**BROMSGROVE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AS ZOOM ONLINE MEETING ON Tuesday 19th May 2020**

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|  |  | **Meeting commenced at 8:00 pm** |  |
| **1.1** | **PRESENT** | 46 Members logged into meeting online  Minutes taken by Anne Galbraith-Jellie |  |
| **1.2** | **APOLOGIES** | Apologies were received from:  Janet Cox, Bernadette Heaney, Don Campbell |  |
| **2.** | **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM** | Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th May 2019, having already been circulated and read, were approved.  Proposed: Derek May Seconded: Colin Close |  |
| **3.** | **MATTERS ARISING** | Colin Close noted that the chair had previously suggested that the vote of thanks on an evening would be shared by various members, but this had happened infrequently. Chair replied that it had occurred on 4 to 5 occasions, however, he had asked several members on other occasions who had declined. Derek May suggested advance notice be given. Anne Galbraith-Jellie suggested a rota be prepared in advance |  |
| **4.** | **CHAIR’S REPORT** | Appendix 1 – full report  I know that you will all have read my report so I will keep this brief. On behalf of the committee I want to thank you all for the support that you have given us over the last 12 months. It has been a roller coaster of a year. We started at a low with the loss of Gail and Roger. From there we have risen to great heights with a fantastic programme and high photographic standards. We returned to a low with the onset of COVID 19 and lockdown in mid-March. It makes me proud to see how Bromsgrove PS has responded to this challenge using the latest technology. Our online meetings are now attended by as many people as our physical meetings at Avoncroft. My personal thanks go to the whole committee and everyone else who has contributed to the success of our society.  It must be noted that a number of our members are in the vulnerable group in the current circumstances - one of our oldest members - Horace Pritchett has been in poor health with coronavirus, and our thoughts go out to him and anyone else who is experiencing difficulties at the minute.  We are in the unusual situation of not being able to predict how our society will function in its next season, but the last two months have made me optimistic that we will overcome whatever challenges come our way by remaining flexible to the needs of everyone who supports BPS  Derek May asked what was not enjoyable as Chair and could there be more support. Chair replied that he had enjoyed the past year more than he had expected at the outset and had received overwhelming support from the committee and membership as a whole.  Proposed: Colin Close Seconded: Barry Green |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **5.** | **TREASURER’S REPORT (ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS)** | Appendix 2 – full report and accounts  Accounts had not been reviewed by Mike Norton due to coronavirus lock-down restrictions. This would be implemented as soon as circumstances permitted.  Jenny Webster asked if Avoncroft would refund the cost of our hall bookings during lock-down. Treasurer reported that we did not pay in advance so no costs were incurred when we didn’t use the hall.  Richard Chapman noted that a monthly fee would be due to Zoom for video-conferencing.  Proposed: Nigel Taylor Seconded: Derek May |  |
| **6.** | **PROGRAMME SECRETARY’S REPORT** | Appendix 3 – full reported  Derek May – whilst not all meetings would be to his personal taste, the programme was varied and consistently good  Proposed: TonyGervis Seconded: Barry Green |  |
| **7.** | **COMPETITION SECRETARY’S REPORT** | Appendix 4 – full report attached  Dave Riddle observed that a number of members put the wrong title identifying nature subjects. Also, we should have judges experienced in nature photography for nature competitions.  Ele Rea suggested that some competitions could have a Zoom judge, even if they were held at Avoncroft Arts Centre  Jez \Shimell and Jenny Webster sough clarification on whether old images could be used in competitions – especially as lock-down was limited photographic opportunities. Nigel confirmed that images over two years old could be used as long as they had not been shown before within the club or in external exhibitions.  David Ward pointed out that all new rules need to be issued before the start of the new season.  Proposed: Richard Chapman Seconded: Nick Veale |  |
| **8.** | **SOCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT** | Janet Cox sent her apologies. Chair reported -  Two main events. Awards Night not happening due to lockdown. New Year Party had been as popular as ever and huge success in terms of entertainment and fun. In addition it made a profit of 202.33 compared to 151.03 in previous year. Despite only charging £6 instead of £7 - which had been charged in the previous year. |  |
