**Wooler & District Camera Club**

**The Glendale Hall, Cheviot Street, Wooler**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14 April 2016**

**Number of people present**: 27 members and officials

1. **Apologies for absence -** Roger Gomersall,
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2015 were approved.

**Proposed:** Russell Young **Seconded:** Pat Young

1. **Matters Arising**

None

1. **Chairman’s Report:**

We have had an interesting and varied programme this season with some fascinating presentations starting with Dr. Parham Sandhu’s entitled ‘Vanishing Stripes’ in which

he explained the plight of the magnificent Indian Tiger.

Paul Kenny, who judged for us the previous season, came back and talked us through his 40 year journey to becoming a Photographer/Artist, his obsession with beachcombing and found objects and his techniques for creating the abstract images he now sells through a London Gallery.

In November Jane Coltman and Laine Baker entertained us with their images of a recent trip to Cuba. Their ‘Street Photography’ was particularly memorable.

Dave Dixon from Glanton took us through the Seasons with images of ‘Land, Sea and Sky’ of Northumberland. He exhorted us to ‘get our feet wet’ and never to forget to ‘look behind you’ when taking images – he warned that not doing so might result in losing The Photograph of the trip!

‘Photographing the Night Sky’ was the subject of Graham Relf’s talk in March. Without using specialist equipment he guided us through techniques we can all try. His images were spectacular.

At our last meeting Phil Mclean whisked us through one of his presentations

– ‘A Passion for Nature’ – a visual trip through the varied flora and fauna of the English/Scottish Border. Amongst other hints he emphasised the importance of controlling depth of field.

The season is not quite over and all being well we will have another evening with actor and photographer Bill Ward on 28 April.

The number of entries for Club Competitions has increased during the year and the quality of the images has been consistently high.

Of course the Club does not shut down for the summer. Our two main events are the Glendale Free Festival in July and the Glendale Show in August, both opportunities for the Club to showcase its talents and to meet and talk photography to members of the public and perhaps, encourage some to join us.

The Club does not run itself and I want to thank the Committee and everyone involved for their help and support over the past year. In no particular order, the input of the following people deserves our thanks:

Mike Allport, who is doing as much for the Club now he is President as he did when he was the Chair, including acting as Technical Adviser, dealing with competition entries and the Judges, external competitions, presentations, such as tonight’s, and in many other ways.

Patrick Sheard our highly efficient Treasurer who keeps a tight lid on our

finances.

Diane Baynton our hard-working Secretary who is multi-tasking by undertaking the additional roles of Competition and Programme Secretaries – both roles for which volunteers are wanted to relieve some of the burden she takes on. She has next season’s programme well under way.

Raymond Beston, who for many years has produced the Competition Certificates, quietly and efficiently and, I’m pleased to say, is willing to continue to do so. As a change next season’s certificates will have the Photograph of the Year and the Club’s lens logo as the background.

Dennis Nicholson, our Vice President, hosts our Committee Meetings, opens up the Hall, organises teas, coffees and biscuits, tracks down the Trophies and also gives us the invaluable benefit of his encyclopaedic knowledge of the Camera Club. I think we’ve finally persuaded him to stop going up the ladder into the roof store!

Pat Young who produces the Posters to publicise the Presentation nights.

Meg Vickers, who was co-opted on to the Committee this year, has taken on the responsibility for our website which she keeps up to date and our Facebook page. The feedback has been excellent.

Ian Thompson and Mike Allport framed and put up the photographs here in the Hall. Ian also worked on the sound system and necessary wiring and located the speakers for our benefit.

Jill Thomson is on the Committee and is championing the cause of less experienced members. We want members to actively seek advice and help on technical matters to give them more confidence with their photography and the use of their cameras. There is a lot of talent in the Club which should be shared. Don’t be shy – speak to Jill!

Charlie Brown has the title of Press Secretary, an ex officio post I think, but one he carries out to great effect. His reports in the Local Press are masterpieces and well received.

