

SCARBOROUGH PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held at the Friends Meeting House on Wednesday 28th March 2018 at 7.30pm

1 Apologies

These were received from Pauline Dent.

2 Minutes of the AGM held on 22rd March 2017

These were accepted as a true record, proposed by Ralph Witty, seconded by Graham Barnett and accepted unanimously.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4 President's Report

Elise Garland said that she has enjoyed her time as president over the past year and that we have had a successful year at the club.

The club now offers a good mix of practical and informative evenings as well as competitions. It is great to see new members taking part more in these and being successful against some of the more experienced ones. She is hoping more of the newer members will feel next year that they are able to take part in competitions and perhaps help with various things in the society.

The website and Facebook page are still popular in attracting interest and are a good platform for updating everyone re the events coming up. Charles Spencer has agreed to carry on as webmaster for another year but if anyone would be available to help with this it would be appreciated as Charles struggles to have a lot of time to dedicate to the updates.

Ralph Witty and Elise have been doing some Beginners' photography courses which form a condensed version of the 8-week course run previously a couple of years ago by Ralph and Charles in the summer months. These have helped to raise some funds for the club and also promote the club and help beginners. Elise also did some editing evenings earlier on in the year and this also helped to raise some funds. She thanked Jacki Hildreth and Ralph for helping her with those. She aims to do some more in the spring as time allows.

Finally, Elise gave a big thank you to all the committee members for their hard work this year and hopes that next year proves to be a successful one for the society.

5 Secretary's Report

Elaine Rhodes explained that her role is mainly to undertake many of the general administrative, but the projects undertaken this year included: -

- A survey of members took place in early summer 2017 to obtain feedback on the previous season and to find out what members would like to do in the coming year. Elaine thanked all who responded. This year, the committee have asked for suggestions and comments to be made on the sheet available at the meetings in the run-up to the AGM, as this will give the Syllabus Secretary more timely information on what people would like to see in future.
- The exhibition at the Art Gallery, from 27/3/18 to 22/04/18. A sub group of Val, Janet and Elaine have been planning this for several months. As at Tuesday 27th March, 35 prints from 19 members were put on display with approximately 50% of members have one or more prints in the exhibition. A drinks reception on the opening day was attended by 22 guests and funded by

Janet's raffle held on the President's Night at Christmas. Also, the exhibition will be featured on the That's North Yorkshire TV channel with an interview with Janet Hastie. Elaine thanked everyone who has helped with the exhibition, especially Val, Janet and Pauline.

- Website Contacts. The club received 28 initial contacts for a variety of reasons, including information on joining, general information on photography and courses, and recently, seen an upsurge in photography equipment for sale or donation by non-members.
- Facebook. The group currently has 54 members with over 75% being current or past members of the society. As it is a closed group, Elise and Elaine monitor all requests and only those people who appear to have a genuine interest in photography and are potential new members (i.e. live locally or have links to the area) are accepted.

Elaine thanked her colleagues on the committee and all the members for support and help in her role of secretary.

6 Treasurer's Report

Paul Tymon presented his report saying that this has been another steady year for the club from a financial aspect. We have seen a slight decrease in the number of members from 47 to 39.

The balance of funds held by the club now stands at £3,305.92, up from £2,422.35 last year, which is an increase of £883.57.

Income – Thanks go to Elise, Ralph Witty and helpers who raised £272.50 from the beginners' lessons and £70 from the editing sessions. £152.00 was raised at the Christmas event. Membership fees brought in £1,479.00 and the tea money net income was £115.50. Paul also thanked those members who raised money using their own initiatives.

Outgoings – The cost of judges and speakers was £247.00 and the meeting room hire was £891.00 added that it had been a steady year with a slight decline in member numbers. At the start of 2016/17, the opening balance was £2,445.79 and the balance of club funds as at 22 March 2017 stands at £2,422.35. He believed that the slight drop in income from subscriptions and in tea money caused no significant worries. The largest expense was the rent for the meeting room. Some other costs have reduced this year.

7 Competition Secretary's Report

John Turner had circulated copies of the Competitions: Annual Report 2018 by email earlier to all members. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix A.

This is joint report made by the Competition Secretary and the External Competition Secretary, covering the Monthlies, Four Related Digital Images, Annuals, Inter Club Competitions and the PAGB Great British Cup (Open and Natural History). John summarised the main points of the report.

John also thanked the members who agreed to judge the Monthly Competitions (Andrew Bradley, Robert Child, Andy Kent, Paul Tymon and Ralph Witty) and Andy Kent for undertaking the role of projectionist.

8 External Competition Secretary's Report

The Competitions: Annual Report 2018 (above) incorporated Jacki Hildreth's comments and results from the external competitions entered by the club last year.

