

CHELMSFORD CAMERA CLUB

Minutes of the AGM for 2006/2007 held at Moulsham Mill on 16th May 2007

Present: Ray Bacon, Steve Baxter, Paul Beko, Howard Binns, Sheila Binns, Colin Birch, Sheila Birch, Konrad Borysiuk, Ann Burley, Dorothy Chorley, Dennis Clarke, Arnold Cleaver, Thelma Cleaver, Tony Cockrell, Barry Collin (Chair), Tony Culham, Mike Daly, Pamela Elmes, John Fildes, Melvyn Frewin, Pat Frewin, John Goodacre, Peter Herries, Frank Lo, Malcolm Macgregor, Terry McDonald, Jack Miles, Valerie Miles, Andrew Pickess, Veronica Rice, Howard Rison, Richard Stevens, Jacqui Wall, Brigitte Whiteing, David Whiteing, Clare Price (36 members), Adam Rowe (visitor)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Simon Bromwich, Bruce & Eileen Gray, Trevor Burley
2. **Approval of 2005/2006 AGM Minutes:** The minutes were approved and signed.
3. **Matters Arising:** Terry McDonald requested an update on 10.1: it was explained that until a problem was experienced with repeated images being presented for competitions, no changes would be made to the Rules. All other 'matters arising' had been dealt with.
4. **Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007:**

Valerie Miles thanked Ron Gregory for his time and effort in auditing the accounts.

She reported that the Club's membership had increased by 7 (net) this year, bringing the total to 69, which included 3 honorary members. Salient totals were as follows:

	31.1.2007	(31.3.2006)
	£	£
Income	4304.36	(3879.35)
Expenditure	3464.28	(4734.86)
Deficit/Surplus	840.08	(-855.51)
Bank Balance	5506.13	(4666.05)

There had been a rise in subscription and attendance fees of £75.50 and £85.00 respectively. Net raffle profits were also up by £130.07. An additional sum of £55 was received for items donated to the Club. Notable expenditure included the charge of £35.25 for cleaning the carpet following spillage of tea. Rent for the seven Practical Evenings at Writtle amounted to £155, plus an advance deposit of £15 to Great Baddow Parish Council for next Season's Practical Evenings. Printing and photocopying for programmes and certificates amounted to £55 and £65 respectively. Equipment purchases included payment of £268.91 for a spare lamp for the Club's projector.

Finally, Valerie thanked those members who had collected Attendance and raffle money on Club nights.

Ray Bacon noted the Club had a balance of £4000+ and asked why this large sum hadn't been deposited in a Building Society accruing more interest. Barry Collin advised that the club is considered a commercial entity and as such is not permitted to have a Building Society account; any account would have to be in the name of an individual, which would not be feasible.

There being no further questions, Andrew Pickess proposed approval of the accounts. Terry McDonald seconded the proposal and the accounts were approved unanimously.

5. Reports from Other Officers

It was proposed by the President that the reports be dealt with in their entirety and then voted upon at the end of the final report.

5.1 Secretary, Veronica Rice

This had been Veronica's first year as Secretary; it had been a busy one, being the prime contact with outside organisations and initial contact with prospective members. She had attempted to sift through the numerous correspondence to highlight those items most likely to be of interest, such as competitions, exhibitions etc. Another key task was to encourage prospective members to attend at least one club meeting and the Club's policy of offering "no obligation" attendance at three Club meetings seemed to work well. She also mentioned the once monthly workshops which are there for all members to enjoy covering a wide range of activities.

Finally, she stressed one of the Club's objectives is to reinforce its position as the leading photographic club in the area and the increasingly high calibre of members' work in league and inter-club competitions has been reflected in the results achieved. Also those who have been so successful in national competitions are to be congratulated. All of this, together with our Annual Exhibition, the Club's activities published in the Press, and our very popular website, help to raise the profile of the Club and attract new members.

Pat Frewin commented that Veronica in her first year, had done very well.

5.2. Programme Secretary, Arnold Cleaver

Arnold stated he had completed three years as programme secretary. He has attempted to secure an interesting mixture of speakers and judges and other events. This year we also saw the first panel of six prints and the Club resumed instructional and practical evenings at Writtle Christian Centre.

