

Wooler and District Camera Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024

Date: 11th April 2024 Place: Cheviot Centre Time 8:30pm

Present			
Mike Allport	Hazel Rathbone	David French	Stuart Kay
Pat Young	Brian Rogers	Steven Warden	Tommy Rathbone
Fiona Grant	Karen Merton	Helen Collison	Joan Foster
John Miller	Isobel Bailes	Tony Broom	Jill Thomson
Karen Williams	Margret Rogers	Jim Bird	
Apologies			
Diane Whittaker	Barbara Mac-Fall	Liz Mould	Pat Brown
Charlie Brown			

Chairmans Report

"I NEVER CAN QUITE BELIEVE HOW FAST THE TIME GOES BY, NO SOONER HAVE I WELCOMED YOU ALL TO THE START OF A NEW SEASON WHILE CROSSING MY FINGERS THAT THE PROGRAMME WILL BE WELL RECEIVED, THAN I'M BOOKING JUDGES AND SPEAKERS FOR THE FOLLOWING SEASON AND THEN IT'S ALL OVER AND I'M SAYING HAVE A GOOD SUMMER, SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER.

ON THE WHOLE, THIS SEASON HAS GONE WELL. WE ONLY HAD ONE OR TWO MINOR HICCUPS: ONE OF THE JUDGES HAD TO CANCEL SO TONY KINDLY SWAPPED DATES, ANOTHER JUDGE THOUGHT SHE WAS COMING A WEEK LATER, SO DIDN'T ARRIVE UNTIL HALF WAY THROUGH THE MEETING AND AGAIN, TONY TO THE RESCUE – AND ALSO MIKE. THEN THE WEATHER WAS SO AWFUL OUR PRESENTER CRIED OFF SO WE HAD A 'CLUB NIGHT' AND I'VE REARRANGED HIM FOR NEXT SEASON.

WE'VE HAD OUR USUAL COMPETITIONS AND THEY HAVE MOSTLY BEEN VERY POPULAR WITH 20 DIFFERENT PEOPLE RECEIVING CERTIFICATES - SO MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL.

HAVING ALREADY BEEN CANCELLED ONCE, WE NEARLY HAD TO CALL OFF OUR OUTING TO SEAHOUSES A SECOND TIME, WHEN TORRENTIAL RAIN ARRIVED BEFORE WE SET OFF. HOWEVER, THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A SUNNY AFTERNOON, SO GOING AHEAD THAT DAY PROVED TO BE THE

RIGHT DECISION. THANKS AGAIN TO LIZ, OUR EXCURSIONS OFFICER FOR ALL HER WORK IN ORGANISING OUR DAYS OUT.

WE HAD A WORKSHOP ON CREATING AN AV SEQUENCE WITH TONY AND ANOTHER ON CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHY WITH JIM - ASSISTED BY PAT, BRIAN AND TONY. THIS ONE WAS VERY WELL ATTENDED AND I THINK WE MAY HAVE TO REPEAT IT. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE UP THEIR TIME. IT'S REALLY GREAT THAT PEOPLE ARE SO WILLING TO SHARE THEIR EXPERTISE.

WE HAD SOME VERY INTERESTING PRESENTATIONS, OUR CLUB MEMBERS WERE EQUALLY AS GOOD AS THE ONES BY VISITORS

ONCE AGAIN WE ENTERED THE NORTHERN AREA INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS AND WHILE COMING LAST IN TWO OF THEM , WE MANAGED TO BE SECOND LAST IN THE OTHER - SO WE ARE IMPROVING!

ONCE AGAIN I'D LIKE TO THANK MY COMMITTEE. THEY ALL KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND JUST GET ON WITH THE JOB. MIKE DOES THE TEKKIE STUFF, JIM SORTS THE WEBSITE, LIZ LOOKS AFTER THE MONEY, JILL'S IN CHARGE OF THE KITCHEN, BARBARA HELPS THEM BOTH WHEN SHE'S NOT WRITING MINUTES AND AGENDAS AND PAT CREATES THE CERTIFICATES FOR ALL YOU LUCKY WINNERS. OUR LATEST RECRUIT TONY HAS FITTED IN WELL AND HAS NOW TAKEN CHARGE OF EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS. ME? AS I TOLD YOU LAST YEAR I JUST TRY TO LOOK BUSY BUT THEY DO ALL THE WORK REALLY - SO THANK YOU, I COULDN'T MANAGE WITHOUT YOU ALL.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK JOHN MILLER FOR PRODUCING THOSE HELPFUL INFORMATION SHEETS - OUR "BUILD YOUR OWN TEXTBOOK" IS COMING ALONG NICELY.

FINALLY I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU - THE MEMBERS - WHO COME ALONG TO EVERY MEETING, EVEN ON THOSE COLD WET WINTER NIGHTS - WE NEED YOU ALL. THANK YOU.

POST MEETING ADDENDUM: I OMITTED TO INCLUDE TONY & KAREN IN MY LIST OF THANK-YOUs. THEY INTRODUCED AND ORGANISED THE THURSDAY TODDLES LAST SUMMER WHICH IS SOMETHING OUR CLUB HAD NOT DONE BEFORE. IT WAS A GREAT WAY TO KEEP CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS DURING THE 'DOWN' SEASON AS WELL AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO OUT AND TAKE PHOTOS WITH LIKE MINDED PEOPLE - AND EVEN EAT FISH & CHIPS AT ONE POINT!

SO THANK YOU BOTH FOR ARRANGING THIS LAST YEAR AND I HOPE WE CAN PERSUADE YOU TO DO IT ALL AGAIN THIS SUMMER".

Treasurers Report

Hazel gave Liz's apologies that the report was not ready. It was stated that the clubs funds were £160 more than this time last year. Hazel said that the report would be circulated to members at the soonest opportunity.

Election of Officers for 2025 / 2025

Jim Bird proposed the current committee stand the same as of 2023 / 2024.
Seconded by Tony Broom.

Jill Thomson resigned from the committee. She was thanked by Hazel for the excellent service she had provided.

Hazel encouraged members to join the committee. There was no uptake from the floor.

Any other Business

A club member tabled a discussion note "Borders on images for entries for WDCC competitions - Points to consider".

A debate ensued on the relative merits of changing the photographic competitions entries rules to exclude borders. Good arguments were put forward for and against. Majority consensus by vote was reached NOT to exclude borders.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Jim Bird.