

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of meeting held on 5th December 2017 at 7:45pm in Leverstock Green Village Hall

		Action
1	Present: Vincent Stone, Brian Howard, Philip Byford, Uly Jorimann, Emyr Williams, Roy Harris, Brian Young and Richard Anthony plus, by general invitation, non-Committee Member Dennis Barlow.	
2	Apologies for absence: John Marshall and Mike Mitchell	
3	Minutes of last meeting: November Meeting: At the start of the November Meeting its validity was being discussed as a quorum was not present, only John M, Brian H Philip B and Richard A being present. The Secretary then received a phone call which required him to leave and the Meeting was abandoned. Thanks to those who did turn out. October Meeting: It was agreed the Minutes of the October Meeting were a true record and were signed off by the Chairman.	
4	Matters arising from Minutes of last Meeting: i) Projector problems – slide projector problems partially resolved by John Marshall, further work required. Philip B offered 35mm projector if we have need of another one.	
5	Chairman's Report: The Chairman prepared a written report reproduced on pages 3 and 4 of these Minutes as Appendix A. During discussions on the venue aspects referenced in the report Dennis B expressed the opinion that the new venue has resulted in less interaction between Members in general though several Committee Members were of the opposite opinion. Following the meeting the Chairman clarified the position in respect of the shoot organized at a venue in Watford, this was not a HPS Studio Group event but a private one arranged by Members with other Members, past and present, being invited to attend.	
6	Treasure's report: To end of November - HSBC Account: £1946.21 Savings: £4892.27 Cash: £20.00 Total: £6858.48 i) Overall for the Will Chueng we made a profit of £13.82 ii) From December weekly takings information will be provided for inclusion in the Minutes.	
7	Programme Secretary's report: i) Brian Y was thanked for his work as Deputy Secretary in Mike's absence. ii) It was agreed that for the Film Titles competition members could submit up to 4 images numbered in the author's priority in case too many submitted for the event. It was agreed that members were to be emailed with full details. iii) It was agreed that the meeting before Christmas should consist of a Member judged competition of images with a December/Christmas theme followed by a 'Christmas' tea break and a quiz organized by Brian Y. Members thought that a shoot in the town centre as part of the evening would be too time consuming. Richard A expressed his reluctance to be responsible for downloading images on the night as his lack of computer operation expertise would make it a time-consuming process. Roy H agreed to carry out the overall projectionist function for the evening.	RA RH

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8	<p>PR Secretary's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 30 posters and leaflet have been distributed around Dacorum area, these are regularly reviewed and replaced/replenished as necessary. ii) Emyr asked if anyone had knowledge of when building work in the Marlowes Shopping Centre would end and what would be in the centre area as a spring/early summer HHPS exhibition is proposed, the centre area being site used of late. Chairman to contact The Marlowes and advise Emyr of position and suitable contact. 	VBS
9	<p>Website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Roy gave a presentation of the new website he is developing for the HHPS. All agreed the layout was a vast improvement over the existing site. ii) Committee Member advised they could access the site via the following route: www.wp.hhps.org.uk Please note that if the site under development is being worked on by Roy H access is not possible, you will be routed to our old site. iii) Roy was asked to develop site along the lines he had shown and contact Sophie S to determine whether or not she was to continue with Gallery Management and if she will be are there any site developments that would assist her. iv) RA suggested a tab under which information received from outside the Society re other groups' meetings, trade shows etc could be displayed. Some agreement from meeting but Chairman rejected idea suggesting that matter could be covered by announcements at weekly meetings. v) Committee thanked Roy for all his work on the new site and invited Dennis B to help review the new website prototype. 	RH DB
10	<p>Competition Secretaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Richard A reminded meeting of the need for a Monochrome Print Secretary and a more formal procedure for contingency plans re the League Competitions to ensure smooth running of these if the designated Secretaries are not in a position to run the events. ii) Richard A asked if it was generally understood how external competitions are managed in respect of overall process for authors and image selection. There was a lack of detailed understanding in the Meeting and John Humphrey, a member of the Selection Committee was to be asked for details. Dennis B advised he had seen in an exhibition in Luton of another local photographic society and work by our members compared very favorably with that on display. iii) Richard A thanked Roy H for deputizing for him for the 'Different Angle' competition. 	VBS
11	<p>Studio Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Brian H advised that at the request of John Marshall he visited the Salvation Army Hall to discuss with Captain Burr the possible use of it by the Studio Group. In Captain Burr's absence Brian spoke with Second in Command Christine Woods and was advised that it should be possible to schedule a couple of meetings a month, probably on a Friday. There would be no problem in having nude models though some blanking of windows would be required. Chairman expressed great disappointment that this action was taken without his knowledge. The Chairman believes the Society's position at the Hall is currently too delicate to risk using the hall for the Studio Group activities, a view not held by all members at the Meeting. His position on the matter was detailed in his report read out earlier in the Meeting and presented in Annex A. Post Meeting Note: The Chairman asked that it be recorded the matter involved operating policy and etiquette and it had been resolved. 	

