

Mid Calder Camera Club AGM Minutes 2019

May 22nd 2019

Institute Hall, Mid Calder.

Attendees: Gordon Scott, Zoe Halkett, Peter Baird, Dougie Cockburn, June Fotheringham, Yvonne Kelly, June Kelly, Roy Pritchard, Sam Hanlon, Sheila Colthart, Steve Collier, Malcolm Fraser, Neil Barton, Jim Reid, Alasdair Thin, Martin Clarke

16 members in total.

1. Welcome:

Chairperson Sam Hanlon opened the meeting by welcoming all members and thanked them for their attendance. Sam expressed his view that the club had had a good and very enjoyable year.

2. Apologies: Grant Collier, Petra MacKay, Richard MacKay.

3. Minutes of previous AGM:

Were accepted as a true representation of last year's minutes and were proposed by Sam Hanlon and seconded by Zoe Halkett.

4. Matters arising from minutes:

Gordon Scott noted from last year that promoting the club to new members had been minuted. G explained that he had posted on Edinburgh photographers' website prior to start of the new season. His thoughts are that it is easy to find us in current digital era. Malcolm Fraser who joined the club this year said he had heard about the club through word of mouth. There is also an advert for the club in West Lothian's Connect magazine. Steve Collier is still happy to be the contact for magazine. Sam noted that there was still occasional contact via the club's website.

Gordon mentioned a couple of members who appeared had not come back again. Peter Baird had contacted one but due to commitments she had not been able to attend this year. Some former members of the club still contribute via Facebook.

The club will continue to look at ways to attract new members.

5. Chairperson's report:

Chairperson Sam Hanlon gave a short reflection on the year's activities. Noted a couple of things. That the club is constantly trying to get members involved, the Street Photography evening in particular had been a real success with a very good turnout. The new 50/50 format evenings were proving successful. Seems to work better when evening split into more than one presenter. Sam particularly wanted to thank Richard MacKay, Jamie Nicolson, Sheila Colthart and Neil Barton for presenting for the first time.

Sam also thanked Gordon Scott, Dougie Cockburn, Steve Collier, Jim Reid and Martin Clarke.

Technical nights are also working well. Club has new equipment including two Godox AD200's and triggers, a set of continuous lights and the new X-rite screen calibration tool. Club has a good selection of equipment now available and Sam encouraged people to borrow the equipment that the club has invested in.

Sam commented on the new appraisal format. All images are marked equally, and Sam commented that the top 4 in Group B would have done well in the prints in Group A. Similarly, with the PDIs, top 4 in B and Zoe would all be competing in Group A. This is a good motivation for next year.

To encourage smooth running of club. New social etiquette guidelines which will be included in the syllabus and online next session. Sam outlined new rules.

Mid Calder Camera Club Social Etiquette - Appraisal and talk nights

MCCC club members are encouraged to exchange views and ideas with other members however during appraisal evenings we request that members refrain from directing comments to the adjudicator while he/she is delivering their comments and remarks. Equally during presentations from both visitors and members of MCCC we ask that you keep any questions or comments until after the speaker has concluded their presentation, unless they have indicated otherwise.

All camera club evenings are due to start at 7.30. Arriving after this time can cause disruption to the speaker/appraiser, we therefore request that you arrive on time for these evenings in particular. During both appraisals and presentations please switch your phone off or put it on to silent.

Your support in this is appreciated.

The website is being updated but has taken longer than expected. Sam invited people to visit prototype site www.samhanlon.co.uk. It has also simplified to make it easier to update in absence of a web-master. Jim can now update the appraisal results directly. Sam and Sheila will finish over this over the summer.

Sam ended his update by thanking everyone who has helped with setting up and organising club evenings, collecting money and making refreshments this year. He also thanked the committee and welcomed Yvonne back after her recent illness.

6. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts.

Treasurer Neil Barton gave a report on the club's financial position. He also commented on a successful year. Thirty-five members were registered with the club. Weekly levies were down due to fewer members this year and a couple of weeks lost to weather.

This year the club received a donation from Gardening Scotland as Petra stepped in for their official photographer.

There were more outgoings than incoming money this year, however, the club is in a good financial state. Two speaker's fees were higher this year than in previous years. They were not SPF recommended, who don't usually take full fee. Money raised this year has been largely used to buy equipment.

Gordon asked if club should keep fees the same next year as membership fees haven't changed in last 6 years. Gordon explained that different clubs have different ways of taking in money, usually a weekly fee. Discussion followed around whether club should increase annual payment from £20-25, weekly fees from £2 - £2.50 or both. Roy Pritchard commented that the weekly subs increase would bring in less as less people attend regularly. Alistair Thin suggested a one-off fee with no weekly subscription. The options were put to the membership to vote and the proposal to raise yearly fee to £25 passed unanimously. Steve Collier abstained as a life member.