Russell Young, our Vice-Chairman, is always on hand to run meetings and help with the administration of the club when necessary, a very useful person to have around.

I would also like to thank Margaret Urwin for hosting an afternoon outing to Kyloe Woods in October. Despite a dreich day it was most successful and the soup and butties were most welcome.

Later tonight you will see the results of two outings members made to Eyemouth.

I would encourage as many people as possible to go on these outings. They are fun, friendly and instructive.

Finally, two quotes from the past year which have stuck in my mind:

‘Take photographs for yourself – not for Judges’ – How True! The unpredictability of judges is legendary and baffling ( unless you are among the prize winners!)……………………..

And ‘This is one of the friendliest clubs I’ve ever been to’.

I think the Club is in good health and I’m sure that the next season will be successful, photographically challenging, fun and, of course, friendly.

Mike Young

Chairman

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Once again we have had a successful season, with the club being well supported by both members and visitors.

I am pleased to report a small increase in membership – up to 38 from 33 last year, and many more visitors have attended club meetings which has been very encouraging to see.

Our finances have taken a slight dip this year. Although our income was up, our expenditure went up by a greater amount, due in large part to the necessary purchase of a new laptop for the club. This meant that we reduced our reserves by £537, but hope and expect this to be a blip rather than a trend.

However we do need to maintain our reserves so that we can meet any unexpected expenditure as it arises. In order not to put a greater burden on members through our fees structure, I have therefore arranged for the club to hold a coffee morning in the Glendale Hall on Saturday 8 October. More about this nearer the time, but please make a note in your diaries and support this important event!

I am proposing that we hold membership fees at the current rate for the 2016/17 season, ie:

Single Membership £17

Joint: £30

OAP Single: £15

OAP Joint: £25

Junior: £10

These fees will now have been held at this level for 5 years.

Many thanks to all who support the club financially, through donations, the Grand Raffle and by joining the club. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Patrick Sheard

Hon Treasurer

**Proposed:** Mike Allport **Seconded:** Russell Young

1. **Appointment of President and Vice President**

**President**

Mike Allport

**Proposed:** Jill Tomsom **Seconded:** Margaret Urwin

**Vice Presidents**

Dennis Nicholson

**Proposed:** John Wilson **Seconded:** Ian Thompson

1. **Election of Officers for 2016 - 2017**

**Chairman**

Mike Young

**Vice Chairman**

Russell Young

**Hon Treasurer**

Patrick Sheard

**Hon Secretary / Programme Secretary**

Diane Baynton

**Competition Secretary**

Vacant position

**Press Secretary**

Charlie Brown

**Committee Members**

Pat Young, Jill Thomson & Meg Vickers committee members

All members to be voted to stay en bloc

**Proposed:** Mike Allport **Seconded:** Tommy Rathbone

It was agreed that other members of the club could be co-opted onto the committee as and when required.

1. **Any other Business**

* To reserve the rights of the Club if a member’s photograph if selected to put forward for an external competition and /or Club displays. Eg. Glendale Festival, Glendale Show. When photographs are submitted for Club competition members enter them with the understanding that they may be used by the Club for any external competitions**.**
* Do we as a Club still enter external competitions?
* Agree that only 2 photos to be entered for Club competitions.
* A suggestion has been made to have a 10 minute practical talk at the beginning of each competition evening.

It was suggest that instead of having a coffee morning on the 8 October to put up the membership fees. Proposed T. Rathbone Seconded. Dennis Nicholson.

It was put to a vote only 2 for the majority against.

It was proposed to notify members if their photograph was to be used in an external competition. All agreed.

Competition Secretary needed who can encourage members to take competition subject photos. As this position has not been filled. It was agreed not to enter external competitions for the next year. We will however be hosting the Knockout competition in November.

Two pictures only to be entered in Club competitions.

Suggestion for a competition - pictures to be entered without modification in anyway

The meeting closed at: 8.50 pm

The next AGM will be held on – 28 April 2017