9 Election of Officers

Nominations for various committee posts had been received. The following officers were proposed by Ralph Witty, seconded by Robert Child and elected unanimously.

a. President	-	Elise Garland
b. Vice-president	-	Val Child
c. General Secretary	-	Elaine Rhodes
d. Treasurer	-	Terry Meads
e. Competition Secretary	-	John Turner
f. Competition Secretary External	-	Jackie Hildreth
g. Syllabus Secretary	-	Elise Garland
h. Web Master	-	Charles Spencer
i. YPU representatives (2)	-	Val Child, vacancy **
j. Projectionists (2)	-	Andy Kent, vacancy
k. Committee	-	Janet Hastie, Paul Tymon, Steve Wilson

** For information, since the AGM, Jacki Hildreth has volunteered to be the second YPU representative.

10 Subscriptions

The Committee proposed that the annual subscription be increased to £39. Only paid-up members may enter competitions. Non-members may attend up to two sessions free of charge and thereafter would normally be expected to become a member if attending further sessions. Prestige events may attract a charge to non-members. Any other arrangements for charging visitors may be made at the discretion of the committee.

Discussion followed with several questions being asked by Dave Brett and other members from the floor about the need for an increase in subscriptions, the rent for the current venue and if an alternative would be cheaper and more suitable (e.g. St Catherine's). It was also suggested by Paul Shippin that the subscription be payable in two halves, rather one lump sum.

Members of the committee felt that: -

- Whilst the club has healthy funds, it would be preferable to make a gradual increase in the level of subscription rather than a larger increase at a later date
- The current venue was a better size for accommodating any prestige events and external competitions/battles where a higher than usual attendance would be expected.
- There may be a need to replace the current projector as Andy Kent had been approached by some members about the quality of the digital images projected. Being a camera club, we should be able produce a good quality projection when presenting digital images.
- Splitting the annual subscription into two parts, may result in some members joining for a part year only, resulting in loss of income for the club. Any genuine new members joining after the Christmas break, would normally pay a reduce fee.

A vote was taken and the proposal approved.

11 2017/18 Programme

a) Syllabus Secretary's Report

Elise has had a lot of good feedback about the syllabus for this last year. There has been a good mixture of members from beginners to the more experienced and she has tried to cater some sessions for each of these groups which is always difficult as you can't please everyone.

The speakers this year started with George Stoye, who was the overall winner British Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2016. This was followed by Ray Brammall, who is an ex-President of the Yorkshire Photographic Union, Les Gibbon from Hull News who covered wildlife macro and high-speed flash photography, Josh Harrison with his photos of the Arctic and Karl Mainprize who inspired members to take their cameras with them whilst on a walk.

There were a number of practical evenings but next year it would be good to do something different so we still need suggestions for these. Elise has had a few suggestions for which she thanked those concerned, however she would appreciate a quick email from those people to elaborate on what they'd suggested. For these sessions, the club does need members to help, so if anyone would like to volunteer please let Elise know.

Elise also thanked members Andrew Kent, Elaine Rhodes, John Turner and Ralph Witty for helping with the 'Sharing the Knowledge' evening along with Tracy Chapman who came twice this year to take part in the practical evenings. It is good to have members taking part, so anyone up for either doing an evening themselves or helping with the practical evenings next year please let Elise know.

b) YPU Report

Val Child spoke about this year's Yorkshire Photographic Union (YPU) competition. The closing date for entries has now passed and 8 club members have submitted work. The judging is now taking place. The YPU Assembly (the awards event) will take place on 5th May at Sheffield with the accompanying exhibition running from 5th to 17th May. Details of the venue etc. are on the YPU website.

c) Monthly Competitions

Members were then asked to select four subjects for next season's monthly competitions. A vote took place and the chosen subjects for 2018/19 will be: -

- Reflections
- Taken in Scarborough
- Monochrome
- Something Beginning with S

12 2018/19 Programme

Elise hopes that during this year that we can all work together to strengthen the club, enrol new members and hopefully raise more funds.

She will be working on the programme for next year and reiterated her comments made earlier during the Syllabus Secretary's Report about the coming season. There will also be a programme of summer meets beginning in April. Member should watch the website /Facebook/Emails for updates on future events.

Elise expressed her hopes that everyone would enjoy the summer months, take plenty of photos and that she would see everyone again in the autumn when the new programme starts.

13 Any other business

There was an active discussion about the definitions for competitions and the various points made by members included: -

- Not every member was aware of the definitions and, in some instances cases, sought advice which later turned out to be incorrect.
- Whether or not the Competition Secretary should decide which images qualify for which category. John had already included comments in his report on this matter and that he felt it was not the role of the Competition Secretary to undertake this role.
- Interpretation of the definitions by the judges, especially the "Scapes" category and how this conflicted with the rulings in some non-club competitions (e.g. Landscape Photographer of the Year).
- The timeliness of changes to definitions. The example quoted was for the "Macro" competition which was later re-titled "Macro and Close-Up". John commented that this change was made on advice of the speaker, Charles Spencer, who presented a session on Macro.

Ralph Witty proposed that the committee should make the decisions relating to each definition / category. The President noted this and agreed that the matter of definitions and determinations would be discussed by the committee.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm and was followed by the Presentation of Trophies by the President, Elise Garland.