The forthcoming season, starting on 5th September, has some more attractions to look forward to including professional photographers such as Brian Harris of The Independent, Roger Hance with a new programme on close-ups of the natural world, and Colin Westgate with some of his landscapes. In November we have Andy Rouse, the wildlife photographer. Two meetings in December will be French-oriented with a cheese and wine for our Christmas Social. Hugh Milsom, Paul Foley and Ann Miles are all due to visit us in 2008.

The monthly practical evenings will move to the Bell Centre in Great Baddow and will be held on Thursdays. They include a discussion on "What makes a good photograph", digital techniques, digital AV, and portraiture lighting. The coming season's programme is to be recommended.

Jacqui Wall commented this had been her first year and she had thoroughly enjoyed it.

5.3 Print Competition Secretary, Colin Birch

Colin reported that this had been his first year and thanked Bruce for his support and Sheila for manning the laptop.

League:

There were 5 competitions this season: 34 people submitted colour prints and 22 submitted mono prints, an average of 48 colour and 28 mono prints each evening.

League Mono:

Entry Level was won by Jacqui Wall. Both she and Ken Dawe move up to Advanced Level. Advanced was won jointly by Colin Birch, Trevor Burley and Colin Westgate, and Melvyn Frewin won the Premier Section. 9 members will be in the Premier Section for 2007/08.

League Colour:

Entry Level again was won by Jacqui Wall who moves up to Advanced Level. Advanced Level was won by Ray Bacon, and Bruce Gray won the Premier Section. Eleven members will be in the Premier Section next year.

Burley Cup:

The panel of 3 competition was well supported with 28 panels submitted. Melvyn Frewin was the winner with his panel entitled "I can't bear to look".

Panel of Six: Cyril Chorley Memorial Trophy

There were 20 entries for this new Trophy, kindly donated by Dorothy Chorley in memory of her late husband – a keen member of the Club. This was won by Pat Frewin with her panel "Rock Strata".

Annual Awards:

93 colour and 51 mono prints were submitted, an increase over last year of 50% for mono. Colin thanked all those who participated in the competitions which were of a standard praised by the judge.

5.4 Slide Competition Secretary, Melvyn Frewin

Melvyn reported that excellent work is being received from the 12 members using conventional slides.

The number of slides submitted for competitions was down to 179 against 255 last year, all being Advanced Level workers, against 55 submitted at Entry Level last year. Slide entries have been limited to 3 per person to accommodate the popular Digital entries. Annual Award entries were 64 this year against 68 in 2006.

Congratulations were extended to this year's League Award winners who were: Premier League – Barry Henshaw; and Advanced League – Paul Beko and Malcolm Macgregor (joint winners).

The Premier League members for 2007/2008 will be: Barry Henshaw, Bob Scott, Melvyn Frewin, Pat Frewin, Paul Beko, Malcolm Macgregor. Also congratulations go to Paul Beko and Malcolm Macgregor who were promoted to Premier League. Melvyn hoped the slide workers would continue entering their good work for all the Internal and External competitions.

Melvyn thanked our excellent projectionist Steve Baxter, and Bruce Gray and Barry Collin who have covered for him on competition nights in his absence.

5.5 Digital Slide Competition Secretary, Bruce Gray

A new league competition for digital images was introduced in the 2006/2007 season. The competition was well supported by 30 club members competing for a new trophy kindly donated by Simon Bromwich.

It was a very tight-run competition with only ½ mark separating each of the top 3 members when going into the final theme competition number 6. In the end, Terry McDonald was the clear winner with 49.5 out of a maximum of 50 marks. Results for the top 5 members after deducting the lowest score result were:

Trophy winner	Terry McDonald	49.5
Joint 2 nd	Bruce Gray and Pat Frewin	48

4 th place	Barry Henshaw	46
5 th place	Barry Collin	45.5

Bruce thanked and congratulated all members who had supported this competition and mentioned that most judges had commented on the high standard.

Tony Cockrell raised the point that images appeared to be over-exposed. This was also backed up by Terry McDonald and a number of other members. Dennis Clarke raised the question as to whether the illumination on the projector might be too bright and could be reduced. Agreed that this matter should be investigated.

