**BROMSGROVE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT AVONCROFT ARTS CENTRE ON Tuesday 14th May 2019**

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|  |  | **Meeting commenced at 8:00 pm** |  |
| **1.1** | **PRESENT** | There were 30 members and 1 guest present  Including Committee members present DJ David Jellie – Vice Chairman  BG Barry Green  JL June Longmuir  LPu Len Pugh  RC Richard Chapman  LPe Liz Perrins  TH Tony Hawksbee (took the minutes) |  |
| **1.2** | **APOLOGIES** | Apologies were received from:  Committee members  DW David Ward, LA Linda Allen, JC Janet Cox, JD John Davidson, JH Jan Harris  NT Nigel Taylor  Members  Jim Greatrix, Terry Mason, Mike Childs, Clive Jordan, Pat Billyard, Don Campbell, Michelle Chance, Mike Billingham, Sheila Billingham, Jill Howe, Sue Vernon, Derek May, Julie Bridgwater, Ruth Seadon, Janet Cox. | **DJ** |
| **2.** | **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM** | Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th May 2018, having already been circulated and read, were approved.  Proposed: June Longmuir Seconded: Colin Close | **DJ** |
| **3.** | **MATTERS ARISING** | Dave Riddle said that he held the view that the cost of the main lecturer (Bill Chambers Lecture event) was excessive at £300. |  |
| **4.** | **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** | Vice Chairman, David Jellie made this report in the absence of the Chairman, the late Roger Lewis. The report covered:   * BETTER. This time last year Roger promised us BETTER and boy did he deliver. A better programme, competitions, member’s results in Society and external competitions. A successful year for Bromsgrove PS. * Let us not forget Gail. She was by his side every step of the way and he would have been lost without her. We are hugely indebted to them for leading the Society and the example that they have set over the last 3 years. * Roger’s stand in the town attracting new members * Roger was always the first to greet new members and visitors. No-one ever felt excluded. He would be the first to acknowledge the help and support from his Committee and fellow members. He would acknowledge the generous grant from Bromsgrove Institute Trust which enabled us to purchase our new print stand. * Our feeling of loss is immense and they will always be in our hearts. There will be formal acknowledge of their contribution to the Society soon. * The Committee have pulled out the stops to bring together our programme for the rest of this year. I’m personally grateful for the support that I have received from this Committee and the offers of help that I have received from members. * In conclusion, tonight is not just about BETTER but also CHALLENGE. We have faced the challenge of the past three weeks and there will be challenges for the new Committee going forward. I expect everyone of you to challenge the Chairman and Committee to build on the successes of the past. We need to guide us and work together so that we continue to move from strength to strength.   Proposed: Tony Gervis Seconded: Tony Friel | **DJ** |
|  | **SECRETARY’S REPORT** | As DW was not present due to being in hospital, there was no report. We wish him a speedy recovery. |  |
| **5.** | **TREASURER’S REPORT (ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS)** | TH reported on behalf of Linda Allen.   * Overview of 2018-2019 activity. Operating surplus was £912.85 (inclusive of £335 under-spend from the print grant) * Massive thanks must go to The Bromsgrove Institute Trust for awarding the Society £1,760.38 which enable the purchase of the new print stand * Bank balances as at 31st March 2019 * Membership numbers just 3 down on the previous year. * Judges/Models/Speaker fees increased by just £15 * Raffles up from £198 to £306 * John Dignum Table up £111 this year. Thank you and keep buying. * Egg sales added £36 to our income thanks to Jenny Webster * Coach Trip to Derbyshire produced a surplus of £60 including an offset from an Avoncroft photo shoot. * Bill Chambers Lecture was a financial success costing only £25 this year. * Refreshment income was down but this may be due to allocation of income in other expenses. * New Year party netted a surplus of £151 * Awards Evening expenditure was £302 * Membership value for money. Expenses per member was £85 up from £73 last year with the new print stand having a large impact. Good value for £52/£47 membership costs. * Premises costs increased on 1st January 2019 which was anticipated by the increase of the membership fees of £2. It was confirmed that it is not proposed to increase membership fees for the next season. * This leaves the Society in a healthy financial position as we embark on our 2019/2020 season.   Proposed: Gary Cooper Seconded: Richard Chapman | **TH** |