COMPETITIONS: ANNUAL REPORT 2018

1. MONTHLIES

	Prints	Digital
Open	20	36
People	8	25
Unusual View	16	31
Macro	11	31
Flowers	<u>12</u>	<u>34</u>
	67	157 [2017 - Prints 123, Digital 222]

The number of entries for these competitions slipped back again this session at least partly due to the greater difficulty in satisfying the definition of the titles. Prints were at their lowest number [down 45 %] and digital images, although maintaining a steady monthly entry, were nevertheless down 29%. Twenty-two members [60% of total membership] have entered digital images in one or more months of whom eight could be considered for the Monthly Digital Trophy. Only twelve members [30%] have entered prints of whom four could be considered for the Monthly Prints Trophy. Each trophy is awarded on the basis of a member's best scores from each of four Monthly Competitions.

The subjects for Monthly Competitions in 2018-19 are Open, Reflections, Taken in Scarborough, Monochrome and Something Beginning with S.

2. FOUR RELATED DIGITAL IMAGES

The entry of 28 sets provided wide ranging subjects but with a particular emphasis on natural history. Members are urged to seek possible subjects for this competition in their photography during the coming months.

3. ANNUALS

	Prints			Digital		
	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016
Class 1/7 Scapes	11	15	17	16	16	22
2/8 Portrait	7	8	12	9	10	15
3/9 Nature	12	11	9	25	23	24
4/10 Arch.	6	6	6	10	10	9
5/11 Sport	3	5	5	9	10	11
6/12 Open	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>
	49	47	54	82	69	87
Members entering	11	10	14	15	14	15
Average Entry	4.5	4.7	3.9	5.5	4.9	5.8

Entries in the digital section picked up somewhat due to the extension of the Open class to include all members but were it not for the reintroduction of this class to the prints section entry numbers would again have been down. The number of members taking part in the competition remained at about the same level. Widening the remit of Class 4/10 to include General Record attracted no more entries than in 2017 while at the same time creating an overlap with other classes and may merit reassessment.

An interpretation of the competition rules and definitions by one judge resulted in the disqualification of five prints considered to be in the wrong class. This led to the suggestion that the Competitions Secretary should filter out such entries. However, this could put him/her in an invidious position as his/her interpretation of the rules/definitions might be [and on this occasion in respect of at

least two of the prints would have been] different from that of the judge. Competitors should give careful consideration to the rules/definitions before deciding how to place their entries.

4. INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

a] BATTLES

Agreements written and unwritten with Focus, York, Kirkbymoorside and Malton limit the number of entries from any one member so as to widen the spread of participants and encourage new members to put forward their work for consideration. Battles function at about the same upper level as our Annual Competition so new members whose prints/images have scored well in this competition or very well in the Monthlies are encouraged to submit them for consideration and should not feel discouraged if their work is not selected first time round. Indeed, relatively new members' work has featured in all of the recent battles.

i] York C. C. Held in Scarborough. The Society gained a narrow victory thanks to a good win in the digital section.

ii] F.ocus. Held again in Bridlington, the result was almost a repeat of last year with Scarborough ahead by 22 points gained almost entirely in the Digital section. No less than eight of our entries gained full marks.

iii] Scarborough, Kirkbymoorside and Malton. The 2017 battle took place in March at Kirkbymoorside when a decision again went down to the last image from each club, Scarborough running out victors by two points over Kirkbymoorside. The 2018 battle in January at Scarborough was less successful Scarborough being placed second only two points above Malton.

b] PAGB GREAT BRITISH CUP [OPEN AND NATURAL HISTORY]

The Society's best quality original work is needed for these competitions so images scoring highly in the Annuals or interclub battles are most likely to be included in our entries. The Society continues to have difficulty raising the maximum number [21] for the Nature section so there are opportunities for more/newer members to demonstrate their skills in this area.

In 2018 only 76 clubs entered the Open Competition, Scarborough gaining 159 points and occupying 41st.place, our best performance to date. In the Natural History Competition, the Society just managed to raise the maximum entry and gained our equal highest marks from the best ten. Even then we were three-quarters of the way down the list of the 88 participating clubs.

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Our thanks again go to our internal judges Andrew Bradley, Robert Child, Andrew Kent, Paul Tymon and Ralph Witty, to our projectionist, Andrew Kent and to all other members who have provided assistance in the organisation of competitions and battles. To all members, you can learn a great deal from judges' comments over a period of time and do not forget that impact is frequently as important as technical quality.

John Turner.
Competitions Secretary.

Jacki Hildreth
External Competitions Secretary.

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APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF COMPETITION STRUCTURES

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| YORK BATTLE | 12 Prints and 12 Digis. per club with no more than two entries in each section per member. |
| F.OCUS BATTLE | 15 Prints and 15 Digis. per club with no more than two entries in each section per member. |
| KIRKBYMOORSIDE/ MALTON BATTLE | 15 Digis. per club. For the current size of Scarborough P.S. at least 6 members participating, each limited to a maximum of 3 entries. |
| GREAT BRITISH CUP OPEN | 15 Digis. with no fewer than 6 participating members each limited to a maximum of 4 entries. |
| GREAT BRITISH CUP NATURAL HISTORY | Minimum 3 up to maximum 21 Digis. with not more than 3 from any one member. The top 10 scores form the club total. |