| **9.** | **WEBMASTER’S REPORT** | Appendix 5 – full report attached  Lost audio connection during report. There were no questions or comments  Proposed: Sheila Ballantyne-Smith Seconded: Sue Vernon |  |
| **10.** | **INTER-CLUB CO-ORDINATOR’S REPORT** | Chair reported that this was an unfilled post, covered by Colin Close, Nigel Taylor and assisted by various committee members. Three interclub competitions. Started with success at the Midland Bank Trophy at Redditch. A close second to Droitwich in the Six Societies Competition at Studley. Disappointment in the 5 a Side at Stourbridge. After a convincing win in the prints section, our scores plummeted in the PDIs - despite the quality of our entries being just as high in each section. We finished 4 out of 5  It must be noted, that whilst competition is keen, it is an excellent opportunity to meet with other clubs and renew old friendships.  David Ward noted that the Photofolio should be included in this section. Chair reported that this is usual covered by the External Exhibitions Secretary Colin Close. CC noted we hadn’t entered this year due to the onset of lock-down.  Jenny Webster said she would be happy to consider undertaking this role. Chair said he would liaise with JW regarding this role.  Proposed: Colin Close Seconded: Ele Rea |  |
| **11.** | **PUBLICITY OFFICER’S REPORT** | Unfilled post. Chair reported that Rebekah Nash ran the social media features on Facebook and Twitter. She reported by email that the page had 255 likes and 270 followers. Engagement had increased during lock-down. The BPS “Out and About” Facebook group had 52 members.  Proposed: Anne Galbraith-Jellie Seconded: Richard Chapman |  |
| **12.** | **MEMBERSHIP LIAISON OFFICER** | Appendix 6 – full report attached.  Proposed: Daphne Day Seconded Liz Perrins |  |
| **13.** | **EXTERNAL EXHIBITIONS SECRETARY’S REPORT** | **A**ppendix 7 **–** full report attached  Proposed: John Davidson Seconded: Jenny Webster |  |
| **14.** | **WRITTEN PROPOSALS** | I propose that the monthly  competition entries are scored out of 20, to encourage the novice members to enter and get some sort of recognition of their efforts, and a benchmark for them to improve on for the next year .  **Proposed by Eleanor Rea**  **Seconded by Jez Shimell**  Reasons-  With the present system it is hard to know whether  you have come 6th or plumb last. Judges comments don't always reflect the work - I won with something I didn't think he liked!!  With the present system ,someone who has made valiant efforts all year ends up with zero, the same as some one who has entered no competitions. This is not encouraging for our new and novice members and I speak as one who falls in to both categories.  I would like to see new people encouraged and feels this would help do that.  It would not deflect from the competitive element at the top end of the club , so feel it is a win win solution.  I, for one would be happy to help with the extra work , and not overload Nigel with this. I am sure I can enlist some one to join me in this.  Polling completed by Zoom polling function (Richard Chapman not allowed a vote due to mechanics of Zoom.  In Favour 6, Against 30, Abstained 5  Proposal rejected.  Chair undertook that we would look at new ways to offer critique of members work |  |
| **15.** | **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** | Chair – half way through 2 year post – no election required  Three committee members were retiring from their role this year – Liz Perrins, Len Pugh and David Ward. The Chair thanked them for their support over the last 12 months and also for the hard work that they had put into Bromsgrove Photographic Society over many years. Colin Close noted that David Ward had been on committee for at least 25 years and had served many major roles within the club and committee and should be thanked for his past work.  **Existing Roles**  Vice Chairman Richard Chapman  Treasurer Linda Allen  Programme Secretary Jan Harris  Competition Secretary Nigel Taylor  Social Secretary Janet Cox  Webmaster Tony Webster  External Exhibitions Secretary Colin Close  Membership Co-ordinator Ele Rea  New Secretary – Ele Rea  Interclub Coordinator – unfilled  The General Committee members are John Davidson. June Longmuir.  A show of hands agreed that all the above were approved.  Nominees -  Nick Veale – Proposed: Jan Harris Seconded: Nigel Taylor  Sheila Ballantyne-Smith – Proposed: Linda Allen Seconded: David Jellie  Both were elected to committee by a show of hands |  |
| **16.** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** | There was no other business |  |
|  |  | **The Meeting closed at 10.14 pm** |  |

