Whitchurch Photographic Society
Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 7th July at 7.30
held via Zoom, hosted by Martyn Daniels and Chaired by Marc Brimble

Present – Martyn Daniel, Ruth Elner, Julia Finch, Richard Foyne, Val Garret, Chris Goody, Marian Goody, Paul Hayward, Rob Hill, Brian Holland, Lynda Holland, Neil Huggan, Les Jones, Patick Miles, Dave Munn, Sandy Robertson, Paul Nash, Stuart Ord, David Powell, Richard Priestley, Marc Brimble, Peter Brown, Penny Cartwright, Peter Cooke, Mandy Coyne.

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1) Opening of the meeting – President – Sandy Robertson. Sandy opened the 58th annual general meeting with a few words,

" It is my pleasure to open 58th AGM although in rather unusual circumstances. The season was progressing well and we were winning inter-club competitions, reflecting our ever increasing standard of photography.
The evenings were enjoyable, interesting and it was wonderful to welcome new members. However, although things were cut short by COVID, last year we will start the new season shortly with zoomed summer meetings. Marc and the members of the committee have strived to keep members informed and interested by holding monthly on line challenges.
Many thanks to members of the committee for their hard work and WPS members for embracing the new Zoom format which is to be used until we can once again meet in person at Pearl Yard.
The forthcoming programme for the 2020-2021 season looks really interesting. It will commence with a presentation on 21st July from an internationally recognised Sports Photographer. The season commences on 15th September."

2) Apologies - Mike Gibbens

3) Minutes of previous AGM – Marc Brimble proposed from the Chair that these were a true and accurate record. Seconded by SR – all agreed.

4) Reports – sent to members prior to meeting

Chairman
As we are meeting remotely and in such extraordinary and uncertain times, I am going to keep my annual report brief and to the point.
In my opinion, 2019-2020 was very successful until this dreaded Corona virus closed the club and lock down occurred across the whole country. We had many successes in Inter-clubs, membership was up and lots of members were successful in competitions and most of all we all had a good bit of fun enjoying our photography and sharing that enjoyment with other like-minded people at the club.
This year will probably be one of our most challenging as we attempt to run a programme remotely using zoom conferencing. Please bear with us during this time as there may be ups and downs and teething problems along the way. I'm sure we will all enjoy the sessions and we will do it in that customary WPS happy and friendly way. One of the main things that keeps me coming back to the club week in week out and why I regard this club as being so special.
I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Stuart, who is stepping down as IT and Competitions Secretary. Without his help we would have found it

difficult to run any activities over the past 3 years. Thanks Stuart! Thanks also for agreeing to provide additional help and support for the new team in the coming months. I look forward to working with the new team and want to thank Martyn for all his help so far over the summer setting up and running the Summer Challenges and thank him in advance for taking on a new role this year. His contribution will be most important over the coming months and years. If you feel you can help out and would like to join the committee then please consider doing so. Remember, this will be my fourth year as Chairman and Programme Secretary and I will be stepping down at the end of it. Who fancies doing either of those jobs?
Having said the above, I'd now like to take you through the paper entitled "Running WPS whilst observing the "New Normal" and Social Distancing.
Let's hope we have a successful season in 2020-21 but most of all hope you all stay safe and healthy.

Running the WPS whilst observing the "new normal" rules on social distancing

Options for the 2020-2021 Programme:

Option 1:

Whilst Social distancing is required, we suspend all club activities as our meeting location is too small to enable more than a handful of people to attend a meeting at any one time. A drastic measure but something we may need to consider

Option 2:

Find alternative accommodation that enables us to meet under the new social distancing requirements. This option may be possible, but I suspect it would be difficult for a number of different reasons:

- We may not be able to find such a location in the current climate as places such as the school may not be able to facilitate meetings of external groups due to the need to arrange extra cleaning/protect staff and students from non-essential visitor contact etc.
- Costs for the new location may be prohibitive for club of our size.
- Members may not be able to attend for health reasons or be willing to take any risks and may quite rightly prefer not to attend face to face meetings. Other difficulties include a possible lack of toilet facilities, tea and coffee may not be available, gloves and face masks may have to be worn, etc.
- Logistically, there would be a lot more work for committee members setting out the room correctly, handling and setting up equipment, bringing equipment into the room from another location, etc.

