Whitchurch Photographic Society
Annual General Meeting- Tuesday 30th April 2019 at 7.30pm
Held at – Senior Citizens Club, Pearl Yard, Whitchurch

Present – John Edge, Fred Cooper, Allen Heath, Chris Goody, Marian Goody, Paul Hayward, Val Garrett, Richard Priestley, Patrick Miles, Peter Brown, Paul Bolton, Sandy Robertson, Julia Finch, Peter Starkey, Graham Sedgley, Joshua Sedgley, Stuart Ord, Marc Brimble, Dave Munn, Penelope Cartwright, Rob Hill, Gary Holmes, Mel Brown, Martyn Daniel, David Powell, Ruth Elner, Les Jones

1) **Opening of Meeting - President – John Edge.** John opened the 57th annual general meeting with a few words,
" Tonight is one of mixed emotions for me after over 14 years in total as your President. I first joined the the Whitchurch Photographic Society in 1975, so I have been a member for 46 years. I was co-opted onto the selection committee in 1983 and then as Competition Secretary from 1984-86. I was elected as President for the first time in 1987. In 1994 I was again elected as President but a bad accident at work put that on hold. I sustained a head injury with loss of hearing and tinnitus. At the age of 46 I was told that I was disabled and would never work again but I was never very good at doing what I was told. In 1995 I helped to set up a group in Whitchurch for people with hearing loss and tinnitus. We still meet on the first Tuesday of every month in this room. In this year I also re joined the WPS.
Next came the biggest change in photography for years, digital, but we film users said it would never catch on. Soon we were having to get used to the terms, pixels, megabytes and noise.
But worst of all was the computer and I still haven't got used to them.
In 2003 I was once again elected as your Chairman and President. From 2011 up until now I have served as your President, standing up here each week has been good fun and enjoyable for me and good fun for you when I have my Murray Walker moments. Over the past few years our club has attracted a lot of new members and most have stayed with us. Enjoying not only the wealth of photographic knowledge but also the fantastic atmosphere here every Tuesday night. A big thank you to everybody that has made my job easy over the years and I would like to wish Sandy all the best as our incoming President and I hope she gets as much enjoyment from it as I have done.
Thank you".

2) **Apologies** - Peter Cooke, Keith Roberts

3) **Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting –** Marc Brimble proposed from the Chair that these were a true and accurate record. 2nd Peter Brown – all agreed.

4) **Reports**

4.1) Chairman – Marc Brimble -
Where has this year gone! It doesn't seem like 12 months ago that I was writing last years' Chairman's Report. Perhaps that's because the year has been full of entertaining and lively talks and discussions. Lots of good

competitions with some cracking images from new and old members of the Society. Keep it up! You are all doing fantastically well and it would be nice to see even more photographs from everyone next year.
Inter-club competition has been healthy and as a club we have more than held our own in these matches. There has also been our first full programme for novices/beginners and I think it has been really successful. Hopefully those of you who participated took away a little something from each session which will help you with your photography in the future. The Street photography sessions were great for those who hadn't really tried this genre of photography before and the weekend trip to Slimbridge to do a bit of bird and wildlife photography also went down very well with all those who attended. A little bit of something for everyone, I think.
A successful year with lots of new members shouldn't mean that we rest on our laurels! As Chairman, I hope that next year will be just as successful, if not more so. I think we should endeavour to continue to provide assistance and encouragement to new or relatively inexperienced members as well as providing something for the more experienced photographers within the society. A good mix and balance of activities, talks and competitions is important within a photographic society and that is where members input is key. An active committee is important but an active membership who suggest, participate or even sometimes offer to lead a session benefits and strengthens the club as a whole.
Talking of committees, I must say a big thank you to all of the committee members who have helped to make this such an enjoyable and successful year. In particular I would like to thank Sandy and Stuart who have both undertaken the work of two committee members this year. Both have done such a fantastic job.
We have a number of committee members who are stepping down this year: **John** finally manages to step down as President this Year and a very big and sincere thank you must go to him for his tireless dedication to duty over the years. **Patrick** also steps down as Treasurer and I hope you will all agree has also been a brilliant member of the committee. He has carried out his duties in such a quiet and unassuming manner that I often forget that he is Treasurer of the Society but that only goes to show what a good job he has been doing behind the scenes. **Peter**, will also be passing on the baton of Membership Secretary to Julia this year although he will be staying on to help to guide her in her new role and to assist with printing, laminating and the beginners/novices programme, Many thanks to him for his help over the years and in being the friendly face of the club to all new members joining the Society. Can I also take this opportunity to thank **Martyn** who has taken on the role of website organiser and provided valuable assistance to Stuart through most of this year. In essence he has been a committee member in all but name.
And finally…… A plea from your Chairman: We need members to step forward and join the committee. New members or old, it doesn't matter. We need members to take on a number of roles within the committee – Secretary, Programme Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President. You don't need to be the world's best photographer to join the committee – just look at me! You just need to be willing to help out and commit a little more time to a club and a hobby that you enjoy and from which you get some pleasure from time to time.