**APPENDIX 1**  **BROMSGROVE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

**AGM 19 MAY 2020**

**CHAIRS REPORT**

CHALLENGE

At this point in our photographic year it has become a theme for the Chairman to set an objective for the coming year. Two years ago our past chairman Roger wanted BETTER. Last year I opted for CHALLENGE - your new committee was appointed at a very low point for our society following the tragic death of our previous chairman and his wife Gail. We started the new year in trepidation of what the coming months would hold, yet we went on to have a massively successful year in terms of the quality of our programme, competitions and general standard of photography within the club. Our membership numbers are as high as ever. The whole committee has my sincere thanks for working tirelessly to make us successful in challenging times and I give special thanks to Jan for the programme, Nigel for how successful the competitions have been, and Richard for helping us to embrace new technology. At this stage I will also say that we have three committee members who are not standing for re-election this year. I would like to thank Liz Perrins, Dave Ward and Len Pugh for the support that they have given me over the past twelve months, and the work that they have done for the club over many years. But most of all, I have to acknowledge the huge contribution of all our members - without your support, enthusiasm and adaptability, the past year could have been a damp squib rather than the success it has been.

So, having started last year in a state of trepidation and pessimism, we went on to have one of the most successful years in the history of our society. Having achieved that, who could have dreamt that the year would end as it has done. Covid 19 threatens to change how societies and clubs such as ours function for a long time to come. In the coming months it will prove impossible to function in the way that we have done in the past - our summer programme cannot continue in the it's previous format, it may not be possible to start our new season as planned and membership numbers may drop (along with our financial strength). Even if lock-down eases before September, it is likely that a significant number of our members will be unable to attend our meetings due to vulnerability of age or underlying health issues.

Let us be clear though, tonight is not about PESSIMISM for the future, but OPTIMISM of how we will handle these problems. We will survive this and come out stronger at the other end - whenever that may be.

So, if we are going to have a theme for the coming year, it will be FLEXIBILITY. Danger lies in adhering to the ways in how things have always been done. A society that is wedded to what worked in the past may not survive what lies in the future. So much is unknown and we must be ready for any eventualities.

Your committee in it's recent virtual meeting recognised the challenges that lie ahead and are currently taking steps to minimise the potential negative impact that these circumstances could have on our future. I will just outline a few of the measures that are being taken and will be in the future.

Virtual meetings. The rate that we have adopted new technology such as Zoom has amazed me. We now have as many members attending our virtual meetings as we did at Avoncroft. The social aspect of our meetings is muted, but our enthusiasm for photography has not been. We will look at ways to adopting this technology for a summer programme and if necessary for our new season.  We will also look at ways to adapt this technology for educational means - why shouldn't our Early Sessions run in the virtual world.

We will continue looking to recruit new members - we have probably underused social media in the past, but it should become a powerful tool in the future.

Many of you will recall that there has been occasions when we discussed a suitable memorial for Roger and Gail Lewis to mark their contribution to BPS in past years. At our recent committee meeting we decided that the Annual Award for Services to the Society will become known as the Roger and Gail Lewis Memorial Trophy - in recognition of their massive contribution and dedication to our society. This will be awarded this year for the first time, and - when lock-down permits - a suitable trophy will be purchased.

**APPENDIX 2 BROMSGROVE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

**Treasurer’s Report for Financial Year 2019 – 2020**

**Introduction**

The AGM seems to come around very quickly. Hope you have all had a good year and enjoyed the Society’s activities – despite the current situation.

Hopefully you have all received the financial statement a few days ago and Mike Norton’s qualified endorsement, working from a copy of our full computerised accounts. In previous years, Mike would have scrutinized the accounts with all relevant paperwork; invoices, bank statements, cheque and paying in books etc. However this year it has not been possible due to lockdown. It has been agreed that when the situation returns towards normal, he will then have all supporting documentation and will carry out a full examination of the accounts then.

However, we felt it was important to have some accounts to present to you tonight – and hopefully there will be no queries when he does get the paperwork.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to respond to these at the end of my report or please email me if you prefer.

**Accounts**

*Quick overview:*

Number of members 83

Total income was £7,196.64

Total expenditure £7,108.66

Operating surplus £ 87.98

Our income/expenditure fluctuates year on year. We have, in fact, been in deficit twice in the last 5 years. This year our operating surplus is not huge but we have managed to keep in the black maintaining an overall healthy financial position.

I will highlight just some of the variances and major figures or some that may benefit from an explanation.

*Income:*

Broadly in line with last year despite having 9 more members.

Membership Was increased by £457.

Raffles Saw a decline in £59.50 which, I am sure, was reduced by the necessity of closuring of our usual Tuesday meetings before the end of the season.

Day Trip Reported differently this year. There was a surplus of £80: up from £60 of last year.

JD Sales Table A massive increase from last year which was due to the selling of items from the G&R Lewis estate. Items that sold at £50 and over were returned to the estate with the balance remaining within the Club. £502 has been returned to the Lewis estate (shown as an accrual below).

The nett of all sales income retained by the club amounts to £462 after issuing a refund of £80 – still a healthy upturn from last year.

New Year Party The organisation for this was carried out in a different way this year so the accounting method also changed. It is shown as a nett figure this year whilst last year income and expenditure were shown separately. The nett figure of £202.33 is an increase on the overall surplus of £151.03 of last year.