Option 3:

Reduced programme activity, For Example: Run one monthly on-line competition (similar to the challenges already in place) and have one zoomed talk/lecture per month to keep members interest going and the club active.
This scenario means that the club membership fee would probably have to be reduced. However, there would be the normal on-the-door fee which would be payable for each of the talks and competitions to cover any costs for speakers or judges.

Option 4:

We attempt to run the current programme by Zoom conferencing each meeting until such time as social distancing requirements are relaxed and we can resume meetings at the club again.

Can I **suggest** that Club membership fees would remain the same – proposed fee for 2020-21 is £20 as last year's programme was cut short and the suggested reduced fee is meant to reflect this.

It is also **suggested** that members pay the normal £2 'on the door' fee for each zoom session that they attend.

I envisage that most sessions currently scheduled for 2020-21 would take place, although speakers and judges are being contacted to make sure this is the case. The only sessions likely to be affected are practical sessions and social events. If necessary, additional activities can be devised and included to cover any gaps in the current programme. Can I **suggest** that there will also have to be a few changes to the competition rules (see the new Competition Rules), which should be considered temporary until such time as we can return to the 'old normal' – PDI's will be submitted instead of prints. For most competitions this will mean submitting 2 colour PDI's and 2 Mono PDI's. The current Competition rules will be relaxed a little to allow members to submit images and encourage participation e.g. The Portfolio restrictions will be removed although the restrictions on "This Years Work" will remain. The panel competition will now require members to display a series of images as they would on a panel but now displayed on-line. Friendly competitions can be judged in the usual manner as Zoom has a facility for voting for your favourite image.

Can I **suggest** that any current member who is not able to participate in Zoom conferencing is offered the opportunity to remain as a WPS member at a reduced rate of £5 until such time as they are able to participate via zoom or we return to meeting at the club. At this point they will be asked to pay the appropriate pro-rata fee for the remaining part of the year. In the meantime, they may continue to enter any informal Challenge competitions, participate in the critique group and will be sent any updates about the club via e-mail or WhatsApp.

The advantages of using a conferencing system like Zoom are obvious from the point of living with Coronavirus and Social distancing, but there are other advantages and disadvantages to conferencing sessions rather than meeting in the normal way:

Advantages:

1. There is no room hire costs (although we may have to pay a retainer to keep the room available for future use).
2. We do not have the added cost of tea, coffee and biscuits.
3. The cost of Speakers and Judges may be reduced as they will not have to include a fee to cover travel expenses. Having said this there will still be a fee which is yet to be decided.
4. We can not only operate a full range of programme activities via zoom but we could also run other activities, committee meetings and smaller subgroup meetings to discuss specific matters that need resolving during the course of the year.

Disadvantages:

1. Reduced income – no weekly raffle ticket money.
2. Fee for Zoom Club licence – currently £11.99/month (club fee – no individual fees) or £9.99/month for an annual licence

   It should be noted that other clubs and societies have already moved over to zoom conferencing and have found that it works effectively and is easy for

members to use.
We are currently getting a steady stream of enquiries from potential speakers
Fees:
Membership fee: Whatever, we decide, any membership fee will be payable in the normal manner by Direct Debit or Cheque (sent to the Treasurer) at the start of the year.
Participation fees: Participation in each activity will be noted by the Treasurer and Chairman and members will be asked to pay the appropriate fee (either by cheque or Direct Debit/Bank Transfer) at the end of each quarter of the programme i.e. September/October, November/December, January/February and March/April.

The committees preferred option: Option 4 is preferred and whilst not every member will want or even be able to participate, it does provide a reasonably comprehensive programme of activities, a degree of flexibility and a way forward until such time as we can return to meeting up in the club once more. If members want, we could even devote a portion of the time during or before each session to socialising and chat time.

The option 4 was proposed by JF and seconded by NH and carried unanimously.

