

Winchester Photographic Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 1st May 2007
7:30pm, Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College



1. **Apologies:** Rafe Pascual, Victor Mobbs, Rose Plincke, Carol Richardson, Hilary Hammond, June Walsh
2. **Minutes of AGM held 2nd May 2006.** This was accepted with 3 minor changes. **Proposed** David Taylor, Martin Struik.
3. **Matters Arising** Following a question, Mervyn reported that a level of 25% depreciation has been charged this year (see treasurer's report)
4. **Treasurer's Report (Mervyn Edwards):** See appendix: this was accepted, including the increase in fees. **Proposed** John Davis Tony Smith
5. **Secretary's Report (Keith Taylor).** There have been six committee meeting in the last 12 months. The plan to send out notices via email is working well for most people. **Proposed** Joy Auty, Seconded: John Norris
6. **Exhibition Coordinator's Report (Roger Buchanan)** See appendix. Proposed: David Taylor, Sec. Peter Geldard
7. **Programme Secretary's Report (Joy Auty)** See appendix Proposed Clive Richardson, Sec. David Simmonds
8. **Competition Secretary's Report – including external competitions (Philip George)** See appendix. There was a discussion on the proposal of one entry per person per evening: everyone agreed that there are too many entries now. Marks were discussed and Rafe's proposal for "RAW" pictures Proposed Mervyn Edwards Seconded Les Nicholson
9. **Publicity Officer's (Barry Mann)** Barry reported that there had been one newsletter this year. He has some material for a second newsletter, but he has not been able to complete it due to pressure of work (he is standing down). Publicity for the exhibition went out to other clubs via email. **Proposed** Keith Taylor Sec. John Norris
10. **Webmaster's Report - including Digital Workshops (David Taylor)** See appendix
Proposer: David Simmonds, George Walsh
11. **Audio Visual activity report (George Walsh)** George has visited other clubs using the AV projector, however, many other clubs now have their own. They have visited Petersfield and Locksheath PS. Several of our club evenings have required the use of the projector. The group is now looking for new AV programmes to take out to other clubs – either Pictures to Exe or ProShow Gold. They need 16 to 18 programmes for an evening. The entries for the Dunelm trophy may help. **Proposed:** Keith Taylor, Sec. Anne Ruffell There was a suggestion to link to the SPF website for ideas.

12. President's Report (Barbara Lambert) See below. Proposed: Philip George, Sec Joy Auty

13. Election of officers The following officers were elected. All were approved with one unanimous vote

Position	Officer	Proposer	Seconder
President	David Simmonds	n/a	n/a
Vice President	Ron Foulkes	David Simmonds	Mervyn Edwards
Secretary	Keith Taylor	Barbara Lambert	David Simmonds
Treasurer	Mervyn Edwards	John Davis	Ron Foulkes
Programme Secretary	Joy Auty	George Walsh	Rafe Pascual
Exhibition Coordinator	Roger Buchanan	David Simmonds	Mervyn Edwards
Publicity Officer			
Competition Secretary	Philip George	Peter Geldard	David Taylor
Projectionist	Peter Geldard	David Taylor	David Campbell
Member	John Davis	Jim Denness	J L R Joel
Member	Martin Struik	Jenny Hutchinson	Les Nicholson
Member	James Blackburn	Barry Mann	Zoe Smith

14. Appointment of Independent Auditor: Eileen Tilbury agreed to do this again. Proposed Clive Richardson, Sec. David Taylor

15. Any Other Business .

- Anne Ruffel proposed a PAGB or ARPS subgroup also a subgroup for panels of pictures. These subgroups could meet in people's homes or possibly on a workshop evening. She also suggested two judges to help with Exhibition and that each member gets one item on show. It should not be too difficult. To achieve this, possibly cut down Open classes to allow membership pictures.
- John Davis asked about the mechanics of digital display in the Discovery centre. It should be equipped with the latest digital projector.
- Philip asked again about the monthly print and slide competition. There was general agreement that there would only be one entry per person, and maintain slides. In some shape of form.
- Barbara thanked Graham for all the refreshments with the help of Rita.
- Also Eileen for reviewing the accounts.
- David Simmonds proposed a vote of thanks to Barbara.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Appendix: Reports of Officers

Treasurer's report: Income

2006-7 has been a successful year for the Society. Membership has increased yet again to 107 paid up members resulting in an income of £3390.00.

