Minutes of Whitchurch Photographic Society Committee Meeting
Thursday 6th February 2020, 7.30 pm
at Mendips, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, SY13 2HG

1. **Present:**
   Marc Brimble
   Stuart Ord
   Marian Goody
   Julia Finch
   Sandy Robertson
   Paul Hayward
   Richard Priestley (invited)

   Apologies:
   David Powell
   Allan Heath
   Martyn Daniels

2. **Matters Arising/Actions from previous meetings**

Action	Designated person (s)/Outcome
Purchase of new projector, lead and sturdy carry case	**SO Completed**
Revision of competition rules	**RP/All Ongoing**
Meet with RP to discuss role of Secretary	**SR Completed**
Renew insurance cover at same level as last year	**DP Completed**

3. **Officers Reports**

a) Chairman's Report
The current programme is running well and there is a great atmosphere at the club. SO has made the committee aware that he will be standing down as IT/Competition Secretary and MB stressed the importance of this role.
MB stated that care needs to be taken not to push the competition aspect too much as this may discourage some of the members that are not interested in this aspect of club activity. Gentle encouragement to enter into external competitions (e.g. BPE or FIAP) is a good idea but perhaps members could be encouraged to enter external competitions as a club first rather than as individuals in the first instance. It is important to give support for all levels of members photographic abilities.

b) Secretary's Report

SR reported that she had looked through the duties and responsibilities with RP who is taking over the role as club secretary next season, subject to election at the AGM in April. Meanwhile RP is considering any appropriate changes that need to be made to the club and competition rules.

c) Treasurer's Report

General
In accordance with the agreement reached at the November 28th 2019 Committee Meeting we have purchased the new projector, it's robust carry case and a pointer/clicker for ease of presentation. We have also paid our Public Liability and Club Property insurances plus MCPF dues for 2020. This has had an impact on the Society's distribution of net worth which is shown below.

Consent signatures to the WPS General Data Protection Policy is now down to 5 outstanding, all of whom, have not attended any Society meeting for a minimum period of the last 2 months.
As of 1st February Whitchurch Photographic Society has a net current worth of **£10,170.00** which is £228.00 less than the worth stated in my 28th November Report, and is primarily due to the insurances and MCPF payments. This is made up of the following :-
£4,365 (43%) is lodged with NatWest Bank
of which £2,065 (20%) lies in the Business Reserve A/c and £2,300 (23%) lies in the Current A/c
£77 (<1%) lies in cash held by the Treasurer
£5,728 (56%) lies in Society Assets - being the book values of
£4,563 as equipment; £700 as Cups and Trophies and £465 of Other assets such as the Pelican Projector Case and projector pointer/clicker
Debts - None
Regular Income
17 meetings have been held so far this semester, and In accordance with the agreement reached at the November 28th 2019 Committee Meeting we have purchased the new projector, it's robust carry case and a pointer/clicker for ease of presentation. We have also paid our Public Liability and Club Property insurances plus MCPF dues for 2020. This has had an impact on the Society's distribution of 2.00 (average £24.23 per meeting).
Summary
Whitchurch Photographic Society remains in a financially healthy position.
DTP 6/2/20

The committee discussed some prospective purchases for the 2020-21 season including a large TV screen. However, there would be the problem of storage at Pearl Yard which would need to be resolved and it will have to be included in the AGM agenda. The whereabouts of the projector table needs to be followed up.

d) Membership Secretary's Report
WPS has another new member Niel Huggan. There was discussion about producing a new members pack and RP suggested keeping this to a single sheet and then referring them to the website. It was also recognised that some new members may not use a computer and it was suggested that a hard copy of relevant information be kept at the club for their reference. SR and MB to work to produce the information sheet for next season/

e) Competition Secretary's Report

SO reported that there had been a good entry for the set subject competition. Entries for the Panel and AV competitions were also up on previous years.

The next external competition is the three towns against Oswestry and Wrexham.

As the entries are all PDI's the selection panel will choose the top 10 PDI entries from previous competitions and the top 10 printed images. SO will ask the authors of the chosen prints to send to him in PDI format.

This was followed by a discussion of the roles on the committee that need to be filled ready for next season.