5.6 External Competition Secretary, Pat Frewin

Pat reported that this year had been our most successful so far with 8 wins and 2 – 2nd place positions, out of the 13 competitions entered. This is excellent for the Club and reflects the good standard of work. The “wins” were:

- Basildon Battle
- Basildon Rosebowl + best print (Ray Bacon)
- Baddow Print Competition (2nd year running) + best print (Colin Westgate)
- Colchester Battle
- Essex Inter-Club + best slide (Bob Scott)
- Icon 5 – Club Battle (3rd year running)
- Maldon Challenge (tie with Colchester)
- CAPS Slide Competition + best slide (Bob Scott)
- + Best Print for the Benfleet Battle (Barry Collin)

Pat thanked Colin and Sheila Birch, Arnold Cleaver and Dennis Clarke for covering competitions in her absence and also all members who had supplied her with excellent work throughout the season.

She also thanked Terry McDonald for the use of his excellent work, helping us to achieve our success. He will be missed when he returns to Canada but hopefully he will become the Club’s first overseas member.

5.7 Publicity and Exhibition Officer, Simon Bromwich

Simon sent his apologies for absence. The Camera Club taking second place on this occasion as he was getting married today.

His report detailed the success of our exhibition in the County Hall foyer in 2006. This year’s exhibition will be held from 20th – 30th August, and will be a slightly larger display. Simon requested volunteers to help with the setting up/taking down of the exhibition and for help in manning the exhibition during normal library opening hours. He was also eager for anyone available on the 20th and 30th August who owns a large hatchback or estate car to contact him.

Regarding community news reports, Simon regularly submits reports to the Essex Chronicle, some alas getting over-edited; a more accurate description can be found on the website.

Jacqui Wall made the suggestion that Essex Radio should be approached to plug the Club’s activities.

Barry Collin advised that Simon should talk to Jacqui, and also David Whiteing about placing an entry in the Journal (a paper local to Danbury, Bicnacre etc). Also The Weekly News was worth contacting as was perseverance with the Essex Chronicle for more reporter coverage.

5.8 Webmaster, Barry Collin

Barry advised he had taken over the Club's website in November 2003 and has steadily improved it since then, receiving much praise from visitors for its design and content, and it has played a major part in recruiting new members.

In January 2005, we had recorded 4,000 visitors; by May 2006 6,500; and by today almost 8,500.

Barry feels it is now time for him to step aside and for someone else to breathe new life into it. Happily Andrew Pickess had volunteered to do so, and within the next couple of weeks our new website will be launched. Barry was confident that Andrew will take it to new heights, helping to recruit more new members. Please give him your support by visiting www.chelmsfordcameraclub.info regularly and send him your best pictures for display.

5.9 Chairman, Paul Boko

Having just completed his first year as Chairman, Paul said he soon realised to succeed he would need the full support of the Committee and general membership. The Committee had given him that goodwill and support in abundance. He added that each Committee member had made every effort to meet the interests of the Club and the enjoyment of all its members and had worked diligently with those objectives in mind.

He advised that Valerie is leaving the Committee after many years' service in a variety of roles including Slide Secretary when he joined the Club, to her current role of Treasurer. He took the opportunity to thank her for the many years of selfless service she had given to the Club.

He also recorded a special "Thank you" to the general membership, many helping with the tea rota, reception and raffle duties and have provided a friendly face to newcomers. This, together with the general ambience of the Club has made it a nice place to come to on a Wednesday evening.

5.10 Approval of the reports

Peter Herries proposed approval of the reports, seconded by Thelma Cleaver. The reports were accepted unanimously.

6. Year 2007/2008 Subscriptions

The President, Barry Collin, announced that the Committee proposed making no changes to the subscriptions for the coming season.

Jacqui Wall proposed that we encourage junior membership by having a £5 annual subscription for that category.

Following open debate with members, it was proposed by Ray Bacon that subscriptions for junior members under 16, or students under 21 years of age and still attending full time education be £10.00 per year. This was seconded by Dennis Clarke and carried unanimously. Subscriptions for 2007/2008 will therefore be:

Annual Membership £27.00; Family Membership £44; Junior/Student Membership £10.
and

Senior Citizens and Unemployed £22. The Attendance Fee of £1.60 to remain unchanged.

7. President's Remarks (Barry Collin)

Barry remarked this had been a great year for successes, both for individual members and for the Club. Bruce Gray, and Pat and Melvyn Frewin have each advanced to a DPAGB Distinction, and Jacqui Wall to an LRPS. Many members had also gained acceptances and medals in National and International Exhibitions. It was also good to see new names at the top of the League and Annual Award Lists.

