

- 4.3.3.3. MidPhot - We entered 113 images and gained 22 Acceptances
- 4.3.3.4. PHOTOFOLIO - We had acceptances of 12 PDIs and 3 Prints from 6 authors
- 4.3.3.5. MCPF Championships - We tied with Burton on Trent for 15th place in the Print competition but did not retain our title of Best Small Club for Prints, but succeeded in retaining the title of Best Small Club for PDI's

4.3.4. INTERCLUB

- 4.3.4.1. 3 Way Studley & Evesham - We won
- 4.3.4.2. Leamington - We won
- 4.3.4.3. Coventry - We won
- 4.3.4.4. Banbury - We lost by about 10%! This is not a failure but an exploration of success in the making!

ALL THIS IS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH THE EFFORTS OF BOTH THE COMMITTEE and YOU THE MEMBERS!

- 4.4. Before addressing the objectives in my opening address, I would like to thank the committee for their hard work throughout the Year:
 - 4.4.1. **Peter Gilbert** Programme Secretary assisted by Deputy Mary Kirkby, for putting a full programme together at short notice and attracting good speakers including Valentina Kulagina, Mike Lane, the LCE Team, Graham Walton, Anne Sutcliffe and John Cartlidge. The essence of a good club is a varied programme with a sufficient number of good speakers. Peter has a full programme set out for the 2016-17 season and will be speaking to you quite soon!
 - 4.4.2. **Dick Prior** as Competition Secretary who has done a great job of pulling together entries for both Internal and External Competitions and Exhibitions and whose competitive hunger never seems to abate!! To his tutelage at the Wellesbourne Thursday afternoon critique sessions where winners are sometimes discovered! For his organisation of a series of Distinctions themed evenings throughout the Year supported by external speakers Ian Bailey and Anne Sutcliffe to encourage members to raise their game and have a go. And to his pursuit of bluebell hunting in the Oakley Woods and orchid growing on the Ettington Roundabout.
 - 4.4.3. To **Malcolm** and latterly **Andrew Leask** for helping Dick with organisation of the Prints on Merit and Interclub Competition Nights.
 - 4.4.4. **Webmaster David Howard** for his effective stewardship of Cyberspace and providing an up-to-date information packed professional looking website.
 - 4.4.5. **Michael** for taking on the role as Secretary and also for Championing the Mono Group Nights where MIG1/2/3 meet and show their efforts.
 - 4.4.6. To **Malcolm** for organising the Birmingham Canals day and of course The Treasure Hunt.
 - 4.4.7. To **Phil** our Membership Secretary for keeping tabs on everyone and keeping you all informed
 - 4.4.8. And of course to the man who sorts your coffee and tea, takes your money and adds it all up and still makes a profit - well just! **Cliff** - I hope that's not an omen!
- 4.5. **A Special Note - Malcolm** is retiring from the Committee after 30 years active service - we don't have a railway carriage clock for him, but we, with your approval, would like to appoint him as a Life Time Honorary Member of the club in recognition of his contribution over the years. **The members present unanimously supported Stewart's proposal and Malcolm graciously accepted.**
- 4.6. **OK.** My concern is that we have had a good run of success but have only retained 4 of the potential members who came along. We are seen to be friendly - well most of us! There has been some concern about the competitive nature of the club which has put off a few entry-level people from joining. The committee has acknowledged the issue, and has a plan to encourage beginners to join and improve their photography. This includes transfer of several of the Thursday Wellesbourne Critique sessions to the Clubhouse on unoccupied Tuesday evenings, where Workshop sessions will be run by both Dick and other Committee and Club members. There will be more field trips and the introduction of a Mentoring Programme. Peter will draw attention to this in his programme address.
- 4.7. The website has also been improved to convey the benefits of membership.
- 4.8. Increased publicity will help to position the club.
- 4.9. **The next challenge for us is to make a success of the forthcoming Exhibition at The Arts House 18th July- 1st August which coincides with our 70th Year.**

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1. Cliff reported that SPG achieved a surplus of £271.59 for 2015-16 and that the balance sheet showed cash reserves of £1,601.04. A question was raised regarding the decision to raise the membership fee to £40 at last year's AGM given the surplus this year. Cliff referred to the forecast for 2016-17, circulated to members, that anticipated a loss of possibly up to **£(632.00)** based on static membership and the costs associated with the enhanced programme (See Section 6 below). The Committee took the decision to enhance the programme for 2016-17 as part of its endeavours to attract new members.

The Accounts, proposed by Dick and seconded by Michael, were unanimously approved.

- 5.2. **It was agreed** to hold the membership fee at £40 for 2016-17, to charge a supplement for high profile speakers and the additional workshops and to review the cash position in Sep/Oct: if the number of members has declined and the forecast cash position warrants it, it may be necessary to amend the programme.