| **6.** | **PROGRAMME SECRETARY’S REPORT** | Liz Perrin read the report on behalf of Jan Harris   * JH core role is to source and secure bookings for speakers for each season. It does not currently include other programme activities such as the Summer programme, practical evenings, competitions and model nights. If re-elected JH would only be able to commit to the core role. If another member wishes to take on and develop it further, JH would prepared to stand down. * The programme for speakers for 2018 got off to a good start and the ticketed event with Adrian Almond as guest speaker wowed us. * There were 9 other well qualified speakers for last season. Some positive comments were recived. * In a change from previous years, we introduced a knockout competition suggested by Pat Billyard. Although I wasn’t there on the night I understand that you all had fun. * Next season programme for speakers is nearly complete. To give you a flavour, we have presenters giving talks on Street photography, Equestrian, sports, underwater, astronomy, travel, landscapes and creative images. 2019/20 programme. * Our ticketed event in memory of Bill Chambers will be on 22nd October so nearer that time please invite your friends. The speaker is Chris Fairweather. It looks as if it will be a very entertaining evening. * JH would be grateful to receive suggestions from members for the content of presentations that they would like to see in the future. JH also appreciates emails where she can pass on comments to speakers. If a presentation wasn’t good, let JH know about your feelings so that the future programme can be tailored better to suit the needs.   Dave Riddle commented that there were not enough nature presentations last year although nature was a subject that many members were keen on.  Barry Green made the observation that David had similar feelings last year about a spread of nature and Black and White.  Colin suggested that some practical and model nights could be re-arranged to make a different spread.  A number of members expressed the wish to keep studio nights going.  DJ to re-send his membership skills email asking for input.  DJ suggested that the first practical night could be a lighting evening and the basic camera set up to suit. This subject to be continued outside the meeting. Chris Bradbury’s name came up as a good lecturer.  Jenny Webster has spoken to JH about a member’s evening where people bring their images in and explain how they were taken and processed. DJ confirmed that JH has this in the pipeline.  Proposed: Dave Riddle. Seconded: Joseph Kollar | LPe |
| **7.** | **COMPETITION SECRETARY’S REPORT** | DJ read NT’s report.   * Competitions continue to be popular with the membership. NT thanked all those who have supported him so well during the season. The changes to the rules do seem to have helped keep entry levels to a realistic level. Quality rather than quantity must be the ambition of every photographic society. * Inviting new, unknown less experienced judges has generally worked well with just one notable exception. * The biggest challenge this year has been the Novice Print competition. Taking a lead from the Cannock club has persuaded NT to make a change to next year’s rules to allow novices to enter un-mounted prints. This removes time and expense required for mounting. * NT is going to trial an automated entry system and would appreciate member participation. If it works, then NT intends to adopt it. He will keep members informed via Google Group emails. * NT thanked Roger Tyler for agreeing to shadow him. Also thanks to Roger, Colin and David for assisting in pinning up the prints. Also thanks to Richard and Tony for promptly getting competition results up on the web site. Also, thanks to those members who ply us with refreshments during intervals. * NT said that in his role he would have expected, on competition nights, to be the first to arrive and the last to leave. This is where he will sorely miss Roger and Gail who were always there ahead of him making preparations for the night and then helping to clear up at the end. NT will miss them both not just as long-standing friends but also real stalwarts of this Society. * NT would be pleased to receive thoughts from members on how they would like competitions to be improved.   Jenny Webster liked the idea about Novices not having to mount prints.  There was support for the idea of having a Panel competition again.  The two set subjects is too difficult to set up.  Proposed: Nigel Hall Seconded: Tony Friel | **DJ** |
| **8.** | **SOCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT** | * JC regretted that she could not attend due to last minute personal reasons. * DJ raised the subject of the refreshments rota. Those involved are currently mainly female. * There are two ideas 1) Have a rota using all members 2) Have the refreshments prior to the meeting at say 7:45 with a later short comfort break. * The evening which creates the biggest problems is competition nights where those involved in the refreshment preparations may miss something important. * DJ requested feedback from everyone * A suggestion was made for competition nights to only ask those who were not competing. * Tony Gervis put forward a third idea and that was to ask for two volunteers during the previous week’s meeting.   As there was no formal report, this was not Proposed and Seconded | **DJ** |
| **9.** | **WEBMASTER’S REPORT** | * RC stated that he took over the role from TH a few months ago. He had not needed to make changes but had kept up the regular posting of competition results etc within the existing framework. * Any suggestions for changes are welcome * RC thanked TH for retaining the GDPR work and helping out when he was away on business. * The Critique Group: It is simple to operate the reminder system and to let him know if they want to join the group as it isn’t a problem.   Proposed: Dave Riddle Seconded: Colin Close | **RC** |
| **10.** | **INTER-CLUB CO-ORDINATOR’S REPORT** | * DJ went through all the results of the competitions that the Society had participated in during the past year. | **DJ** |