BC Lecture Evening We had far more visitors (16) last year than this. This year only one visitor for the event.

Falconry Centre A party of 10 members went to the Centre at a cost of £10 each. The visit was self-funding and covered the cost of £100 which the Club initially paid.

Savings A/c Interest I have included this in the overall income as it this year as it is, actually, income. However, as it goes into our savings account only, it is credited separately as an addition to our current account balance but then debited in our overall total so as not to double count (ie already included in our operating surplus).

Next year I will revert to just including it as a note as in previous years.

As from June, our interest rate will reduce from 0.18% to 0.01% - so there will be little (if any) impact on our figures.

*Expenditure:*

This is up on last year (£836.39) mainly due to the proportion of the sales table money owed to the Lewis estate of £502 and £300 expenditure for purchase of equipment.

Insurance In past years, public liability insurance and membership to the Midland Counties Photographic Federation have been combined. However, this year, due to data protection, they have been split – hence the reduction in cost for insurance. Membership to the MCPF is shown as a separate figure.

Sundry purchases Shows a marked increase this year. This figure includes the £100 paid to the Falconry Centre and items such as pre-cut mounts (being resold to members); polystyrene cups, back drop and rails, name badges; along with small items, stamps, batteries, etc.

**APPENDIX 3 Bromsgrove Photographic Society Programme Secretary Report 2020**

**Introduction**

I was elected to the position of Programme Secretary in November 2016. My role is to source and secure bookings for speakers for each season. I would be glad to stand again for the season 2020 – 2021

**The programme of speakers for 2019 to 2020**

We had a variety of speaker for this season and some were excellent with members saying they would like these speakers to return.

One such speaker was Wendy Irwin who gave a practical demonstration of the technique she uses for her creative images. Many members requested that Wendy return to run a workshop for us. This was held at Avoncroft in January of this year.

Damien Demolder was also well received with his talk about street photography. Again, many availed themselves of his expertise by attending the workshop he ran the following day in Birmingham.

Although our Bill Chambers event with Chris Fairweather as the speaker was well advertised, we had little uptake of tickets for visitors which was a little disappointing. His talk on photojournalism was slightly different from our normal camera club speakers.

Alex Sharpe was booked due to requests from members who wanted a talk on Equestrian Photography. Again, this was a little different and she introduced us to the possibility of making some money from our hobby.

I am grateful to our members who presented on the volunteer night and to Richard Chapman for his talk on Astro Photography.

Spike and Penny Piddock were our last speakers who showed us incredible underwater images, and this was our last meeting where we met face to face at Avoncroft, held on 10th March 2020 before we had to cancel further meetings due to COVID-19. We then started to look to alternative ways of keeping our meetings going with suggestions of competitions and speakers being facilitated using Zoom online.

After a successful running of print competition online, our member Tony Jervis kicked off our Zoom presentations with an interesting talk and this was followed by talks from David Keep and David Boag. All were well received by members. I am so grateful for the number of members who have joined these online presentations, helping to keep the club running and for us all to feel a little less isolated.

On the 26th May David Keep is returning to give us another excellent talk.

**Next Season 2020 – 2021**

I have completed the bookings for next season which will include talks on landscapes, nature, travel, street and war photography and more. If restrictions do not allow us to meet together, I have a number of online Zoom talks lined up in reserve.

If anyone would like a flavour of what is ahead, please check out the following links.

<http://www.carterart.co.uk/galleries>

<https://www.awalkerphotography.co.uk/>

<https://www.lensculture.com/charles-ashton>

<https://www.tonyworobiec.com/gallery.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/andrewfusekpeters/>

