



**MINUTES** of the **AGM** of the  
Daventry Photographic Society  
held online via Zoom on  
Tuesday, 2 March 2021 at 7.30 pm

1. **Present:** R Puleston Jones, Chairman; L Ariss, Vice Chair; Colin Prickett, Treasurer; L Wilson, Secretary; C Baldwin, S Batchelar, R Dawson, C Emms, T Goodwin, M Green, M Hemmings, D Hollis, R Holt, K Hyde, B Jackson, J Jennings, J Lewis, G McDade, R Nunney, Christine Prickett, S Thomas.

2. **Apologies for Absence:** G Stait

3. **Approval of AGM Minutes of 3 March 2020**

The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting: proposed by C Baldwin, seconded by D Hollis.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM.

5. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented his report, a copy is attached as Appendix 1.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the signed Accounts for the Financial Year 2020 were displayed on screen while the Treasurer made his report.

In reaction to the first lockdown, and continuing COVID-19 restrictions, the Committee immediately readjusted its spending plans and carefully monitored expenditure for the remainder of the year. Speakers were cancelled and Judges' fees became free of charge or involved minimal charity donations. The Society also signed up to PayPal for donation payments and, at the end of July, reintroduced attendance fees for online meetings in order to stimulate income to cover our payment of fixed costs such as insurances, Zoom and software licensing, etc.

These actions were taken to mitigate losses and to aim for a new target of 'breakeven' if at all possible. The Committee was also fully committed to continuing with the provision of a varied programme of activity for its members throughout this difficult period. Adjustments were made to account for the fact that our insurance premium (£306) is often paid before Christmas, but this year our 2021 fees were paid in Jan 2021. We usually pay MCPF before

Christmas too, but they had waived their fees for 2021 (c.£70). In addition, we did not pay anything to MPSC this year due to sudden COVID measures (c.£150). These reduced outgoings resulted in a saving of £526 in total accounting for most of our profit this year.

A further impact of the Covid restrictions has been the unpredictable array of attendance payments making income forecasting more difficult. All forms of income and expenditure are included in the accounts, which now include cash transactions, bank transfers and PayPal payments. It will be helpful during this continued COVID-19 situation, and beyond, if members could identify their payments, both in terms of purpose and period covered, so that these sums can be properly accounted for in future.

The Treasurer explained that it is far better for contributors to make PayPal 'donations' as bulk payments. For example, a £2.50 donation attracts a charge of £0.37 whereas a £25.00 donation attracts a charge of £1.03 (instead of  $10 \times £0.37 = £3.70$ ). Moreover, we do not receive charges for transactions within our Bank Account, so online banking payments are the best of all solutions.

Since the first lockdown a year ago, the active involvement of our 31 members (29 for much of the year) has significantly decreased due in part to personal circumstances but also through concerns about the security of Zoom. In financial terms, this resulted in only 16 of our members supporting the club through meeting attendances which is our main source of income. It is hoped that this will increase as people become more comfortable with Zoom. To help with the payment of speakers, we are also extending invitations to other clubs for some of the excellent speaker evenings we have lined up in the coming months. For 2021, the Society has budgeted for six months' continuation of Zoom meetings (to end June) followed by six months' return to normal weekly activities and meetings.

With our learned experience of the impact of Covid-19, we can reasonably estimate that this will result in a loss next year of possibly - £732. Given that the Society made a profit in 2020 of £611 we can, in effect, say that the Society will come close to breaking even over the two years of Covid restrictions, which the Committee considers will be a satisfactory end result. If circumstances change, we will once again adjust our budgeting in order to protect the Society from any significant losses beyond this. In the meanwhile, the Committee is confident that it can sustainably continue to provide a full and varied programme for its members throughout the coming year and would like to thank its members for their continued financial support.

The Chairman thanked, and members applauded, Colin Prickett for his excellent work as Treasurer during this particularly challenging period. His report and the Accounts for 2020 were accepted: proposed by C Baldwin and seconded by R Dawson.

## 7 Approval of Independent Examiner

The Accounts for 2020 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 D Hollis.

## 8 Election of Management Committee

### a Chairman

The Secretary reported that no Nomination Forms had been received for the roles of either Chairman or Committee Member other than those relating to existing members of the Committee. The Chairman asked the members present at the meeting whether there were any other proposals to be considered: there were none. Only one nomination, for L Wilson, had been made for the role of Chairman: proposed by R Puleston Jones and seconded by Colin Prickett. Since no further proposals were put to meeting, a vote was taken and L Wilson was unanimously elected as Chairwoman for the coming year.