Visitors were down slightly to £88.56

The closure of the 'shop' resulted in a slight loss on the year of £62.37 due to the disposal of the old stock items at less than cost price in order to clear the stock.

The 2006 Exhibition gave us a surplus of £172.12. In last year's accounts a provision was made to cover rent not claimed by the Guildhall of £150. This has been reconciled in this years accounts..

Refreshments during the interval gives a healthy income as do the raffles.

Donations, Legacies and the sale of Norman Winterbottom's equipment and prints produced £467.30.

Workshops continued to produce a surplus of £325.00

The total income this year was £5398.89 against last year's figure of £5129.76. However if we ignore the extra income this year from Legacies and sale of N W's items we show a lower income of £4954.59.

Expenditure

The rent we pay to the College was increased last year from £1598.00 to £1722.00, and the total expenditure rose from £2612.75 to £2666.30.

Miscellaneous cost also rose from £426.22 to £662.84.

Insurance and workshops were down on last year.

At the last AGM there was some discussion on the rate of depreciation for our equipment, and during a subsequent committee meeting it was agreed that this figure be increased to 25% per annum. Hence the depreciation figure show in these accounts stands at £1624.00 against £913.37 for last year.

This resulted in a total expenditure for the year of £5244.54 against £4290.12 for last year, giving an operating surplus of £154.35 against £839.64 for last year.

Bank interest remained the same

(The total Surplus for last year was distorted by the Lottery Grant)

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

The value of our Trophies remains the same. We have bought some software this year, otherwise our fixed assets less depreciation show a figure of £7176.67 against £8396.48 for last year.

Current Assets

Our bank accounts are healthy, and the total is £7690.50 against £7861.01 for last year.

Net Current Assets

Our current figure stands at £7398.25 against last year's figure of £5939.77, giving an overall Asset figure of £14574.92 against £14336.25 for last year.

Recommendations

Although our accounts show we are in a healthy state, there is a trend showing a gradual erosion of our income against expenditure. We already know that the 2007 exhibition is probably going to show a deficit, and costs are rising.

It is my suggestion that we increase the membership subscription for the coming year to:

Single	£35.00
Double	£65.00
Student	£10.00
Visitors	£ 2.00

Exhibition Co-ordinators Report 2007.

This year's exhibition attracted 1132 images – 819 of which were prints. Judging was conducted by Derek Dorsett FRPS, EFIAP on April 1st as per the usual format.

The exhibition is to be comprised of 225 prints and 239 slides.

Prints:

Entries:

Acceptances:

Challenge Trophy:	10 sets
Pyne Medal	33
Hampshire Chronicle Bowl 20	
King Alfred Cup	15
Beginners Prints:	48
Advanced Monochrome	67
Advanced Colour	74
Open Monochrome	172
Open Colour	360

Slides:

Florence Wilcocks Trophy	8 sets
Pendreigh Trophy	7
Duma Trophy	32
Members (remaining)	48
Open	202
	30
	54
	146

The exhibition will be hung on Friday May 4th and will be open from Saturday May 5th.
The Official Opening will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday May 8th and will be conducted by Mr. Ian Bigg, President of the SPF.

The exhibition will be held in the Saxon Suite of Winchester Guildhall and, unlike previous years when held in the Art gallery, will require rented prints boards (+ lighting) and will be staffed by members of the Society.

The exhibition closes on Wednesday May 16th and, unlike previous years, will not allow for members' work to be returned to them on the last evening of the season.

This year's catalogue includes some representative images from winning entries to all sections of the exhibition plus two advertisements.

Thanks are due to the many members who have contributed to the running of the exhibition.

Next year's exhibition (the 75th) will be held in the new Winchester Discovery Centre and will be open for four weeks (including the Easter holiday period).

Roger Buchanan

Programme Secretary's Report for 2006/7

We are almost at the end of the 2006/7 season, I hope you have enjoyed the programme? I have tried to include something for everyone – not an easy task in a club as large as WPS. I feel we have had some interesting speakers John Garfield immediately jumps to mind. One of the main problems with organizing the programme is that I have to start the end of the year i.e. Dec 06 to arrange the programme if I don't it becomes difficult to find speakers that are not already booked --- some have bookings well into 2008. The questionnaire that was completed by you, I'm afraid it will be the 08/09 programme before I am able to include some of the comments as the programme for 07/08 is almost complete --- please be patient.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank George Walsh for arranging the judges for this past year – not an easy task. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Joy Auty

Competition secretary's Report

Internal Competitions

Another exciting season has passed, with many, many images entered in the competitions, in fact, too many for the judges to make proper constructive criticism! There are many good images, and we continue to see a rise in the numbers entered. Whilst the monthly competitions have gained another 26 images this season, the same increase as the season before, the light-hearted competition evening almost doubled in numbers, with the Portrait Competitions and Greg's Egg Cup (now partly digital) accounting for most of the increase.

