

Minutes of the AGM Stratford Photo Group Bishopton Centre 10 June 2014 commencing at 7.45pm

1.1 Apologies: Rob Shaw, Mary Kirby, Fred Reeves, Jenny Wren, Steve Fraser, Kevin Edwards, Mark Mc'Glen

1.2 Attendees: 16

2.0 Minutes of the Meeting of 11 June 2013 - Presented, accepted and signed

3.0 Matters Arising - None

4.0 Chairman's Report

Main Points:

Dick reflected that the Stratford Photo Group was originally established in 1945 as the Stratford Photographic Society, following even earlier efforts at grouping, and thus the 70th Anniversary will be in 2015 - which calls for a do - Party, Bar B Q, or other vibrant idea. Anyone having an idea should not be too shy to put it forward to anyone on the committee!

This will be an agenda item in forthcoming Committee Meetings

Membership - Whilst this remains at a similar level to last year, the number of active workers has increased. Interestingly, even though the number of entries for **Merit Competitions** under the revised rules, (a reduction from 4 to 3 per category), the total number of images received was 389, up from 370 last year!

The committee had reconsidered the introduction of an Intermediate Section but considered that there were insufficient members at this stage for it to be practicable. Currently there are 16 Advanced, and 14 Novices, and it would ideally require 15 to form a viable Intermediate Section

The competitions have been judged effectively by a good selection of judges with of course the usual differences of opinion!

The purchase of a new "digital" screen has significantly improved the quality of projection!

Interclub Competitions - SPG had done well winning the 3 way against Coventry and Sphinx, but had lost to Leamington a larger club.

External Competitions - SPG had won the Best Small Club medal in the MCPF championships, and had successes in Midphot, and Photofolio, Leicester & Leicestershire and others.

Outside Activities for 2014

Dick asked that anyone having a good idea for a field trip should become the organisational champion for the trip (with help from the committee as necessary) rather than simply pass it on to someone else!

A visit to the Polo Stadium at Southam is currently being planned

Thanks to Committee

Dick thanked outgoing committee members **Eric Wallbank, Kevin Edwards and Dave Broderick** for their contribution and welcomed the election of **David Howard** who has electrical skills on his CV - plans for a posh print viewing stand!

There is a gap on the committee for anyone who has an interest in natural history as it is a growing area within the club, and encouraged new members to put themselves forward

Dick thanked **Stewart** for his colourful Secretarial activities, **Cliff** for his pecuniary competence, **Bill** for having put together a new programme, **Dave Buckland** and **Phil Welch** for creating the excellent Newsletter, **Malcolm** for the collation and management of print entries, **Jenny Wren** for baking 2 lemon Meringue Pies (for the committee meeting!), **Irene** for efforts with catering assistance & **Rob** for keeping the membership on a high

Stewart proposed a Vote of Thanks to **Dick** for his Chairmanship over the past year, where his leadership, passion, tutelage, and willingness to bring others along were a credit

5.0 Treasurers Report

5.1 Cliff Armstrong reported that an overall **Profit of £15.03** had resulted from the years activities. The purchase of a new screen £184.80 had a dent in the numbers, A comparison with 2013 showed that whilst income was down by approximately £40 at £1379.85, (£1420) expenditure was also down at £1180 (£1,280) excluding the purchase of the screen

The Club currently has funds of £1,292.54

Outgoings for the coming year will increase with additional room hire for the 1st tuesday in the month meetings, extra judging costs in respect of the splitting of Merit competitions, and for SPG hosted Interclub competitions

The accounts were adopted - **Proposed by Dave Buckland, Seconded Bill Gourlay**
Unanimously accepted

5.2 Set Subscription Rates for 2014-5

Cliff highlighted that whilst the current funds were adequate, the additional costs would in all probability reduce the balance, and should there be a requirement for a replacement projector or laptop there could be a more significant shortfall. he therefore suggested **increasing the subs from £25 to £30 per capita** - this would yield about £175 additional based on current membership. Many clubs also charge a per meeting rate e.g. £1-2 - Stratford therefore appear to be very good value in comparison with other local clubs. In the event that further funds be required then a nominal charge for entry to Merit competitions could be made but not as yet!

Malcolm proposed that £30 be the new subscription rate for 2014-5 , Seconded by Russ Thomas
Unanimously accepted

6.0 Programme 2014-5 - Bill Gourlay

Bill presented a Draft programme for 2014-5 including the proposed **additional first Tuesday in the month meeting, the proposed split DPI and Print competitions**, and the Thursday Photoshop courses at Wellesbourne.

Dick outlined his plans for the first tuesdays as a supplement to the thursday Photoshop sessions at Wellesbourne **to enable those in work to benefit from the tuition available**. The first of these will be **Sept 2 at The Clubhouse "Creative use of Camera and Lenses"**

Irene asked that **Stewart's** studio session be included as it was fun and informative

Dick reported that **Ian Bailey** had been asked to talk about RPS Distinctions

It was agreed that **Bill** book a Portraiture Session with **Chris Bradbury FMPA** £100 for 2 hours - club members would have to pay an additional amount on the evening but this was considered very worthwhile

All changes to the Programme would be published in the Newsletter and Website

It was suggested that members set up informal critique groups - **Malcolm** has recently volunteered as a PAGB mentor so watch out guys!

7.0 Changes to the Competition Rules -

Dick proposed the following change :-

" It is proposed that the Merit competitions be split, so that we have Prints on one night and Projected Images on another and keep the entry to a maximum of 3 pictures per author This would enable judges to provide a more relaxed in depth commentary on 60-90 Prints and DPIs' during an evening"

It was thought that the Annual Cups competition could form the basis for a new SPG Exhibition where a judge could pass comments on the opening night

Proposed Dick, Seconded Bill, Unanimously accepted

8.0 Library Exhibition - 21st Sept- 5th Oct - All members will be encouraged to contribute one (or more) prints. Hire Cost £50. If a new SPG Exhibition goes ahead this may be the last Library Exhibition

9.0 Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following members were elected as officers and committee members:

Chairman	Dick Prior ARPS, AFIAP, BPE3*
Secretary	Stewart Band LRPS
Treasurer/Vice Chairman	Cliff Armstrong
Programme Secretary	Bill Gourlay
Competitions Secretary	Dick Prior
Exhibitions Secretary	Dick Prior
Member without Portfolio	Malcolm Ranieri MPAGB FRPS, AFIAP, BPE 5*
Website Manager	Andy Page
Membership Secretary	Rob Shaw
Member	Irene Jutton
Member	David Buckland
Member	Phil Welch
Member	Jenny Wren
Member	David Howard

Proposed John Harding, Seconded Heather Wood - All 16 attendees in favour

Andy Page will continue to run and maintain the website (Andy is a former member of SPG), and requires submission of material. Can do this via Dick or Stewart

10.0 Any Other Business

Malcolm handed out the Subject matter for his **2014-5 Treasure Hunt**

1. Water, 2. Running/ Cycling, 3. Transport Ancient or Modern, 4. Architecture, 5. Man/Woman (or plural At Work, 6. Autumn, 7. Fauna, 8. River/ Seascape

It was noted with regret the recent death of **Phil Hart** a long standing Honorary Life Member of the club, following a long illness.

Ian Bailey is an Honorary Life member of the Club - Ian has just be elected **President of the MCPF** for a 2 year duration

11.0 Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 9th June 2015, 7.45pm - Bishopton Community Centre

Meeting closed at 9.12pm



**Presentation of Awards and Cups
by Dick Prior**