4.2) Secretary – "Another great year with new members and new categories in the competitions to encourage us out of our comfort zones!

I wanted to say a thank you to everyone on the committee who always give me a great deal of support in my roles .

I have tried to post relevant information and comments on the Facebook page and will now try to post any forthcoming external events which may be of interest. It is encouraging to see a few more members using the Critique Group.

Hopefully all members are now receiving the emails that I send with relevant information.

I really enjoy Tuesday evenings at the club as the atmosphere is friendly and we share a joke whilst always learning something new. The speakers have been excellent and this is thanks to our Chairman who has also been the Programme Organiser for the past two years as well as continuing in his role as Chairman.

The trips to Liverpool and Slimbridge have been really enjoyable and informative and also gives an opportunity to get to know one another better.

Looking forward to the challenge of the forthcoming season."

4.3) Treasurer – Treasurer's Report to the AGM of Whitchurch Photographic Society. April 30th 2019

This AGM marks the end of my three year period as WPS Treasurer, and I would like start by thanking the committee and all members for their support during this period. Being on the door and greeting members each week has been a particularly enjoyable part of the job.

I would like to present to you the accounts of the WPS which were audited and signed off on 10th April 2019 by Mrs Gaynor Ackerley who also did this for us in 2018.

The two documents presented this evening are the Balance Sheet 2018-19 to year end 31st March 2019 and the Statement of Account 2018-19 to year end 31st March 2019.

As in previous years recently there has been a surplus of income above expenditure and the closing balance (bank accounts and cash) now stands at a very healthy £7867.12.

On the Statement of Account sheet the various categories of income and expenditure are shown.

Notes on income.

Our income this year was £4333.60, an increase of 13% on the previous year. The main income streams are the weekly admission charge and the annual subscriptions both of which have shown an increase on the previous year. Members have also been very generous in taking part in the weekly raffle and this too has been a real boost to the society's funds. I want to thank Peter Brown for his hard work on the membership front which resulted in the boost of subscription income and for collecting door money and raffle money on those nights when I haven't been able to attend. The club shop turnover

was well up on last year. This has been a very valuable service to members and I would like to thank Chris and Marian Goody for all the work they have done on ordering the supplies, storing them and helping with the administration of the shop with the detailed order forms produced for each member which has been very helpful to me.

Notes on expenditure.

Expenditure increased this year largely because of the purchase of a new laptop and associated software. Club shop costs were well covered by sales. A major expense is the weekly rent although it must be stressed that this has stayed the same again this year and remains excellent value. I'd like to thank John Edge for liaising with the Senior Citizen's Club and securing such a good venue for us at a bargain price. Expenditure on Speakers and Judges has been money well spent as we have had a variety of excellent talks and several good judges. One item which does not appear here are the Website costs. Stuart Ord paid these and I have only just reimbursed him since 31st March therefore they do not appear in this year's accounts. The costs were £237. Refreshment costs have been very modest, and thanks must go to Julia Finch for organizing these. I'm sure all members are very grateful for the welcome interval drinks and biscuits.

Our surplus of income over expenditure was £314.46.

Proposals for the AGM.

That the Statement of account 2018-19 to year ended 31st March 2019 and the balance Sheet 2018-19 to year end 31st March 2019 be approved by the AGM.

That the WPS Annual Subscription should remain at £25 for 2019-20, and that the admission charge should remain at £2 per week for members and £3 per week for guests.

4.4) Competition secretary report 2018-19

We had a full range of competitions again this season, from informal fun competitions with the club members present doing the judging, to formal internal competitions with an external experienced judge, to external competitions with other local clubs.

External competitions

Nantwich. This was held at home in October. Alas we lost again to this strong club. Our best prints were Dave Munn's "Gateway to the Great Ridge" and Chris Goody's "Wolf on the prowl". We did better in PDIs with Chris Goody's "Mom and cubs" winning, and Paul Hayward's "Sisters" got 19.

Newport. This was also held at home, in December. We narrowly won the prints, but lost the PDIs heavily, and so losing overall. "Gateway to the Great Ridge" won the prints, and Chris Goody's "Bear with fish and wolf" cam second. In the PDIs, our best score as 18 for "Snowfall" by Josh Sedgley.

The 3 Towns competition (against Oswestry and Wrexham), a PDI-only competition was very close. We drew with Wrexham, and we narrowly beat Oswestry. Our best results were "Nude with chair and bed" by Paul Hayward, "Pair of Red-crowned Cranes" by Chris Goody, "Snowfall" by Josh and "Warhol of the North" by Martyn Daniel.

Finally, away to Marchweil, we won both prints and PDIs, to win overall comfortably. Paul Hayward's "Golden goddess" and Chris Goody's "Brown

bear with salmon" both got 20 in prints, and Dave Munn's "Cabbage white" also got 20 in PDIs.
The club was also represented by photos by Allan Heath, Marc Brimble. Stuart Ord, Gary Holmes, Sandy Robertson, John Edge, and Val Garrett.