Some discussion was generated and a couple of questions asked by members which were clarified.

. Members that do not wish to participate in the Zoom sessions will be asked to pay a £5 retainer to keep them on as a member (for this members will receive regular updates about the club and will be able to use the Members page and Critique Pages on Facebook) and then pay pro-rata once we start to meet face to face again. DP will keep a list of those attending the Zoom sessions and will bill members at the end of each quarter. Members can pay by cheque or BACS once the society has an online account. DP will keep them informed.

MB also stated that some clubs were only now considering their programmes for the new season so he considered that the WPS was perhaps a little more proactive and more forward thinking in such uncertain times.

Secretary's report
This is my last report as Secretary, as I am standing down after 4 years in the role which I have thoroughly enjoyed. It has given me a great insight into the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep the club functioning.

I believe that this season has been one of our most successful although it has been cut short by COVID 19 and we have been unable to meet in person, members of the committee have organised on line competitions and small group sessions to prepare everyone for the forthcoming year of Zoom!

Members are also using the critique group a lot more which is great as we can share images with one another and gain some valuable constructive criticism from fellow members.

Hopefully it will not be too long before we can all get back together at Pearl Yard but nothing is definite at the moment.

Treasurer's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Whitchurch Photographic Society for the Fiscal Year 1st April 2019 through 31st March 2020

This report marks the end of my first year as WPS Treasurer having taken over the role from Patrick Miles as of 1st April 2019.
I would like to start this report by thanking Patrick for his diligence in the hand over period and readily offering his experience and advice whilst I "bedded in" to the role, especially during the month following my accident in September. Additionally I would thank fellow members of the Committee and all WPS Members for their support during the year.
Additional thanks go to Patrick and Marc for covering the Treasurer's duties at the weekly meetings when I have been unable to attend, and Marc for his chauffeuring services in the period after my accident when I couldn't drive.
Unfortunately the corona virus pandemic hit the UK, escalating during early March 2020 and this has led to the Government's imposition of strict social lock down controls and personal distancing. This meant that our year effectively finished immediately after the meeting on 17th March 2020, and to date there is no indication when social activities will be permitted to recommence.
This situation has unfortunately meant that the Accounts for the fiscal year of 2019 - 20 are completed but unaudited at this time, but I intend to proceed with the verification process in conjunction with our President and Chairman, when permitted to do so.
As our AGM is deferred I submit, along with this report, 2 other documents for consideration.
These are:-

- The Statement of Account to year end 31st March 2020
- The Balance Sheet 2019-20 to year end 31st March 2020

Unlike previous recent years, we have experienced a year when expenditure has outweighed income. However the primary reason for this was the acquisition of a new projector, enabled by our healthy financial position, and even after this substantial purchase, our Closing Balance (bank deposits and cash) stands at £4429.19 (versus £7947.12 at this time last year).
The Statement of Account shows the various categories and amounts of income and expenditure for this, and for comparison, the same for the preceding year.
The deficit of income versus expenditure was £3,197.93, but must be seen against our investment in equipment of approximately £3,500.

Notes on Income
Our income this year was £3,628.81 which was disappointingly down by approximately 16% on last year, in fact all main revenue streams were down, as can be seen on the Statement of Account.
Although the club shop income halved this year versus last year I would like to thank Marian and Chris Goody for their selfless involvement in providing this valuable service for Society Members, which entails much detailed behind the scenes work.

Notes on Expenditure
Expenditure significantly increased this year, and this was almost wholly due to the purchase of a new Canon projector and a "state of the art" transit case to protect it all times when not in use, along with new cables and a remote presentation

controller and pointer.
Additionally, expenditure in the region of £300.00 that was incurred during the fiscal year 2018 – 19 was not recorded in that year, so had to be carried into this years accounts.
A major expense item is Rent, but this has remained at the same level for the last 3 years and is excellent value. My thanks go to John Edge for liaising with the Senior Citizens Club in this matter and securing such a good venue at what is a very reasonable cost.
Money paid to our speakers and judges, marginally down on last year, yet has been excellent value and I thank Marc for his successful efforts in attracting excellent speakers, who have covered a variety of interesting and exciting topics.
Refreshment costs remain modest and I thank Julia Finch for organising the mid evening breaks, which I am sure all Members appreciate and will join me in thanking her wholeheartedly.