He thanked those members who submitted prints for selection and Pat Frewin for leading the successful Selection Team. He also congratulated Arnold for his varied and interesting programme, and said the programme for 2007/2008 looks to be another good one. He reported that 2008/2009 will be Arnold's last year as Programme Secretary and that someone with the necessary experience will be needed to understudy him now to take on the job for 2/3 years.

Congratulations went to Colin and Sheila Birch for handling the Print Competitions, the Hospital displays, and the tea rota this season, and Bruce Gray for organising a successful first year of digital competitions. Thanks went to the Members who sit on reception, sell raffle tickets and make the teas..

The President added that we had gained a few new members, due in no small way to the warm and friendly atmosphere prompting one judge to say "this place buzzes". It was also good to see some new and younger people taking over the jobs, giving the oldies a well earned rest. The future of the Club is in good hands.

8. Proposed Change to the Constitution

Bruce Gray had proposed that the Officer position of Competition Secretary be replaced with two Officers, namely a Print Competition Secretary and a Projected Image Competition Secretary; the total number of Committee members to remain at twelve.

The proposed change to the Constitution had been given to the Secretary at least four weeks prior to the AGM and had been supported by SIX other members as required by the Rules. A vote was taken and the proposal accepted unanimously.

9. Election of the President and Vice Presidents

President: Barry Collin (proposed by Paul Beko)
Vice-Presidents: John Daniels, (proposer Veronica Rice); Pat Freeman, (proposer Valerie Miles); Peter Lemin, (proposer Arnold Cleaver); Terry Ruggles (proposer Barry Collin)

Seconded en bloc by Arnold Cleaver and accepted unanimously.

10. Election of Officers and Ordinary Committee Members

Chairman:	Paul Beko	(proposed by Bruce Gray)
Vice-Chairman:	Bruce Gray	(proposed by Pat Frewin)
Secretary:	Veronica Rice	(proposed by Barry Collin)
Treasurer:	Dennis Clarke	(proposed by Valerie Miles)
Programme Secretary:	Arnold Cleaver	(proposed by Dennis Clarke)
Projected Image Competition Secretary	Bruce Gray	(proposed by Veronica Rice)
Competition Secretary (Prints)	Colin Birch	(proposed by Dennis Clarke)
External Competition Secretary	Pat Frewin	(proposed by Melvyn Frewin)
Exhibition & Publicity Officer	Simon Bromwich	(proposed by Arnold Cleaver)

Committee Members: Sheila Binns (proposed by Paul Beko); Melvyn Frewin (proposed by Veronica Rice); John Fildes (proposed by Bruce Gray) and Andrew Pickess (proposed by Dennis Clarke).

The Officers and Committee members proposed above were seconded en bloc by Ray Bacon and accepted nem con.

11. **Election of Honorary Auditor:** Ron Gregory had indicated his willingness to be re-elected. Proposed by Valerie Miles, seconded by Arnold Cleaver and accepted nem con.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 **Information on Places of Interest:** Jacqui Wall requested advice as to where to place such information. It was suggested the website or the Club's noticeboard.

12.2 **Camera World:** Melvyn advised that Camera World were disinclined to advertise our Andy Rouse event, as he was sponsored by Warehouse Express and they had failed to return the 150 leaflets left with them, presumably having disposed of them.

12.3 **Premises:** The question of finding alternative premises was raised by Tony Cockrell, having regard to the limit on membership numbers and visibility on print and slide nights. It was considered that any alternative premises would have to be central to Chelmsford and would be costly. As regards visibility, it was suggested that on print nights, a narrow aisle be made down the middle, and on those nights requiring the use of a digital projector, this could be placed to one side to allow more viewing space. A further row of seats might be possible in the front.

12.4 **Summer Closure:** Clare Price asked why the Club was closed for so long during the summer. It was explained that it gave the Committee a break, and to carry on during the summer would necessitate an increase in fees. It was suggested however that if any member would like to organise a day-out or get-together during the summer recess, they contact Andrew who would gladly advertise it on the website.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.29

The AGM was followed by the presentation of the Nice Cup by the President. This year it was awarded to two people - Sheila Binns and John Fildes, who go about their all-important business every week with little or no recognition, yet do much to foster the friendly atmosphere of the Club.

This presentation was followed by the League Awards.