At the moment the roles of Competition Secretary and IT Secretary are combined and this is proving to be rather overwhelming for one individual. A small team with a

minimum of 3 members would allow the duties to be split appropriately. MB asked SO if he would be willing to oversee the initial implementation of the new roles to ensure a coordinated implementation. The appropriate division of duties will have to be discussed with any prospective volunteers.

MB expressed his concern about the effect that not filling these vital roles will have on next seasons programme. He will explain this to members at the next club meeting. It may be that if there are no volunteers to take over any of the duties the the club may have to withdraw from external competitions next season.

f) IT Report

Both the new projector and remote changer are working well. The annual fee for Photo Entry has been renewed. The competition rules need amending with reference to the size of PDI's, Panel and AV competitions.

4) Programme 2020-21

Members evenings - proposed to include a session early in the season where members can have their PDI's projected prior to entering into competitions and a session later in the season which would also include some critique of images.

Lectures

MB has contacted or will contact the following speakers for a variety of topic areas.
Philip Dunn

Claire Carter

Tim Pile

Tal Chohan

Judges

MG suggested Tilman Klienhans

PH will draw up a list of friendly judges

MB will also contact Margaret Sixsmith and the judge from the competition against Newport once SO has ascertained his details.

MB put forward the idea of nominating one judge/lecturer every 2 years as a “Friend of WPS”. This would be awarded to individuals that have had a long term relationship with the society e.g. Andy Polakowski. This would be good for PR and help to strengthen inter club relationships. Topic to be an item on AGM agenda.

JF will contact the Herald to see if they would be interested in a monthly report on club activities/ events.

5) Roles of Committee Members + 6) WPS rules and constitution

The two agenda items were combined for discussion and presented by RP who has at the invitation of the committee been working on these two aspects. RP advised that WPS rules should be revised every few years and the last time this occurred was 2014. RP explained to the members the meaning of some of the terminology used in his draft revisions/proposals. (Lexicon of terms Appendix 1) . RP talked the committee through his proposed revisions to the rules and advised that at the

moment WPS should have the legal status of “Unincorporated Association”.

The various categories of “member” also need to be clarified as Honorary, Guest and paid up member.

RP advised that the committee members roles need some clarification but may have to be flexible according to the appointment. Titles may also need changing.

The committee may co-opt members as and when their knowledge and /or experience may be valuable.

RP presented his proposed alterations to both rules and competition rules and welcomed any comments within the next 72 hours where upon he would produce documents to put forward to the next committee meeting for formal consideration to be -

a) Discussed and approved

b) Put to members at the AGM and if approved can be actioned for next season.

7) Future committee meetings venues and dates

SR asked if there were objections to having the dates for the committee meetings fixed during the first meeting of the season. No objections were raised. SR also asked if there was any objection to having alternate venues in Whitchurch and Market Drayton to prevent excessive travel for some members. SR to ask JE if he can discuss with the manager of Pearl Yard the availability of evenings and the cost implications.

8) Censorship

MB reported that during one recent members critique session he was asked if in his judgement a members image was too sensitive to display. This has raised the question of censorship for the committee to consider together with the question of who should make the decision in such a situation. RP stated that most members will self censor but this is not 100% guaranteed. It was agreed that the Chairman had acted appropriately is the case stated but that there should be a statement within the revised rules instructing members if they feel that the content of any of their images may cause offence or discomfort they must discuss with the Chairman prior to display. RP will construct an appropriate statement within the new society rules.

9) Extra Insurance

The committee agreed that they were happy with the current level of cover.

10) AOB

SR asked if the committee agreed to the cost of having JE's details added to the Presidents chain to reflect upon his long tenure as President of the Society. Agreement was unanimous.

11) Date of next meeting - March 23rd, 7.30 at Richard Priestley's house, The Beeches, Ashbourne Drive, Market Drayton, TF9 3EA.

Actions	Designated Person(s)
Purchase of a large screen item for AGM agenda	**SR**

Information sheet for new members	**SR/MB**
Friend of the WPS to be placed on AGM agenda	**SR**
New rules and competition rules item to add to AGM agenda	**SR**
Ask JE re availability of Pearl Yard for committee meetings	**SR**
Censorship statement to be drawn up and included in rules to present to members at AGM	**RP**
New Link to be added to Presidents chain with JE's term to be engraved	**SR**