

**Deeside Camera Club Committee Meeting**  
**22/05/13**  
**Room 7 Aboyne Academy**

**Present:** Marie Paterson, David Hendry, Geraldine McGowan, Lucy Telford, Harry Scott, Ian Halliday.

**Apologies:** John Farrington, Sarah Watson.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17/04/13 were accepted.

**New Members:**

A discussion was held as to why it might be that new members of the club are coming along for one or two nights but are not staying. This is obviously something we need to address as attracting and keeping new members is extremely important. New members bring fresh ideas and perspective to the club and are highly valued. It was noted that a few new members have not felt valued or welcomed by the club and this is something we want to remedy. It was suggested that we should all gather in the foyer of the Academy until everyone is present and then go into Room 7 as a group. This would be helpful for health & safety reasons - knowing who is in the building should a fire break out, for example, is vital, plus this would also give people a chance to mingle and chat. It was also mentioned again that we could possibly instigate a "buddy system" whereby new members who might want to learn about a certain aspect of photography could be paired up with someone who has expertise in that field.

**Fee Structure:**

It was suggested that we should bring our fee structure in line with the majority of other Camera Clubs and have a one-off annual payment of £50 (which could be divided into two payments of £25 if desired). The nightly collection of fees takes up time and is fiddly to administer. It was agreed that new members should still be able to have the first night free and, thereafter, if they were unwilling to commit to the £50 fee, it was suggested that they would be able to pay £5 per night for 6 weeks and then the £20 balance for the next block.

**Fees for Visitors:**

There must be consistency here and it was agreed that we should stick to charging £3 per visitor if we open up an evening to non-members.

**Suggested Guidelines for 2014 Programme:**

Based on our experiences for this season we think that the structure of the programme works well, ie: repeating 10 four week blocks of Assignment, External Speaker, Technical Night, Practical Night and so on. It is also easier to fill up the slots if we know what's coming up. There was some discussion as to the calibre of speakers and how we can ensure that it is high. Communicating with other clubs helps with this but it is difficult to ensure the quality of speakers all the time. It was also suggested that we might add in nights where we discuss the artistic side of photography as a counter-balance to the technical nights. There was a debate about whether or not it was worth having judges for assignments - external or internal. The quality of judging can be patchy and we often don't learn much about how to improve or get on to the next level. It was suggested that some

club members could go on a training course to learn how to judge according to SPF rules. Another alternative idea was to scrap the judging altogether and have critique nights where we make our own comments.

**Season Dates:**

There was some discussion about whether to keep running as late as we have this year as the fall-off of numbers suggests people may be busy with other things. Another idea was to have fortnightly meetings if we stayed with the extended season. However, these are really ideas to be discussed at the AGM.

**AGM Notification:**

Due on 12<sup>th</sup> June at the latest. It was proposed that we should also put out our suggested changes along with the AGM notification to give people a chance to start thinking of ideas to discuss at the AGM.