.

**8 Election of Management Committee  
  
a Chairman**The DPS Constitution required, at this point in the proceedings, that the Chairwoman should hand over management of the meeting to the Secretary. Since both roles were currently held by the same person, the Chairwoman had asked J Lewis, retiring Committee Member and former DPS Chairman to take the chair for this whole agenda item. He began by thanking L Wilson for acting as Chair through this past difficult year and acknowledged the understanding that she had taken on the role for one year only alongside her more familiar role as Secretary to enable the previous Chair (RPJ) to resign.  
  
It was announced that no Nomination Forms had been received for the role of DPS Chair but 10 nominations had been made for committee membership.   
J Lewis outlined the role of the Chair and its importance in not only managing the committee but in supporting members to advance in their photography and in giving the Society direction and encouraging new membership. He assured any incoming Chair that s/he would have both his and R Puleston Jones’s support as past Chairs, as well as L Wilson’s continuing support as Secretary. He also pointed out how other clubs make the duties of their officers a little easier by holding less meetings during the year, holding less competitions and/or having a break in their calendar during the summer months. He suggested these might be areas the committee might need to discuss in the future. It was also suggested that other items for discussion at a future committee meeting might be how the functions of the Chair might be separated between committee members and the potential for more frequent rotation of the role of Chair (perhaps after just one or two years) so that incoming new Chairs have a clear understanding of the future commitment they will be making. However, there were still no nominations or volunteers forthcoming.  
  
J Lewis asked for 2 agreements: (1) he asked for permission to leave this item and to move on to the election of the committee members; (2) the elected committee must come back to the membership and advise what action has been taken in respect of the role of Chairperson. In addition, it was noted that only an AGM or EGM could vote in a new Chairperson and that the committee would need to organise an EGM when appropriate. By a unanimous show of hands, members agreed to these 2 items.  
  
**b Committee Members**Five Nomination Forms had been received for existing Committee Members and 5 for other club members. The current Committee members willing to remain were Carole Emms, M Green, T Goodwin, B Jackson and Linda Wilson. These 5 Committee Members were re-elected *en masse* by a show of hands. The 5 other nominated club members were: R Holt, M Godfrey,   
G McDade, A, Taylor and S Thomas, who had previously indicated that she would be willing to take over the role of Treasurer. It was announced that   
R Holt had previously indicated that if there was an excess of nominations, he would be willing to withdraw his nomination form. M Godfrey, G McDade,   
A Taylor and S Thomas were voted in by another unanimous show of hands. It was confirmed that the roles to be carried out by Committee Members would be agreed at the forthcoming committee meeting on Wednesday,   
9th March.  **c Other Roles  
  
.1 Safeguarding Representative:** F Symonds had held this role in recent years but was not present at the meeting to confirm his willingness to continue to do so. The Secretary agreed to contact him by email to establish his willingness to continue in the role.   
  
**.2 Webmaster:** T Goodwin agreed that he was willing to continue in this role.   
  **.3 Facebook Group Manager:** M Green had held this role for the past year but had sent his apologies for the AGM. The Secretary agreed to contact him by email to establish his willingness to continue in the role.

**9 Presentation of Awards**  
**a Hollis Trophy**Landscape Category Winner – M Green – Red Sands Seascape  
Creative Category Winner and Equal Third Place – D Hollis – Elephant with thoughts of his family  
Equal Third Place – Linda Wilson  
Nature Category Winner and Second Place – L Ariss – Got It!  
Portraiture Winner and Overall Winner – B Jackson – Loneliness

**b Graham Brown Memorial Trophy**Third Place- D Hollis  
Second Place – L ArissFirst Place– C Baldwin

**b Monthly Competition Winners**  
March: Open Projected, Chris Baldwin, Barbary Lion Emerging  
April: Open Mono, Linda Wilson, El Tatio Geyser Field, Chile  
May:, Three of a Kind, Gez McDade, Tulips  
June: Creative, Peter Cosentino Trophy, Gez McDade, Aurora Lights  
July: Shapes, Bob Holt, Power  
August: Open Untouched, Linda Ariss, Cough It Up  
September: Negative Space, Gez McDade, All Alone at Sea  
October: Industry, Bob Holt, The Search for Oil  
November: Music, Bee Jackson, Ebony and Ivory  
December: Fog and Mist, Chris Baldwin, Early Morning Webs  
January: Flowers, Linda Ariss, Frozen   
February: Panel of 3 Images, Chris Baldwin, Big Cats Under Stress  
  
Due to fact that no Print competitions had been possible again this year, the Chairman confirmed that there would be no separate Print or Projected Trophies awarded this year. All the competitions had therefore contributed to the Walker Cup.

**c Walker Cup**:   
3rd place – Gez McDade

2nd place – Chris BaldwinWinner – Linda Ariss  
  
**d Chairman’s Award**.

The Chairman’s Award was presented to Christine Prickett, who although not a committee member, had been a constant support to the Chairwoman throughout the year, always full of ideas and working behind the scenes to get things done. She had also been a support to other members of the Committee and particularly to Mike Fuller in his compilation of the Newsletters. In presenting the award, the Chairwoman said that she wanted all the members not only to recognise how much thought and effort Christine had put into the club this year but also to applaud her photographic skills which were not always awarded the marks they deserved by our external judges, but thankfully had been recognised by the award of the ARPS by the Royal Photographic Society.