Internal competitions
The informal competitions "Captured in camera", "It's a Knock-out, prints" and "It's a Knock-out, PDIs" both brought many entries. The AV and panel competitions drew fewer competitors as usual.
The formal competitions drew a varied entry. We were very pleased to see many entries in the challenging set subject (Like a Painting - 27 colour, 22 mono, and 28 PDIs) which drew many accomplished attempts to represent paintings of different types, and it was nice to see the better ones being selected for external competitions and doing well there.
The portfolio competition seems to be misunderstood by some members, as some seem to think that there's no point in entering if they are not going to enter all 6 categories. On average, only 11 entries were made into the portfolio categories, compared with the other formal competitions drawing between 22 and 37 entries. This is not the case, and awards for the winning photographers in each individual portfolio category will be made tonight. We had two new categories of abstract and street photography, and these also managed 11 entries each.
The Portfolio and Image of the Year competitions are seen as our top competitions, and so there will be overall winner awards for portfolio, and also for the Image of the Year categories (colour prints, mono prints, PDIs). As a result of altering the way awards were made, we purchased 2 new trophies.

2019-20 season
We plan to hold a similar range of competitions in the new season. Some portfolio and the set subject categories will change as agreed in the competition rules.
To help with selection of prints for external competitions, we ask that prints scoring 17 and above are left in the club for selection rather than taken home by the authors after the competitions. If authors need their prints for other competitions then that is fine of course.
For all formal competitions in the new season, we will trial the online system called Photo Entry. This will be used for both prints and PDIs. For PDIs, this brings advantages for the club in that the hurried collection of PDIs is avoided, and the collection of PDIs for each competition can be downloaded by the competition secretary directly into DiCentra. Scores can also be uploaded more easily to our web site. For members, the advantages are that you can enter your PDIs at any time and change them if you wish at any time up to the closing date. You can also see a record of what you have entered into all competitions, and how your PDIs did. For prints, we will also use this system, but you will still have to bring your prints to the club as before! You will have to upload PDIs of your prints so that we can make the entry list for the judge and scorers. For people who cannot use this system, the Competition Secretary will accept a FEW entries by email and will enter them into Photo Entry on behalf of the competitor. Hopefully, this system will reduce the workload for committee members and be convenient for members. It requires a bit of learning, but in trials using committee members,

nearly all members found the system easy to use.

5.0) The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing officers, in particular John Edge for his considerable service to the society as President, and to Patrick and Peter Brown for all their hard

6.0) Election of new officers –

6.1) Vice President - No one has volunteered to fill this position

6.2) **Chairman –** MB will continue for one year only.

6.3) **Secretary** – SR will continue as Secretary but only until next season.

6.4) **Treasurer** – David Powell was proposed by MB and seconded by GS.

6.5) **Competition Secretary and IT Officer –**SO has offered to cover both these roles but this encompasses a lot of responsibility and he has been helped by MD who will now become **Website Officer,** proposed by by MB and seconded by JF. SR will continue as administrator for FB.

6.6) **Programme Secretary –** MB will continue in this role for the forthcoming year with support from the Committee.

6.7) **Membership Secretary –** JF has been shadowing PB and will take over the role for the forthcoming season.

6.8) **Co-opted members –** PH will mentor any members wishing to put themselves forward for photography qualifications.

7.0) AOB

7.1) **Set subject -** "Movement" explanation on the back of the programme which was handed out at the meeting.

7.2) **2018-19 programme including portfolio changes –** the categories for the portfolio this season are Part 1 – Abstract, Mono and Trytych and Part 2 - Sport, Street and Open.
MB has tried to devise a varied programme and the speakers topics vary from IR photography, old cameras. For members evenings SO is talking on Affinity editing programme and DM will be demonstrating his techniques for composites and layers, MB is talking on Myth busting and PM on architecture.

7.3) Club Shop – after the success of last year the club will continue with the shop and an email will be sent out asking for orders at the beginning of August and again in January and a small amount of stock will be kept. The members receive a 10% discount and of course they have no postage and packing to pay.

7.4) Committee members claiming expenses when on WPS business – This was proposed by the Chairman and he explained that all claims would go through the Treasurer. This may also act as an incentive for members to join the committee. Proposal approved by all members at 40p per mile.

7.5) **Summer meetings.**

June – Preparing for printing and PDI submission – SO and SR
July – Mounting prints and Triptychs – MB
August – Portrait session and lighting GH (MB & SR)
SR will send out reminders before the sessions via e-mail.

7.6) Exhibition Event – Pictures are to be hung on morning of 28th May and the following members volunteered to help, PC, DM, PH, DP and SR.
MB has organised an open evening on Tuesday 4th June at the Festival Centre to include drinks and nibbles. The event is open to members, significant others and friends.. After a show of hands a number of 40/50 was decided upon. SR to contact Shropshire Star and Whitchurch Herald.

7.7) Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.