The accounts were audited last September by Janet Wincott. .

The timing of account auditing was raised as has been discussed before. Gordon explained to members that Neil gives a detailed account report each month to committee so there is no need to bring the audit in line with the accounts at time of AGM.

Gordon explained that the idea had been raised at a committee meeting to fund a club outing with club money so that members did not have to drive. The club could pay for a minibus for a trip further than we would normally go. Members were invited to submit ideas.

7. Secretary's report:

Secretary Gordon Scott started by giving a report on this year's external competitions and said that the club has competed well overall this season winning 2 out of the 3 competitions.

Gordon went on to state that he has a provisional syllabus for next year but is awaiting a reply from one speaker.

The survey he sent out showed that people wanted more practical nights. The committee have discussed a few ideas and further details will be available nearer the time. There will be some changes from last year. There will be not quite as many 50/50 nights. There have been some responses from members for these sessions and priority will be given to members who haven't presented previously. Gordon will contact those members over holidays with dates. A further possibility is having 4x 25 min nights.

All judges for next session are in place, two of which are new to the clubs. GS explained who judges were and a little of their backgrounds. There will be various practical activity nights to slot in once dates confirmed.

Handbook - no replies regarding anything that is missing and should be there. Members invited to submit opinions on this.

Internal appraisal report.

Jim Reid thanked everyone who submitted images over the year.

Jim commented that there are still issues around last-minute entries. This year there was an increase in images submitted and a good spread across all sections. New system of leagues seems to be working well.

There were less prints in group C. Jim suggested that it may be an idea to set up printer on Wednesday evenings to try and encourage those who can't at home and Sam Hanlon could be on hand to support members.

This year the winners were:

Group A. The group was very close, Peter Baird won PDIs by 1 point and Jim Reid pipped everyone to win print for 1st time, again by 1 point.

Group B. Sheila Colthart won PDIs and Andy Moncrieff the prints.

Group C. Zoe Halkett won PDIs and Malcolm Fraser the prints.

Gordon retained portfolio with an excellent set of images.

The Equaliser never has a big entry. This year the theme was 50mm. One image had to be disqualified as it was not 50mm. Roy Pritchard won the competition.

Image of year - Jim commented that his year the prints in particular stood out as amazing and felt that they should be displayed. Members still seem to enjoy the system for PDIs. Jim explained that it is seeded so that the best images should come out as winners.

Overall judges were good this year. Fiona Brimms gave Jim all her notes from Appraisal 4. Jim commented that there were some amazing images submitted this year.

Jim will send dates for year ahead and then invited questions.

Alistair Thin questioned the Equaliser and that generally this means entrants should be handicapped suggesting a handicap may encourage more members. Jim explained that the competition came about as a level playing field for everyone using the same tools or criteria to take a photo.

Steve Collier will look for the original rules from 1996/7 to establish the ethos behind the original competition.

The exec committee were consulted with 2 possible options equipment & subject:

- 200m +
- Churches of West Lothian

Sheila Colthart had also suggested monochrome. This was opened up to members to discuss. It was raised that having a technical theme was always an issue as members may not have equipment. Members agreed theme for equalised will be Monochrome Churches of West Lothian.

Sam commented on how good printed images were in the Image of the Year competition.

8. Election of committee members:

Sam has spoken with members and all are happy with staying on committee. Members were proposed and seconded as below:

Chair	Sam Hanlon	Proposed	Dougie Cockburn	Seconded	Sheila Colthart
Vice-Chair	Dougie Cockburn	Proposed	Andy Connor	Seconded	Roy Pritchard
Secretary	Gordon Scott	Proposed	Jim Reid	Seconded	Steve Collier
Treasurer	Neil Barton	Proposed	Gordon Scott	Seconded	Jim Reid
Members Sec	Yvonne Kelly	Proposed	Sam Hanlon	Seconded	Dougie Cockburn
Webmaster	Vacancy Sam and Sheila to co-ordinate				
Equipment Officer	Dougie Cockburn	Proposed	Peter Baird	Seconded	Yvonne Kelly
Internal Appraisals	Jim Reid	Proposed	Andy Connor	Seconded	Malcolm Fraser
External Comp	Gordon Scott	Proposed	Jim Reid	Seconded	Steve Collier
Co-opted member	Peter Baird	Proposed	Sam Hanlon	Seconded	Dougie Cockburn
Co-opted member	Sheila Colthart	Proposed	Jim Reid	Seconded	Peter Baird
Co-opted member	Richard McKay	Proposed	Roy Pritchard	Seconded	Sam Hanlon

9. AOCB:

No other business was raised, and Sam brought the AGM to a close.