

SCARBOROUGH PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the AGM held at the Friends Meeting House on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 7.30pm *(subject to approval at the next AGM, March 2017)*

1 **Apologies**

These were received from Ralph Witty, Robert Child and John Tarring.

2 **Minutes of the AGM held on 25th March 2015**

These were accepted as a true record, proposed by Alan Flint and seconded by Geoff Bint.

3 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4 **President and acting Secretary's Report**

President Ralph Witty was unable to attend the AGM but he sent a written report to be read out on the night. This is reproduced below: -

"We have continued to have a successful year at the club, no doubt due to the continued promotion of the club through various media and our web site. The Facebook page is also proving popular in attracting interest and membership and has helped boost the coffers a bit more with people attending for specific events.

I have enjoyed my time as president over the past couple of years and feel I have helped the club move into a healthy state financially, as well as having the highest membership since I have been attending the club meetings. I think the time is now right to step down in order for others to have the chance to promote new ideas.

When I took on the role of president I was keen to promote equality and diversity which was fair and equitable to everyone. It is imperative we do not rest on our laurels or stifle the club with rigid rules and regulations if we want to maintain a healthy membership. We need to be flexible and meet people's needs in a modern society, recognising that members have varying commitments.

The club now offers a good mix of practical and informative evenings as well as active competition. Nothing gives me more pleasure than seeing new members flourish and successfully competing against some of our more experienced members.

However, I would prefer that as a club we steer clear of trusted formulas that are not in the spirit of competition and always encourage fresh work and ideas. It is not all about winning but sharing ideas, locations and techniques openly, in order that we nurture and maintain long term members.

The beginners' photography course will unfortunately not be going ahead this year due to Chaz and I not being able to commit to the long timetable. We are working on putting together a condensed 2 day workshop over two weekends that would promote the club and help beginners. Further details will be announced in due course.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the committee members for their hard work. I will continue to be active in the club and will be available to stand in for committee members who may not be able to commit for various reasons. I will of course continue to offer any ideas or advice people may need to help improve their photography.

I wish my successor all the best and hope that we have another successful year for the club. “

5 **Treasurer’s report, including Membership Fees for 2016/17**

Elaine Rhodes presented her report and circulated copies of the Statement of Account for the club for 2015/16, for which questions were invited.

The main points made were: -

- This has been another successful year for the club from both a financial and membership aspect.
- We have seen an increase in the number of members from 47 to 51 and more people attending on an ad hoc basis, especially for the more popular events.
- The balance of funds held by the club now stands at £2,455.79 – up from £2,105.60 last year.
- The increase in funds has been attributable to several factors: -
 - The increase in both the members and in ad hoc attendees
 - Income from the summer school
 - Fundraising on Presidents night
- The cost of speakers’ expenses increased this year, however we hope that members agree that the range of topics and quality of the speakers merited this.
- Equipment purchased included a new laptop with associated software, plus smaller items of equipment for demo of camera cleaning and mounts - for practical nights
- The largest regular expense for the club is the rent for hire of this room and facilities. The cost had remained at £40.50 per session this year.
- Insurance – the club’s insurance for both public liability and equipment is arranged through the YPU. We have increased the equipment insurance to reflect the value of all the significant items of equipment now held. The club has an Asset Register listing all the equipment that we own.

Subscriptions

For the coming year, the Treasurer recommended to the Committee and Members that the level of Annual Subscriptions remains unchanged at £35 (single) and £60 (couple). Also that the nominal charge of £2 for people who wish to attend on an ad hoc basis remains at £2. If anyone later decides to join, then the sum already paid would be deducted from their subscription. Under current rules, the first two meetings can be attended free of charge.

The income from ad hoc attendees raised £66.00 in the last year, however, this relied on people paying up on a voluntary basis. So in order to be fair to all, especially Members (who’ve paid an annual subscription) and to meet the requirements of the various policies and the guidance from the YPU, it was recommended that we should regularize the situation by maintaining a record of everyone attending each meeting. This could be achieved by having a signing-in book at the entrance for each meeting.

It was proposed that the recommendations be approved by Liz Blades and seconded by Geoff Bint, followed by a vote which was unanimous.

6 **Competition Secretary's report**

John Turner circulated copies of the Competitions: Annual Report 2016. The report covered the Monthlies, Four Related Digital Images, Annuals, Inter Club Battles and the PAGB Great British Cup.

John also thanked the members who agreed to judge the Monthly Competitions, the regular projectionist and everyone else who contributed to the smooth running of competitions and battles.

Members were then asked to select four subjects for next season's monthly competitions. A vote took place and the chosen subjects for 2016/17 will be: -

Coast
Animals
Bridges
Black and White

The monthly competitions will take place between October 2016 and February 2017.

7 **Election of Officers**

Nominations for various committee posts had been received and a vote took place in respect of the role of President as there were two nominees, Geoff Bint and Steve Bowden.

The following officers were elected: -

President	Steve Bowden
General Secretary	Elaine Rhodes
Treasurer	Alan Flint
Competition Secretary	John Turner
Syllabus Secretary	Elise Garland
Web Master	Charles Spencer
Committee	Paul James
Appointment of YPU representatives (2)	Val Child, David Jarvis
Projectionists (2)	David Brett, Elise Garland

8 **2015/16 Programme – Syllabus Secretary's Report**

Syllabus secretary's update

Elise Garland, the Syllabus Secretary, presented her report on the programme.

She was pleased how this year has gone with regards to the programme. It was good to start off with Oliver Wright from Leeds who had to cancel the previous year after being invited to spend 3 months in Iceland photographing auroras. He also specialises in macro photography and so did quite a varied presentation of both macro and auroras.

A couple of club members also gave presentations - Steve Bowden with his session on astrophotography and Robert Child with a talk entitled Out and About. It is always good to get club members who are willing to give a presentation and Elise wanted to say thank you to both of them.

Overall, Elise considered that the club had provided a quite varied programme which included practical evenings, competitions and speakers. If re-elected as Syllabus Secretary again this next year, she would like to hear any suggestions as to speakers and practical sessions from any members.

YPU news

Val Child said that the club had submitted a low number of entries this year for the Yorkshire Photographic Union (YPU) competition this year. The competition results have not yet been announced.

The YPU Assembly will take place at Wakefield on 7th May this year. This will be accompanied by a Print Exhibition that will run from 7th to 14th May. More details are available on the YPU website.

Open discussion about what people want from the club

Steve Bowden asked members to email him with any ideas or comments.

10 **Any other business**

Summer meetings

A programme of outdoor meetings giving photo opportunities for members has been arranged on a fortnightly basis, starting on Wednesday 13th April and ending on Wednesday 17th August. The locations include Dean Road Cemetery, The Mere, South Bay, Scarborough Rugby Club and Saint Catherine's Hospice for a studio night. Alan Flint had circulated copies of the schedule and details of where and when to meet are also available on the Club's website.

Start dates for 2016-2017

The start date for the coming season will be Wednesday 28th September and the season will end in early April (i.e. before Easter).

Ralph Witty

Steve Bowden proposed a vote of thanks for Ralph Witty in appreciation of his considerable contribution to the club during his two years of Presidency.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.