### b Committee Members

The Secretary reported that Nomination Forms had been received relating to the following existing Committee Members: L Ariss, S Batchelar, T Goodwin, M Green, B Jackson, J Lewis, Colin Prickett. She reported that C Emms had been nominated but was still considering her current commitments and had not to date signed the Nomination Form. The Chairman asked members present if there were any further nominations for committee membership: there were none. A vote was taken to re-elect *en masse* the committee members who had agreed to stand for re-election. The Chairman confirmed that the roles to be carried out by Committee Members would be confirmed at the coming committee meeting. However, his discussions with existing Committee Members had confirmed that Colin Prickett is willing to continue to act as Treasurer, and that S Batchelar will act as Vice Chairman, and would be willing to stand for election to the Chair the following year. One vacancy remains, therefore for a further Committee Member. The Treasurer stated that the coming year would be his last in this role.

### c Other Roles

**Safeguarding Representative:** F Symonds had fulfilled this role for the past year 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.

**Webmaster:** T Goodwin had agreed prior to the AGM that he was willing to continue in the role. The Chairman recorded his thanks to M Green and J Lewis for offering to cover the role if T Goodwin was temporarily unavailable.

**Facebook Group Manager:** M Green had volunteered prior to the AGM to take on this role, still being kindly covered by E Smith despite her having moved away from Daventry. R Puleston Jones will continue to act as second administrator of the Fb Group in support of M Green.

## 9 Presentation of Awards

### a **Graham Brown Memorial Trophy**

Equal Second Place – S Batchelar and Colin Prickett  
First Place – M Green

Images of the certificates made out to the winners were display on screen and will be posted to the winners as soon as possible. The Trophy itself was still in the possession of the previous winner, G McDade who agreed to pass it on to M Green as soon as Covid restrictions allowed

### b **Monthly Competition Winners**

March: Open Projected, Gez McDade, A Winter's Dream  
April: Open Mono, Chris Baldwin, A Gentle Greeting  
May: Creative, Peter Cosentino Trophy, Bee Jackson, The Big Apple  
June: Roofscapes, Dave Hollis, St Paul's, London  
July: Blurred Movements, Chris Baldwin, Run with the Herd  
August: Open Untouched, Stuart Batchelar, Gone Fishing  
September: Transport, Gez McDade, Taking the Tube  
October: Still Life, Colin Prickett, Shells and Shadows  
November:: Textures, Linda Wilson, Rusty Smile  
December: Water, Bee Jackson, Cascades  
January: The Colour Purple, Roland Puleston Jones, Selfridges Spheres  
February: Panel of 3 Images, Michael Green, Highgate Cemetery Lost in Time

Due to fact that no Print competitions had been possible 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:**

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Michael Green  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Linda Ariss  
Winner – G McDade

### d **Chairman's Award**

The Chairman said that there had been many contenders for this special award this year due to the significant challenges that many members had helped the Society to overcome in this particularly difficult year. However, he stressed that continued communications across our membership had been vital to keep the Society intact. A major contribution to our communications,

keeping the members informed and feeling part of the Society had been the monthly issues of DPS News. The Chairman acknowledged Christine Prickett's contribution to the newsletters and announced that this year the Chairman's Award goes to Mike Fuller for his dedication and ingenuity in making the newsletter so informative and interesting.

Both the Walker Cup and the Chairman's Award would be engraved and passed to this year's winners as soon as Covid restrictions allow. In the interim the monthly winner certificates and the Walker Cup Certificates will be posted.

## **10 Any Other Business**

### **a Follow up from the Extraordinary General Meeting**

The Chairman reminded members that the EGM held on 5 January 2021 had adopted amendments to the DPS Constitution, but that M Hemmings had offered to propose further amendments that would be given consideration by the Committee. The Chairman reported that the Committee had agreed that the proposal added no benefit to the process already described and that we would go forward with the Constitution as agreed at the EGM.

**b** D Hollis congratulated L Wilson on becoming DPS's first Chairwoman.

### **C Votes of thanks**

R Dawson gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman for his stewardship of the Society over the past 4 years. This was supported by Colin Prickett who commented that, as Treasurer, he could confirm just how much dedication and thoroughness RPJ had committed to the role. He then presented a gift to RPJ on behalf of the members of the Society: a camera which looked very impressive on screen, but when shaken was clearly filled with confectionery not the latest lens technology!

T Goodwin thanked M Green for his support in the role of Webmaster during his first year in post.

D Hollis thanked the Committee for their hard work in this particularly challenging year

### **d Use of Zoom into the Future**

It was suggested that we might consider continuing to use Zoom going forward even after Covid restrictions are eased and our face-to-face meetings can be resumed. The Zoom meetings have enabled us to attract members from other clubs bringing in additional income, and enabled us to book well-

known speakers, some from far afield, who otherwise would have been too expensive for us to book. It was agreed that the Committee would discuss the potential for the continuing use of Zoom, perhaps on a regular basis, or for special events and make changes to the published calendar as appropriate. It was also suggested that the Jaguar Club be approached to consider a fully digital competition be held between our 2 clubs this year.