Proposals for AGM consideration

5. That the Statement of Account and the Balance Sheet, both for the year 1st April 2019 through 31st March 2020 be accepted and approved by the Members
6. That the WPS full year Annual Subscription for 2020-21 be reduced by £5.00 to £20.00 for full members, to reflect the curtailment of this year's season due to the corona virus pandemic. It has to be said that this assumes that we will are able to resume meetings again in September 2020 – if this doesn't happen then this topic will be revisited by the Committee.
7. Admission charges to remain at £2.00 per week for members and £3.00 per week for visitors.
8. Raffle tickets to remain at £1 per ticket.

David Powell
Whitchurch Photographic Society Treasurer
4th April 2020

Balance sheet Appendix 1 Statement of Account Appendix 2 (Available on request)

There were a few questions about income for the forthcoming season and the ability of the society to remain financially solvent during this period, DP answered al questions to the satisfaction of the members apart from the question with regard to paying a retainer fee for Pearl Yard. MB will contact the relevant person and advise members.

Competition Secretary/IT report

The 2019-20 competition season was cut short by the Covid-19 pandemic. We held the majority of internal and external competitions, but were unable to hold any scheduled to be held after the end of February 2020. With the near future uncertain,

we are planning to scrap the remaining competitions (internal and external) for the present season, and we hope to start with the 2020-2021 schedule in September. That will of course depend on Government guidance, members' wishes, availability of judges, and the wishes of the other clubs with whom we hold external competitions.
Due to "lock down", most club trophies are remaining with the members who won them in the 2018-2019 season. Those people are asked to retain them for now, and their return to the club, engraving with the new winner's names (for competitions that were held), and presentation to 2019-2020 winners will occur when that becomes possible. As an interim measure, new certificates were created and printed, and posted to club winners for both formal and informal competitions.
The new competition entry system "Photo Entry" has worked well. A couple of members have had good reasons for not using it, and whilst we encourage all members to master the system (which most people find much less daunting than they might have anticipated) it is definitely not a condition of competition entry. We will continue to help anyone not able to use this system to get their entries in by other means. The system eases the workload on the Competition Secretary and Webmaster, and provides member benefits in being able to enter and change entries at their leisure if they want to.
A new system of selecting entries to external competitions was trialled and seemed to work well. This uses the scores given by the external judges who judged our formal competitions as well as scores given by our own selection panel members. I would like to think that this helped our scores in our external competitions.
I am standing down as Competition Secretary now.

Stuart Ord

Competition Results Summary for 2019-20 season Appendix 3 (available on request)

IT Report
Most developments on the IT side were complete before the ravishes of the Covid 19 pandemic. So, I can report that the new club computer (bought in the previous season) continues to work well. We continue to use Zenfolio for our website design and its updating, and Heart Internet for its hosting and our e-mail service.
Better still, we dug deep into our pockets this season and bought a successful replacement for our ageing computer projector, which has brought a noticeable improvement to the quality of our PDI's both in terms of colour and sharpness. We also bought a remote control for it to assist presenters, and an almost bomb-proof case to make sure it is not damaged in transport, as our projector is taken to and fro on a weekly basis.
A significant part of the perceived problems with the older projector was that people in the audience could see the projected image and also the computer screen. Most people have a working knowledge of colour management, but appreciation of the complexity of this is clearer when you have to manage it! Even using the Colour Munki (which is available for club members to borrow to calibrate their personal computer monitor(s)) leaves noticeable differences between the two, the projector being a specialist photo projector, whereas the laptop screen being not so.
Therefore, a long HDMI lead was bought to allow the computer operator to sit to the side as opposed to in the central isle. This provides a smaller obstruction to the view of people towards the back of the audience, and also prevents this comparison which led to considerable frustration of the IT Secretary! I recommend that this

system is used in future, when we eventually get back to meetings in the club room. The role of the Webmaster was previously rolled into the role of the IT Secretary. I was very appreciative of Martyn Daniel's offer to look after this, part way through the season. Indeed, he has also looked after the modifications to Photo Entry to create our lock down and summer competitions. Thanks, Martyn! To paraphrase, "Many hands make photo club work", and more help from members with committee tasks would be much appreciated.
I am standing down as IT Secretary now for a number of reasons. I have enjoyed helping the club with this and as a Committee member, as our committee in the time I have been a committee member has been super to work with. I look forwards to giving some help in the future.

