

BIDEFORD CAMERA CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at 34 Link House

7th March 2018 @ 19.30

Those attending: Jim Richards (JR), Tim Hearn (TH), Margaret Dolan (MD), Tony Brewer (TB), Andy Francis (AF), Mac Chivers (MC), Tony Coleman (TC) and Michael Bowden (MB)

Greeted by JR with light refreshments

Minutes of the meeting was recorded by MD and transcribed to print.

Finances: The Treasurer presented a run-down of the state of the accounts, which appear to be healthy. Expenditure still outweighs income by a small amount. It was agreed that a motion will be tabled at the AGM to raise the membership fee by £5pa.

Membership: MC suggested volunteer Bursary grants for students. Several committee members expressed interest in supporting this financially.

The Future: AF expressed the need to grow the club for the future. Targeting students was seen as a positive step towards this. Concessions were discussed for co-habiting adults and also for 'youngsters' other than students. No decision was reached. It was agreed that marketing was key in taking the club forward.

It was suggested that one possible way of injecting new life and interest in the club would be to rebrand it under a different name, less geographically specific. This was seen by the committee to have some merit and to be worth further discussion. The suggestion 'Tarka' was raised. Alternative ideas are to be thought about for the next meeting.

Trophies: A 'Masters' Roll of Honour should be implemented on the web-site rather than have the big trophy. The small trophies would continue to be awarded. Photographs of the Certificate winners are to appear on the web-site and hopefully in the local press.

Premises: The investigation for alternative premises continues. MC & TH had visited the room above Pannier Pantry (The Old Custom House). TH reported that as a room, it is good. The second floor could be used for storage, the room is big enough, with a kitchen, plenty of seating, a projector, screen and sound system and we would enter while the shop was still open and leave via a discrete exit. Heating would be turned on prior to club meetings. They would charge £20/evening, dropping from £40.

However, it was acknowledged that the staircase would present problems for some members. It was suggested that these members should see it for themselves, and that the search should continue

MD mentioned the number of years The Old Custom House has been shut down and asked whether, as a new concern, they would last.

The Library would like to charge £25/evening but would drop to £15 for us. It would use the children's area. No storage. Parking would be in Bridge Street.

The College is another possible venue.

The College would be advantageous to inspire students!

Other places of interest were Lavington Church, the old Court Room (above the Library), the Methodist Church (in Mill Street) and the Catholic Hall.

Exhibition: JR raised the subject of an Exhibition and a suitable venue for it. It was suggested that we attend the Burton Art Gallery to view the present exhibition. Another suggestion is to get prints displayed in each of the shops along, possibly, Mill Street.

Chairman: JR advised committee of his intention to step down from his role as chairman.

Next season. A discussion was had about speakers. We were asked by TH to supply a list of speakers. MD said that she had already written to six speakers and had had a firm booking from Ken Holland, who will talk about inspirational photography.

TH said that most of the speakers this season had been 'Travelogues', and efforts should be made to balance these with talks that were more photographic in nature.

MC produced a list of possible speakers. TH sent a similar e-mail to MD.

A suggestion for a four week rota of speakers, workshop, competition and one of something different. (Possibly a member doing an evening)

Competitions:

We then discussed the proposals presented on the document by the competitions subcommittee (TH, MC, AF).

It was suggested that one competition per month was optimum. The first competition to be Open DPIs.

Other competitions would have an entry of maximum six images with up to four DPIs or four prints. (An entry may be made up of 4 dpis and 2 prints, 4 prints and 2 dpis or 3 of each. Or less total images). Each medium to be judged separately.

It is also suggested that competitions after Open DPI are themed. Pardoe and Petherick competitions would be absorbed into these themes, ie. a Black and White (the print entries could be looked on as being the Petherick competition) and portrait orientated theme.

TC suggested that we drop the 'Open' theme and have all competitions themed.

Regarding external competitions, Competition Secretary MC advised that existing external comps should remain as they are, but perhaps we should enter more WCPF and PAGB competitions.

JR and TB voiced concern over the 'Bringing back an image' idea for POTY and DIOTY, preferring that the competition secretary should include images down to Commended.

The proposal for the DPIOTY and POTY is not to have an 'outside judge' as all entries will have been judged previously in the season.

All winning DPIs down to commended would be galleried on the club's secure web-site and each member votes for a winner.

POTY would be held on the night of the AGM and voted by members.

TB proposed that there should be a Human Portraiture competition every year, as it is a fundamental part of photography. TC agreed. MC & TH argued that there is no need for a specific Human Portraiture comp as a human portrait could be entered into any of the themed evenings. AF pointed out that during his time as Competition Secretary the portrait comp was the most contentious.

It was proposed that the new comp suggestions are trialled for one year and then revisited if members still have worries, particularly in regard to human portraits.

There was discussion about revamping subjects for the Masters. It was decided to remove 'Street' and 'Still Life'.

On the subject of themes for next season's competitions, suggestions are: Black and White, the Open DPI, Tourism, People at work, Colour.

A project for members titled '100 metres', (a series of images taken from one point and within 100 metres), to be shown on one evening, not competition.

TH said that the competition proposals should have the support of the committee before being presented to members.

AF said that the purpose of the changes is to get the club to move forward.

MC is to list the proposed competitions with their dates and forward to MD.

3 B's. It was mentioned to have a raffle at the 3 Bs. TB is to get the tickets, members of the Committee are to bring in prizes. Food will be brought in by obliging membership. AF said he will bring paper plates for the 3 Bs. Each Committee Member to bring in a raffle prize.

For the 'battles' AF and TH have offered to bring eats. A mention to Bridget for cakes could be useful.

It was decided to give Barnstaple and Braunton a restriction of 10 visitors.

After Christmas we are to return on the 8th January 2019. The Christmas dinner to be arranged by MD and not on a Tuesday.

Next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 5th April 2018

Agenda to include:

Rebranding

Proposed speakers to pick those who would be the most interesting.

Discussion on next seasons programme.

Final decision on Masters subjects

AGM Agenda

Which external competitions to be entered

Committee Members (as Chairman wishes to abscond)

Numbers of entries

Meeting ended at 22.40