We now have eight monthly league classes, after adding the Intermediate Classes for this season. Of the 16 competition trophies in the club, the 8 monthly leagues were won by different members. One of those members also won both the Good Knight & Fair Damsel Trophies, in the first season where both sexes can now enter each of those trophies. Another monthly league winner also won the Slide Knockout, but the remainder went to different entrants.

Statistics

Competitions	Entries (Entrants)	Last season
Mono Prints Advanced	63 (16)	- 81 (20)
Mono Prints Intermediate	51 (13)	+
Mono Prints Beginners	62 (18)	- 71 (21)
Colour Prints Advanced	94 (25)	- 124 (29)
Colour Prints Intermediate	76 (19)	+
Colour Prints Beginners	96 (27)	- 115 (30)
Slides Advanced	55 (13)	- 75 (19)
Slides Beginners	35 (6)	- 40 (12)
Total	532	506

No. of Images Entered in Other Trophies

Good Knight Trophy	23	13 (10 prints & 3 slides)
Fair Damsel Trophy	21	23 (17 prints & 6 slides)
WPS Events Trophy (Prints)	20	12
WPS Events Trophy (Slides)	13	10
Greg's Egg Cup	38 (19 S/19 Dig)	20
Thackeray Cup	9	8
Dunelm Trophy	18	17 seq. (11entrants)
Slide Knockout	110	132

External Competitions

In the SPF League Competition, Winchester did well in the Prints, finishing second behind a Basingstoke panel selected by one of *our* members. In the Slides, we didn't do well again, but that seems to be the norm now. We were the highest scorers in our league though, and through the season picked up 10 marks for Alex Fyfe's *England Expects* (twice), and also Peter Geldard, Philip George, and Anne Ruffell also scored 10 in Prints. In the Slides, Carol Watson's Frosty Morning, Twyford, was the highest scorer.

In the SPF Exhibition, our Prints panel was good, but the judge decided to pick two poor panels for 1st and 2nd. But surprisingly we did come 3rd in the Slides.

Winchester also participated in the SPF Slide Championship, where 16 clubs took part.

I don't think we finished in the top 15.

However, in the inaugural **SPF Digital Projection Championship**, we came SECOND, by 1 point behind Farnborough, and beating clubs like Southampton (who came 11th).

In the Victory Trophy, the annual competition against Southampton CC, we beat them in the Prints, but lost the Slides, a really good result in the prints!

Again I would like to thank everyone for their participation and support in all the competitions. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my helpers on the competition night, Anne, Joy, Rita has stepped in, and Barbara and David for putting the pictures up. It's been a very encouraging season internally, with lots of good entries. Let's hope we can do well in the SPF competitions next season. It's your club!

The Rule Changes for next Season;

Last week the Committee thrashed out the changes to the Competitions next season. These were based on the proposals made by David Taylor, Barbara Lambert, and myself early last Summer. Many members have been saying to us this season that the Competition Evenings are too long, so the following proposals may be radical, but necessary. We cannot keep increasing entries without making these changes, otherwise we really will be going home at midnight!!!

We are going to merge the Colour and Monochrome Classes, so we will have Beginners Prints, Intermediate Prints, and Advanced Prints. We are going to introduce a Digital Projection Class (or classes) depending on numbers, but members will only be allowed to enter one image per evening, either a print OR Digitally Projected Image. You will not be able to enter both! In addition, the Slides Beginners and Advanced will become one class, and a member will be allowed to enter a Slide in addition to the other classes, but this slide *must be produced on slide film in a camera.*

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - 2007

The Society's website has been up on the internet continuously all year & the statistics show that visitor numbers are steadily increasing:

During the latter part of 2005 there were an average of 2343 page hits per month compared with 3295 in 2006 whereas this year so far there has been an average of 5158 per month.

It is interesting to look into the source of these hits:

as you would expect the UK has by far the most with 4768 per month followed by the US with 322, Germany - 114 & Spain - 107.