Stuart Ord

5) Vote of thanks to out going officers
MB thanked all the committee members for their hard work and support throughout this difficult season.

6) Election of New Officers

6.1) Vice President – no volunteers.

6.2) Chairman- MB stated that he wll continue in this role for another year but no longer.

6.3)Secretary – SR proposed R P and PC seconded.

6.4) Treasurer – DP will continue in this role.

6.5**+ 6.8) Competition /IT Secretary** – A team is to be set up to fulfil these linked roles. LJ was to be welcomed onto the team to help with IT.

Proposed by NH and seconded by MG. PH volunteered to help with the competition aspect. Proposed by SR and seconded by JF.

6.6) Membership Secretary - JF will continue in this role

6.7) Programme Secretary – MB will continue in this role for another year but then he will stand down.

7) Programme for 2020-21
7.1) Proposed programme for 2020-21 including portfolio changes and Set subject
All slots on the new programme have been filled except for one guest lecture which will now be replaced with a members evening. The Christmas social evening may have to be via Zoom with a quiz and everyone having a drink and mince pie in their home. The April social evening has been left on the programme but may have to be replaced at a later date.
The **Set Subject** this year will be **Still Life** as members can accomplish images even if we return to lock down.
For the **Portfolio**, two categories have been changed as **Tryptics** as it was decided it would be too difficult to manage via Zoom. This will be replaced by **Architectural**

Photography. Street Photography is to be replaced by **Product photography.** During this period some of the competition rules have been relaxed, including being able to use some images taken in the past. The temporary rules have been circulated prior to the meeting. DP proposed the acceptance of theses temporary changes and RP seconded.

7.2) Summer meetings - Members of the Oswestry Camera Club will be joining us for the Zoom talk on Sports Photography.

8) Revised Rules

8.1) TOR and New Competition Rules

The papers produced by RP were circulated to the members prior to the AGM had the approval of the Committee. RP pointed out that all the revisions were in red. And that the TOR should be reviewed every 6-7 years. The exercise had essentially been a tidying up of minor points.

Competition Rules

The proposed changes to this document were also in red and apart from the addition of a new section on self censorship there had been very few substantive changes. PM proposed the acceptance of the changes and NH seconded. Carried unanimously.

8.2) Temporary Competition Rules (whilst competitions are being run remotely.)

A table summarising the new temporary competition rules and dates had been circulated prior to the AGM.

However there was some discussion with regard to the panel competition and it was suggested that it was to consist of a minimum of 3 images and a maximum number of 7 images.

This was proposed by NH and seconded by PB. Carried unanimously.

9) New Beginners/Intermediate members competitions.

MB explained that this was a proposal for the 2021-22 season and was to try and encourage newer members to participate so that they could receive feedback from the judge. SR proposed, seconded by MD and carried unanimously.

10) Friends of the WPS

For approval 2020 and implementation in 2021-22 season. MB proposed that this would be awarded to individuals that had a close relationship with the society as recognition for their support over the years. Two names were given as an example, Andy Polakowski and Geraldine Stephenson. More thought would have to be given to the form of the award. The idea was proposed by MB and seconded by MG. Passed unanimously.

11) AOB

MG asked if future Zoom sessions could be a break half way through to grab a cup of tea or for a comfort break. The members were re-assured that the two forthcoming summer Zoom presentations had breaks built into the programme and that all future meetings would always have a break .part way through the session

PM asked how those members that did not want to participate with Zoom were to be kept in touch. He was reassured that this would be via email, Face Book and Critique Group.

PC thanked the members for the card sent to him after the death of his wife.