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13	AOB: i) Ullly J expressed concern that details of some events are poorly advertised. It was accepted that Mike's unexpected absence due to ill health has created a few problems but with Brian now deputizing for him things are back on track. Whilst accepting the website is not totally functional it is considered that programme information is available but if members are unsure of anything they should seek advice from Committee Members. It was agreed that there should be more details made available for non-League Competitions/activities. Secretary's note: Following the Meeting a review of the new web site has shown that by clicking on an Event shown on the right-hand side of the Home Page the user is taken to a new page where the event is described in greater detail. Going forward we will need to ensure full details of a specific event are included here and, once the new site has replaced the old, make members aware of this source of information. ii) Dennis B was thanked for his contribution to the Meeting.	
	The Meeting ended at 10.05 pm. Date of next meeting: A 'first Tuesday of month meeting' would make it 2 nd January 2018, to be checked. Post meeting Brian H confirmed hall is booked for our next Meeting which will on the 9th January 2018.	

Addendix A

HHPS – Committee Meeting – 5th December 2017 Chairman's Report

It is now three months since the start of this season and we began holding our weekly meetings at the Salvation Army Hall. My impression is that the Society has settled in well to the new meeting space and the resulting routine tasks .

Program of Events

So far this season there has been an interesting and varied program of events and activities thanks to Mike's planning during last season. The backbone of the season's activities is set against the routine competitions and a range of talks given by both our club experts and also some quite individual external speakers. The quality of the images presented in our competitions has been, as always, of a very high standard and demonstrate a wide variety of styles and interests.

Our speakers have effectively demonstrated that there are very many ways of producing images that are directed towards different markets and viewers. All produce interesting images. All seem to have been well received and helped to motivate and inspire our members.

I feel it is essential to make mention of our 80th anniversary public talk by Will Cheung. Will showed his own unique way of approaching photography and the resulting range of images. I think the main thing to take away from Will's presentation is for all of us not to be afraid of developing our own style. Equally it is important to note that this event was a team effort with input and help coming from all of the committee members. In financial terms the event only just broke even, but it was a fitting celebration of 80 years of photography by HHPS.

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Website

The difficulties with the website are currently the biggest problem for the Society at present. After a special meeting to discuss the website problems, I am pleased say that we are starting to make some progress.

We have agreed that:

- a) We should continue with the current website at present, where possible. Special arrangements have been made to manage competition entries. There are limitations in putting current news and publicity on the site.
- b) We should develop a new website, using easily available software. If required, more than one software package will be used. The emphasis will be on system reliability, cost effectiveness and ease of use.

I am delighted to report that many members have made an input to date and that Roy Harris is well on the way to producing a new website. We hope this will be able to be fully commissioned within the first quarter of next year.

Membership Numbers

The Society has lost a number of members through various causes contributing to natural wastage. It is a necessary ongoing activity to recruit new members. It seems that other local camera clubs are losing members. This is despite the fact that with the rise of mobile phone usage, most of us carry a camera in our pocket.

The standard methods of publicity are ongoing with posters and leaflets in all the regular locations. The annual exhibition was postponed due to the upheaval from changing meeting venues and equipment storage problems. I hope we can organise an annual exhibition to be held in the coming months and therefore show off our good work with the objective of encouraging new members to join and take advantage of the summer months to produce pictures for entry into next year's competitions and exhibition.

Studio Group

I am hoping that we can re-establish the Studio Group within the society. There are shoots planned using facilities in Berkhamstead and Watford. At present, while we are still feeling our way, I am reluctant to do anything that may damage our relationship with the Salvation Army. I hope we can, in due course, hold the occasional studio session at the Salvation Army hall, but we need to tread carefully at present; I will not sanction any action that is going to put our current weekly meeting place at risk. In the meantime we will make use of external venues.

We need to encourage more members to attend the Studio Group events. It is clear that when we hold club sessions where members can bring in and use their cameras, the sessions are well attended and appreciated.

It is important to continually emphasise that Studio Group sessions are not the sole domain of the male membership and also that such sessions do not solely involve taking pictures of models. Still life and other genres have a place within the Studio Group activities.

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Committee Membership

The unplanned events of the last few months have underlined the need for more members to step up and take on roles within the committee.

I am grateful to Brian Young for stepping into the breach created by Mike Mitchell's health problems. Additionally, Roy Harris has stepped in to try and resolve the website issues. Similarly, Richard Anthony is performing the dual roles of Committee Secretary and two of the three Competition Secretary roles. I am also mindful that the post of Vice Chairman is still vacant.

Taking an overview, it is clear that in terms of the management and direction of the Society we are very vulnerable; we need more members to help.

Conclusions

The society is surviving and has the potential to move forward and grow. I am optimistic that, providing we do not suffer any more major problems in the coming months, the security of the society will improve. We need to cultivate a stronger public image and continually seek to increase our membership.

We can move forward into 2018 with optimism.

VS

Page 5 of 5