**10 Any Other Business**  
  
None

**11 Date of Next AGM**The next AGM will take place on Tuesday, 7 March 2023 at 7.30 pm.

Chairman’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Appendix 1**

**ChairWOman’s report - review of the year – 2021-22**

Well, it’s been another strange and challenging year again for us all, as well as for the cameral club. I’m not going to recount the history of the pandemic since March 2021. Suffice it to say that at this time last year, the AGM was held via Zoom as were all of our meetings until the end of August. We returned to face-to-face meetings here at Mayfield at the beginning of September and hopefully we won’t be locked down again. We were sad to hear on our return that Bill had retired from his stewardship duties but have been very pleased to get to know Chris who has looked after us splendidly since then.

Learning to use Zoom has had great advantages. Not only did it enable us to continue our meetings, and to invite members of other local camera clubs as paying guests to our online meetings, it also enabled us to draw from a bigger pool of both judges and speakers - and we will be continuing to do so now that we have equipped ourselves to be able to bring remote judges and speakers into our meetings via Zoom here at Mayfield. Huge thanks to Colin and Bee for enabling that to happen.

Special thanks must go to Mike Fuller for putting together our wonderful monthly Newsletters, which never cease to amaze me in their content, and to Christine for working with Mike to publish the monthly competition issue of the Newsletter. During Lockdown these were even more important to keep the members connected; especially those members who are not Zoom users.

It's been good to see our membership numbers get back up to the same level they were at pre-Lockdown, and even to welcome new members who have joined the Society since we resumed f2f meetings. However, it was sad to have lost another long-standing member in July ’21 when Joan Taylor sadly passed away. A small number of us attended the funeral which beautifully celebrated Joan’s life and achievements. There were some interesting revelations and lots of laughter as well as the tears we shed.

There was lots of laughter also at our first *Match an Image* battle that was held in November – and will hopefully be repeated on 31 May. During the summer months, we also enjoyed photographic walks as well as an outdoor summer social in the garden of the Red Lion at Kilsby; and in December we held our Christmas social again at the Pytchley Inn.

So, I like to think that we’ve managed to maintain a full and interesting calendar again through this difficult year. I’d like to thank all the members who have contributed to our meetings or to supporting the delivery of the meetings, including our new volunteers Tony and Martin who are learning to manage the competition software and the growing range of hardware we now have at our disposal. However, we do still need to further increase the number of members who are confident in the use our equipment and feel comfortable managing or inputting into our meetings.

As you know, this has been my first (and only!) year as DPS Chairwoman. I couldn’t have coped with both this role and my more familiar role of Secretary without the support of such a fantastic committee. I have to thank the committee members for their support to me personally and for their time, energy and dedication to ensure the continuity of the Society through this second year of the pandemic.

Colin has been an absolute rock. He is recognised by us all obviously as an excellent Treasurer. He has also held the title of membership secretary but has ’informally’ also taken up the role of procurement manager and, of course, has been the driving force behind the running of our competitions. He has done the latter with Linda Ariss’s support, of course, who has continued to manage the judges, as well as speakers again this year within her role as outgoing programme secretary. John has taken a great weight off my shoulders this year in processing the monthly competition results on the mammoth spreadsheet that has a will of its own, but is mastered by John in a way that I could never achieve.

Bee has been our stalwart provider of our Zoom facility. I really believe that without this, we might have gone under. It was essential that we had the facility to meet through lockdown. Indeed, the committee have agreed to continue to meet via Zoom. It’s more convenient for both us and the Mayfield team. Some of our guest speakers and at least one of our judges will also be joining us by Zoom in the coming year, as I’ve already said. So, thank you Bee for everything you have done to ensure its success so far and into the future.

Michael has also been a star this year. He manages the DPS Facebook Group Page, with Roland’s support. This now has 156 members btw, so it’s a continuous task to monitor and administer. Michael also single-handedly managed the curation and publication of our first online virtual exhibition which was a great success and something we hope to do again.

Thanks also to Tony who has managed the website again this year and as I already mentioned, along with Martin, is learning how to run competition evenings to enable Colin to withdraw from some of his wide range of responsibility. Carole is always full of good ideas and generous donations, including a recycled laptop from her workplace and the start up provisions for our Covid-aware kitchen supplies, which were out of her own pocket, as well as the time she spent putting all those biscuits into individual packets. Thanks for looking after us all Carole.

Stuart was a member of the committee at the beginning of the year but had to resign eventually due to his health problems, which left us 2 committee members short. I hope we can resolve that issue later in the meeting.

In summary, in the words of Old Mr Grace, ‘You’ve all done very well’ – not just the committee, but every one of us.

However, I am very aware that in attempting to carry both the Chair and Secretary’s roles, that some things have had to give. These are two separate functions which should work well together but which should be able to benefit from the support, advice and interaction between the roles. In combining the 2 roles, there has been a tendency for me to be too inward looking – too lost in the detail – and there is a danger that this could lead to stagnation. We need someone new in the Chair, with a different outlook and a different way of working who would have my continuing support as secretary - if they want it, of course. But I really won’t be put out if someone else wants to take that job off me as well!