| **11.** | **PUBLICITY OFFICER’S REPORT** | * DJ has found that getting publicity is a bit unpredictable. The local press don’t always want to feature what is important to us. In the past 12 months we have had occasional items in Bromsgrove Standard. We were also in Photography News * We had good publicity for the Bill Chambers Lecture on the MCPF email newsletter. Several visitors came as a result of this or the direct mailings to local clubs. * Good publicity was gained for ourselves and The Bromsgrove Institute Trust in a new glossy local publication “Completely Bromsgrove”. This is circulated to 8,000 homes. * Over the last 12 months we experimented with running a Facebook page and Group page. We received many enquiries and several new members have joined as a result. * DJ stated that he firmly believed that social media is currently our best publicity tool. These pages will be developed further. * A new publicity officer will have to consider whether we need two Facebook pages. * Dave Riddle stated that local press is running its own gallery competition. He also said tha the Kingfisher centre will allow the use of empty shop walls for exhibits when a shop has been empty for a certain length of time.   Proposed: Barry Green Seconded: Gary Cooper | **DJ** |
| **12.** | **MEMBERSHIP CO\_ORDINATOR’S REPORT** | * This post has not been filled for the past 12 months. * It does not necessarily have to be a Committee member that fills the position. | **DJ** |
| **13.** | **EXTERNAL EXHIBITIONS SECRETARY’S REPORT** | **Colin Close**   * This past year the Society has had some significant successes. Several members enter National Exhibitions, mainly British Photographic Exhibitions. * Currently Sue Vernon and Julie Hall are close to BPE 1Crown for 25 acceptances. * Jenny Webster has achieved BPE 3\* * 4 members attained CPAGB * Sue Vernon and Julie Hall attained CPAGB in North Wales * Barry Green continues to enter International Exhibitions and hope to achieve the EFIAP/gold award soon. * In the early 7:000pm session I have promoted both BPE and PAGB to aim for improvement of members’ photography. * I had 2 print critique sessions which were encouraging and maybe this could be developed to be part of the main programme. * If there are members who have had success outside these exhibitions please let the Chairman know so that the information can be included in the weekly notices.   Proposed: June Longmuir Seconded: Richard Chapman | **CC** |
| **14.** | **WRITTEN PROPOSALS** | BROMSGROVE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14 MAY 2019  PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION AT AGM  NAME………Ruth Seadon………………………………………………………………………..  TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION……Judge discretion on award for classes with small entry.  In classes with an entry of three images or less the Judge may have the option not to award 1st 2dn, 3rd but any combination of the placings 1st, 2dn,3rd, HC, C and Held. ………………………………………………  In this way the award reflects the quality of the work not just the number of entries.……………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………….  Signature……R Seadon ……………………………………...Date…07/052018……………...   * There were a good number of views from the floor on the pro’s and con’s of this proposal. * One member, Jez Shimell, suggested an alternative numbering system could be a solution. Then everyone would get a score. DJ responded that this would need a fundamental change to the whole competition system and may be a cause of confusion for judges. * There was a show of hands and the result was 17 against and 1 for. | **DJ** |
| **15.** | **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** | * BG asked if there were any other proposals for the Chairman position other than DJ. There were none * A show of hands for DJ as Chairman supported the decision.   Proposed: Tony Gervis Seconded: June Longmuir  June Longmuir congratulated DJ for all his work in these difficult times.  **Existing Roles**  Vice Chairman Open  Secretary DW  Treasurer LA  Programme Secretary JH  Competition Secretary NT  Social Secretary JC  Publicity Officer Open  Webmaster RC  Membership Co-ordinator Open   * Colin Close made a suggestion concerning David Ward whilst he was away recovering. Someone could shadow him until he could resume his duties fully * Colin Close reflected that in recent years the Chairman has continued in the post for over 2 years. The 2 years is written into the Constitution. The Vice Chairman then steps into the role. The problem in recent years has been the lack of interest in becoming the Chairman.   A show of hands agreed that all existing Committee mebers should continue in their roles.  The General Committee members are Liz Perrins. Len Pugh. John Davidson. June Longmuir.  A show of hands agreed that these should also continue. | **DJ** |
| **16.** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** | 1) Camera Club Cooperative  Having attended the first meeting along with Roger Lewis, DJ outlined what they had learned about the benefit of registered charity status. This is an important suggestion as there could be a 20% cash back on members fees where they are tax payers.  Dave Riddle reminded the meeting that if this was to go ahead, then the Constitution would have to be amended.  2) 2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the Society. We will be looking into this for the 2020/2012 year to celebrate this achievement. More work will have to be done during the rest of this year.  3) Tony Gervis stated that due to commitments, he cannot do fixed dates for the early sessions next year.  4) Tony Gervis suggested changes to who thanks the speakers and judges at the end of the evenings. The job should be rotated with different people so as to get alternative thoughts on how the evening has gone. | **DJ**  **DJ** |
|  |  | **The Meeting closed at 9:44 pm** |  |