**11 Date of Next AGM**

The next AGM will take place on Tuesday, 1 March 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - REVIEW OF THE YEAR – 2020-21**

Good evening everyone and thank you for joining our Annual General Meeting which, for the first and hopefully last time, we are having to hold as a Zoom meeting.

As you know, this will be my last year as your Chairman after 4 years of being in the role as I think it is time for some new ideas. Also, after my health scare last March, I needed to make some more time for me despite having really enjoyed being in the role. A heart attack, however minor, was quite a big wake up call to remind me to make sure I make the most of everyday of my life. Karl Hyde, who we are very pleased to see with us today, has just had the same wake-up call. Our best wishes, Karl for a speedy recovery. We look forward to him coming back to us on meetings as soon as he is well enough to do so. He sends you all his thanks for your kind wishes for a speedy recovery and says he is recovering well. Also, Tony Has been in hospital with a knee problem and we wish you a speedy recovery too.

The last 4 years have seen quite a lot of change particularly in the committee members and officers. Sadly, part of this change was due to the deaths of two members, Peter Cosentino and Graham Brown. I think none of us understood how much work was put in by Graham and that meant a lot more work for the remaining committee as well as a full reshuffle of the Committee and needing to recruit new committee members and officers.

For most of the last year, due to Covid 19 restrictions and lockdowns, we have not been able to meet up in person over the last 12 months and that has added a lot more work for your committee and its officers. We have had to move online for meetings and competitions and most of this digitisation of the Society has been led by Colin Prickett with great support from Bee Jackson and John Lewis who have played their part by hosting Zoom meetings and sending out invites by email to every member who wanted to use Zoom for every meeting. Thank you to those three in particular for their efforts in keeping us active as many photography groups simply stopped operating. I fully understand that some members do not wish to participate on Zoom meetings. However, now that Zoom is far more secure than the early days of using the software, if you want to re-consider, then simply ask us to send you invites to the meetings. Sadly, some members did not want to use Zoom, so we have not seen them for some time. Hopefully, we will be able to get together in the second half of 2021.

Another key digital milestone in the last year was the introduction of the Online Photo-Entry Software which generally has worked very well and been another key way to keep us running our monthly and annual competitions, even if we could not have any print competitions. Once again, a massive thank you to Colin for organising this and running the software. His contribution has been key to our surviving and thriving through the Covid period.

Not being able to meet has also put our finances under heavy pressure with much lost income and once again we had to change how we operated to make sure we

kept our finances strong. We have introduced the donation button on our website enabling both members and external guests to donate £2.50 per zoom meeting, which was yet again developed by your committee members Colin and Michael. The overall financial management has been particularly crucial this year but once again Colin has risen to the occasion and kept us strong financially.

We have developed our DPS Facebook group and the number of people using that has grown dramatically, growing by over 30% in the last two months alone after we passed the 100 Facebook members milestone in late December. The good news from that, and a small marketing incentive, has helped us recruit another two members to become full members. A big thank you to Emma Dawson for all her work, supported by me as her second Facebook admin person, in keeping the interest going despite her moving away and now looking after her new addition to the family, Albie. Emma cannot continue to lead our Facebook group due to her moving away, so we desperately need someone to put themselves forward to be the key lead admin of our Facebook group. I have muddled through with Emma's help even though she left the lead role, but it needs someone with more relevant skills and experience than me to lead this. I would urge the new committee to look at how to recruit some more full members from the Facebook group even if it is only something like 10% of them at most. Facebook group members tend to be younger than full members so that would help us recruit younger members to ensure the future of DPS.

As Chairman I have been the face of DPS, but without a strong group of officers and committee members then it would have been a much tougher task. Without people like Linda Wilson who has always been my 'go to' person for advice as she is so experienced, as is Colin on our finances. But the rest of the committee are also so essential to the smooth operation of DPS and they do so much important work. Take the role of Programme secretary. That is another key role as a great programme makes a good photographic Society like ours and Linda Ariss, with Stuart's help has done fantastically this year.

I would also like to thank Mike Fuller and Christine Prickett for their amazing work on our monthly newsletter which has been yet another integral part of keeping our members informed, particularly those who could not join Zoom meetings, and there have been so many fantastic articles and interviews. As soon as it is published, I have read every edition from cover to cover in one go. It has been not only informative and interesting, but another key means of involving every member in these difficult times.

In summary although Covid has brought us so many challenges I am proud to have led the team of officers and committee members who, in the last year in particular, have done an amazing job with so many innovations to deal with Covid to keep us together as much as possible as a society. Thank you to them all!

Most importantly a big thank you to all members whatever level of activity you have had in the last 12 months. I look forward to us being able to get together in person and then I see us growing from strength to strength, but we will have a lot of rebuilding to do!