6. Programme 2016-17

Peter gave a brief summary of the 2016-17 Programme, copies of which had been circulated to members present. The salient points were:

- 6.1. Three high profile speakers have been booked in the expectation that, with suitable publicity, we will attract visitors from surrounding photo clubs: these sessions will involve a modest supplementary charge;
- 6.2. A further three FRPS speakers, Anne Sutcliffe, Margaret Salisbury and Martin Fry are in the programme to inspire members to greatness;
- 6.3. We have retained well respected judges for our internal Merit, Panel and Annual Cups competitions;
- 6.4. There are five Inter-club competitions;
- 6.5. Additional workshops covering the basics of camera work, composition and processing are to be introduced on Tue evenings not presently utilised in the programme to complement the Wellesbourne workshops and facilitate access for those in full-time employment: these workshops will involve a modest supplementary charge to cover the additional room hire;
- 6.6. Malcolm outlined a new objective for Malcom's Treasure Hunt: 12 images on any subject all taken on a single day of the entrant's choice;
- 6.7. Following questions from members, an iPhone photographer and an equipment manufacturer/distributor (e.g. Jessops, Calumet, Longbridge, Permajet, LCE) may be added to the programme in the future;
- 6.8. Peter's Caption Competition will continue with members providing suitable images.

7. Competition Secretary's Report (as presented)

- 7.1. Proposed by Andrew and seconded by Heather, the rule amendment for Merit Competitions Item 4 "Entry is limited to a maximum of 4 prints and 4 projected images in each competition or as advised at the start of each season" was unanimously adopted.

- 7.2. Dick reported as follows:

MCPF/PAGB Events entered

PAGB Print Cup

PAGB dpi Cup

Midphot (22 acceptances 2 Awards)

MCPF Championships (Best Small Club dpi).

Photofolio

2 images retained for Inter-federation competitions

Merit Competitions

482 Unique images in Merit Competitions

<u>Prints</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>PDIs</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Novice	19	27	20	66	Novice	36	32	28	96	162
Advanced	54	45	55	154	Advanced	52	48	63	166	320
Total	73	72	75	220	Total	88	80	91	262	482

Annual Print Panels Competition

44 Panels in total

	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Mono</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Creative</u>	<u>Total</u>
Novice	7	4			11
Advanced	10	10	7	6	33
Total	17	14	7	6	44

Annual Cups

181 Images in total

	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Mono</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Creative</u>	<u>Total</u>
Novice Prints	6	5		2	13
Novice PDIs	8	7	3	4	22
Advanced Prints	21	21	11	8	61
Advanced PDIs	25	27	16	17	85
Total	60	60	30	31	181

Many of the images in the Panels and Annual Cups were new and previously unseen in the club (approx. 60). So we have seen in the region of 540 new pictures this year. Something that bigger clubs like Leamington can only aspire to. We are a small club made up of members who take pictures and like to share them with other members.

Judges

This is always a controversial subject so we should remind ourselves regularly that when you we put images into competitions we put them into the hands of others who may have a different perspective from ours. I will say that the best thing we want from a judge is an honest assessment and critique of our work and on the whole this is what we have had this year.

Bob Train, Ken Hudson, Graham Walton and John Haines are all outstanding examples of good Club Judges but I would particularly like to pick out Michael Krier as an example of a role model for all new judges.

Distinctions

In the pursuit of excellence in any walk of life distinctions are the anvil on which we can hone our skills (apologies for the mixed metaphor). This year we have 5 members who will attain a new distinction at national and international levels. All of whom can say that their journey has been made easier by the help, advice, comradeship and competition from within SPG. I recall my first club success winning 'Print of the Year' in 2006 and being strongly urged to enter external exhibitions by 2 senior members and as a consequence at the last count I have achieved 1161 acceptances and 67 awards in exhibitions in the last 10 years. I blame most of this on Malcolm Ranieri!

8. Exhibition at Stratford ArtsHouse 18-30 Jul 2016

- 8.1. Members wishing to exhibit a print who have not already done so were asked to send up to 2 prints to Dick for possible inclusion in the exhibition, it being our intention that every member wishing to participate should have at least one print on display.
- 8.2. Volunteers to cover the exhibition, morning and/or afternoon sessions, are required and are asked to contact Stewart.

9. Election of Committee

Proposed by Andrew Dow and seconded by Derek, the following committee was unanimously elected for 2016-17:

Chairman	Stewart Band LRPS
Secretary	Michael Robertson-Smith
Treasurer/ Vice Chairman	Cliff Armstrong
Programme Secretary	Peter Gilbert
Deputy Programme Secretary	Mary Kirkby
Competitions Secretary	Dick Prior ARPS BPE5 AFIAP
Deputy Competitions Secretary	Andrew Leask
Webmaster	David P Howard
Membership Secretary	Phil Welch
Member without Portfolio	Doug Watson

10. Publicity

In the absence of a volunteer, Stewart & Michael will continue to do as much as possible.

10.1. Photography News – Michael has submitted details of the Exhibition.

10.2. MCPF – details are in the June Newsletter circulated to members and on the MCPF Website.

10.3. Social Media – Michael is posting to Facebook and Twitter:

10.3.1. www.facebook.com/groups/446121348739929

10.3.2. www.twitter.com/StratfordPhotoG

Members can help promote SPG by following the above links and sharing/retweeting posts (apologies if that sounds like gibberish: ask your grandchildren for help!)

10.4. Stratford Herald & Stratford Observer – Michael will submit details in Jun.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 19:45 on Tuesday 6 June 2017 at Bishopton Community Centre.

12. Any Other Business.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:00. After tea/coffee, Stewart presented the Awards.