<https://www.tcwildlifephotography.com/>

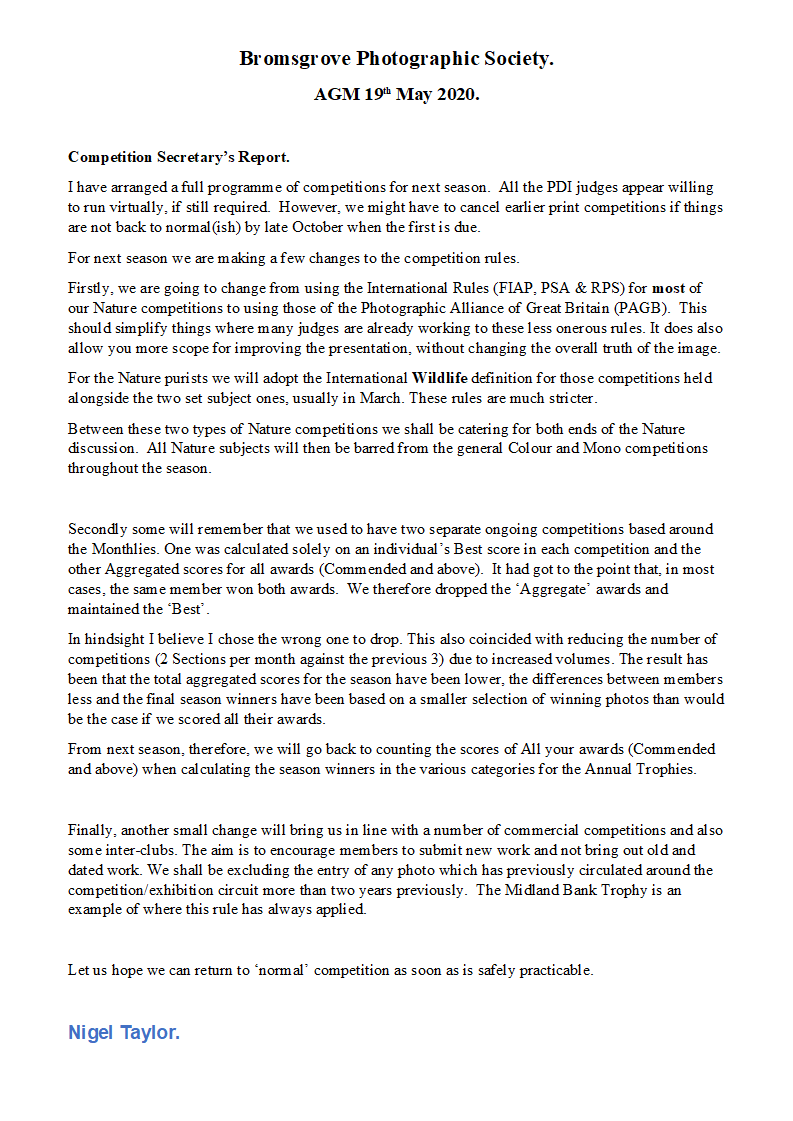
**Finally, your comments please**

I hope the 2019 – 2020 programme proved to be good value for your membership fee. I would be grateful to receive suggestions from members for the content of presentations you would like to see in future. I would also appreciate emails when you have enjoyed an evening, so I can pass on your comments to the speakers. They really do appreciate this, and I have received responses that it is unusual for clubs to take the time to do this. Likewise, if the presentation wasn’t good, please do let me know so I can tailor the programme to better suit your needs.

Thank you all and I love being part of such a supportive club.

**Jan Harris**

**APPENDIX 4**

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**APPENDIX 5**

**Webmaster report to the AGM 19th May 2020**

In 2019 I had a lot of pressure on my time due to family matters and so I had to relinquish my Webmaster post for a few months. Richard Chapman took over the role and I thank him for stepping in and the great job he did. Earlier this year I felt able to take it back on again.

Richard was able to simplify and automate the process of adding the competition results and images which he has continued to deal with since. This demonstrates the speed with which technology advances and that my web site knowledge is becoming outdated. I have no doubt that the Society would be better served by a younger Webmaster who is still working and keeping up with developments. So, if there is a current member who fits this profile and knows how to program Wordpress or is keen to learn about it, then I would be happy to hand the post over. In the meantime I will continue to the best of my ability.

**The website**

Wordpress continues to provide a workable free site for the Society.

Last year I improved the Home page a little by adding images on the left hand side to enable a quick click to get to certain pages.

Just recently a number of members pointed out that their web site experience on mobile devices was not ideal and needed looking at. In particular they were experiencing problems viewing the drop down menus. I did some research and experiments and I think I have made a small improvement. I doubt that I can do any more but if anyone has any further issues or suggestions, please let me know.

I welcome any suggestions for improvement of the site but bear in mind it is free software and isn’t always capable of many of the things fancy paid software is capable of.

**Website Statistics**

Due to the problems of compliance with GDPR, I am still unable to provide meaningful statistical information about the visitors to the site.

**General website news**

I used to get good input for articles from members but these have dried up. I would welcome input for the website from anyone.

**The Data Protection Act 2018 incorporating the EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

This seems to have settled down now. However, again it would be good if there was a younger member who, through their work knowledge on the subject, could keep me up to date with any necessary updating that might be needed.

My thanks go to the Committee for supporting me.

**Tony Hawksbee 19th May 2020**

**APPENDIX 6**