There were some surprises - for example, Namibia - 8, there was 1 from South Korea and even 1 from Iran.

Over the past 12 months, the following members have contributed images the the Gallery, each one being up for 3 months:

Barry Mann, Gavin Gough, Ron Foulkes, Michael White, Joyce Wragg
Martin Struik, Chris Breeze, Roger Buchanan, June Walsh, Paul Glover
Simon Parker, Paul Irving, Julia Matthews

In all there are about 150 images on the website, including 42 of the late Norman Winterbottom which I shall be taking down next month.

LITTLETON WORKSHOPS

When we started these regular monthly workshops 2 years ago, they were exclusively devoted to Photoshop, mainly for beginners, but over the past season the scope has been expanded to include Portraiture, Audio Visual, Macro and Close-up Flash.

There has been an average of 16 members at each meeting but there are recent indications that attendance is falling & we are therefore proposing to reduce the number from 10 this season to 8 next.

The recent membership survey has indicated that Photoshop is still the most wanted with marginally more requests for Improvers than Beginners. Perhaps we are therefore having some success in explaining the complexities of the program

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AGM MAY 2007

When I began my year as president, I was fortunate to be able to build on the sure foundations of a society with an enthusiastic and growing membership. This was largely due to the commitment of presidents over many years, including last year's president, Norman Winterbottom, who sadly died suddenly last September. We all remember him with much affection and were indebted to his significant contribution to the society.

I was so sorry that one of my first duties as president was to attend the funeral of John May's wife, Joan, who was a member for many years and who also died suddenly, but we are glad John has found new happiness and we all wish him all the best for the future. On a happy note I was pleased to send a card to congratulate one of our honorary life members, Greg Fry, on his 65th wedding anniversary.

One of my aims at the start of the new season was to ensure that our membership continued to thrive, that all new members were made to feel welcome and would benefit from the weekly meetings as well as the workshops and would also enjoy the outings organized by John Tennant and walks by Peter Geldard. I think we have had an exceptional programme this season, thanks to our programme secretary, Joy Auty and the monthly workshops have proved very successful both for beginners and more advanced workers, thanks to a team of willing tutors and organizers. As always we have been fortunate to benefit from the talents of our own members, Steve Burkett, Barry Mann, Keith Taylor and Zoe Smith, who shared their skills and experiences with us.

I was very eager to see an improvement in our standing in external competitions. This, as you have heard in the Competition Secretary's report has been achieved with the exception of the slide championship, but I'm sure everyone was delighted by our success in the inter-club Digital Competition. The effects of digital technology continue to have an impact on all aspects of our photography with increased numbers of entries in both monthly competitions and the annual exhibition, with standards increasing all the time.

I was also very keen that our 74th annual exhibition would still be held at a venue in Winchester, although the Guildhall Gallery was no longer available. Thanks to the determination of our Exhibition coordinator, Roger Buchanan, this has been achieved and this year's exhibition will be held in the Saxon Suite, and we have the promise of a new venue, the Discovery Centre, for next year.

I have endeavoured, as president, to keep everyone fully informed of events and I hope that all have found email information useful and communication between the committee and members to be regular and productive. As a committee we try to take on board suggestions and comments from members and to this end you were asked to complete a questionnaire and the issues raised will be addressed by the new committee.

In my role as president I have had the support of a very hard working team of officers and committee members, whom I shall not thank individually, but you all know how much we owe them for the smooth running of the society. However, I would like to thank Clive Richardson for his commitment to supplying all our photographic and computer needs over a number of years, a service which we have all appreciated, but has unfortunately come to an end. My thanks, too, to George Walsh, who is an invaluable help to everyone, assisting in every possible way at our meetings and external events, as well as being a constant source of information. In addition, I must thank all those who are not on the committee who willingly give their help on a regular basis - Graham Eyles with assistance from Rita Geldard and Leila Joshua, who provide our refreshments. Rita with Marjorie Jackson has organized the occasional raffles, as well assisting on competition nights with Anne Ruffell. David Taylor has continued to maintain and update our website which I know attracts new members and he also helps out in many other ways. John Duke always checks the sound system alongside John Davis and others regularly help with equipment and preparation for the meetings. I am indebted to you all.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as president and I wish my successor, David Simmonds, good luck for the forthcoming season and know that you will all support him in maintaining the status of Winchester Photographic Society as one of the most successful clubs in the south.

Barbara Lambert

President