

# Minutes of Deeside Camera Club AGM

Held at Belwade Farm, 28 June 2017

**Present:** *Mary Laing, Murdo MacDonald, Bob Thorp, Maggie Ward, David Hendry, Nigel Corby, Chris Bell, Callum Gibson, David Harper, Lucy Telford, Richard Rogers, Alistair Emslie, Caroline Heard, David Packer.*

**Apologies:** *Ian Halliday, Harry Scott, Louise Black, Ray Stuart, Bob Naylor, Margret Fraser*

**1) Previous Minutes:** *AGM minutes dated 29th June 2016 were proposed by Chris Bell and accepted*

**2) Treasure's Report:** *The report was presented by the treasurer, David Hendry, and approved.*

**2a) Subscription rates :** *The current rate of £70 (2x£35) was discussed as there had been feedback that it was too expensive as a lump sum for those who cannot attend regularly – the committee will look at the rates.*

**3) Chairperson's Report:** *Chris reported the year's highlights; we did more club nights out around Belwade, as well as the Theatre shoots, Aboyne Games, Belwade Functions, and the Balmoral Horse event. The interest groups have had very positive feedback and we will continue these into next year.*

*The Christmas dinner and Quiz night was well received. The Website has been updated and looks a lot more friendly and modern, vote of thanks to David and Nigel for their work on that.*

*The general standard of the club's images has improved, which showed in a decisive win in the Deeside Donside exchange and our second place in the Grampian eye.*

*The Grampian eye was seen as a real success for the club with many compliments on the organization and venue, we managed to raise £1,500 for our chosen charities (£750 each to World Horse Welfare and Braemar Mountain Rescue – special thanks to David and Nigel for all their hard work on the event.*

*Not so positive was the decline in membership over the past year, mainly due to people moving out of the area, but has raised the issue of how to attract and retain new members (see AOB). Also the three assignment groups have not worked so well this year with very few entries in the Novice group, and if we keep this format we'll have a bigger problem next year (see AOB).*

**4) Response to feedback - to be used to guide 2017-18 schedules:**

*The proposed changes to the club's constitution were accepted by the members*

*The responses to the questionnaire sent out to members will be considered by the committee when putting together the club diary for next year, however the one thing that seemed unanimous was shortening the clubs formal meeting time rather than following the school year.*

**5) Election of Committee:**

Members where proposed and accepted for committee positions

- Chair Person: – *David Packer*
- Deputy Chair: – *Lucy Telford*
- Secretary\*: – *Nigel Corby*
- Treasurer: – *David Hendry*
- Internal Competition Secretary: – *Chris Bell*
- External Competition Secretary: – *Bob Thorp*
- Events Organisers: – *Louise Black and David Harper*
- Website Coordinator\*: – *Nigel Corby*
- General Members: – *Maggie Ward and Mary Laing*

## 6) Special Awards:

**Most Improved** (presented by Nigel) – Maggie Ward.

**Chair Persons' Award / Club Person of the Year** - Caroline Heard for all her hard work on getting the venue ready, clearing as well doing her committee role preparing club presentations for assignments and exchanges.

## 7) Photographer of the Year for each group:

### **Novice group:**

3rd – Margret Fraser

2nd – Alistair Emslie

1st – Bob Thorp

### **Intermediate group:**

3rd – Callum Gibson

2nd – Mary Laing

1st – Nigel Corby

### **Advanced group:**

3rd – Caroline Heard

2nd – David Packer

1st – Chris Bell

## 8) Photograph of the Year (as judged by the club's members):

3rd: Louise Black with 'Kingfisher'

2nd: Chris Bell with 'Skogafoss VM Liquidification'

1st: Harry Scott with 'Brambling'

## 9) Promotions:

The following members have had a first placed image in one of assignments and will move up from their current group (see AOB for more information on the move from Novice to Intermediate).

### **Novice to Intermediate:**

- Bob Thorp. (Open 1, Mono, Close-up, Low Light, Deeside Life, Triptych, Liquid)
- Margaret Fraser (Open 2)

### **Intermediate to Advanced:**

- Callum Gibson (Open 1)
- Sarah Walkington (Mono)
- Nigel Corby (Close-up, Low Light, Open 2, Triptych, Liquid)
- Mike Hall (Deeside Life)

Congratulations to all the winners.

## 10) Assignments for next year:

With a shorter club diary we will need to reduce the number of assignments – the committee to decide number and publish assignment titles as soon as possible.

The sizing of images for assignments to change to SPF competition size 1600 x 1200 px

*We also need to look at the groups as under the current rules there will be only 2 members in the Novice group – the committee will decide the way forward and report back to members before the first assignment submission date.*

*Suggestion to not give out small individual shields for runner up placements in assignments and use paper certificates instead – this should save the club around £100.*

## **11) AOB**

*Discussion on how to attract new members: It seems vital to attract and retain new member as our membership has declined over the past year – suggestions include:*

- *Getting members to post in local Facebook groups promoting the Club.*
- *Setting up an external Club Facebook page.*
- *Develop a new member welcoming procedure including: introductions, where to go to for help, how the club functions etc.*
- *Promotions in local papers/magazines etc.*
- *Make a special push after Christmas to attract people who might have got a new camera for Christmas to the club*

*Discussion on the merits of assignments vs critique sessions and how useful assignments are to the personal growth of members as photographer. Caroline raised the point that members willing participated in assignments but were more reluctant to submit images for critique sessions. The committee to discuss the matter for next year's diary.*