

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Norwich & District Photographic Society held on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 7:30pm in the Interactive Studio, City Academy Norwich, 299 Bluebell Road, Norwich NR4 7LP

Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by NDPS Chairman, Tom Watson.
2. The meeting was quorate with thirty-three members including the Society President, four Officers and four Committee members present, namely: Dave Balcombe, Robert Bilbie, Gerry Caracas, Simon Ciappara*, Paul Cowcher*, Bill Daniels**, Hazel Davidson, Jean deRoeck, Steve deRoeck, Alan Dixon, Clive Dunn, Daniel Gray, Brian Gwinnell, Dennis Hales, Gareth Janacek, David Jordan**, Joan Jordan**, Andrew Loveday**, David Mason, Jim Massy, Simone Massy, Ben McQuillan, William Moore, Gary Parker, David Powley, Jeffrey Prosser, Ian Saunders, Graeme Taplin (Society President), Jonathan Tidswell, Jeff Turrell*, Tom Watson*, Andrew Wright, and Charlotte Wright.
3. Apologies for absence were received from nine members, namely: John Hodgson, Clive Matthews, Kenneth Newlan, Paul Oliver, Adrian Richmond* Alan Sapsford, Pat Stebbings, Patricia Wilden and Maurice Young*

* denotes officers of the committee, ** denotes other committee members.

4. The Chairman thanked everybody for attending the meeting and confirmed that all members should have received the meetings papers including the Agenda, Minutes from the last meeting, Reports from the officers and Resolutions. Tom reported that it had been a busy and active year for the Society with many varied and interesting projects, both within and outside the Society, still to come.
5. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting. The Chairman stated that there had been no receipt of any matters arising from the minutes and that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes can therefore be signed.
6. Resolutions. There are two Resolutions for consideration.

Resolution 1 was proposed by Hazel Davidson and seconded by Keith Garnham, Robert Garnham and Patricia Wilden and states;

"The Rules and Constitution are hereby amended so that the counting of votes at an Annual General Meeting of the club shall be by Tellers. Before any vote is taken three Tellers shall be elected from the members present. The Tellers shall be members of NDPS and shall not be members or Officers of the Committee or standing for election to it in any capacity. The elected Tellers shall each count the votes, and then compare their results. If there is any disagreement then the votes must be counted again until the tellers agree on the result."

Hazel was invited to present the reasonings for the resolution - Tellers have always been used in the past and not sure why it stopped. Using tellers means that everyone knows all votes

are counted fairly.

The Chairman then gave the views of the committee - The proposal had been discussed widely by the committee and the committee recommends not to support the resolution. During the past eight years that the chairman has been involved he couldn't recall tellers being used. If a contentious issue arises at an AGM any votes will be conducted by secret ballot and the winner declared in front of all. The chairman went on to ask how such a resolution would improve the enjoyment of the Society to its members. The process of a simple show of hands works well within other similar clubs with a much larger attendance than NDPS typically has at its AGM.

Hazel replied to the Chairman's comments stating that at last year's AGM there was a secret ballot with lots of paper around and she was not sure what was happening or if all votes had been counted before the result was declared.

The proposal was put to the vote (by a show of hands).

Those in favour of the Resolution: 5

Those against the Resolution: 27

Abstentions: 3

The Resolution was rejected.

Resolution 2 proposed by the Committee;

"To increase next year's subscriptions to £47.50 (with a £5.00 reduction for joint membership). However, members renewing before 31st October can do so at the existing rate of £45.00."

The reasons for the resolution are to cover any potential increase with hiring the City Academy room, to allow for any reduction in membership numbers in the next year and to prepare for any unknown necessary expenses that may arise in the coming year.

There were several questions from the membership;

It was confirmed that joint membership will also receive the reduced rate if renewed before 31 October 2023 (£85 or £90 after 31st October 2023).

The reasoning for the discounted rate before 31st October is to encourage members to renew membership early thereby enabling planning of the programme based on confirmed budget. It was explained that the Society runs based on confirmed funds it has available and early payment enables this.

If the majority of members pay early, what benefit is it to the Society to increase subscriptions?

By increasing subscriptions, this will be the rate of any early payments next year, assuming the same scheme is adopted.

It was confirmed that any new member joining the club from July onwards will pay the new rate of £47.50.

Although this is a very modest increase it was confirmed that if any member is having difficulties renewing their subscription the Society will do all it can to help that member and to speak directly to any committee member for help.

One member asked if they could still use discount vouchers received as raffle prizes? The membership discount prize was discontinued in 2020 and should be considered no longer valid in respect of membership subscriptions.

The proposal was put to the vote (by show of hands).

Those in favour: 32

Those against: 1

Abstentions: 2

The Resolution was accepted.

7. Election of Officers of the Society:

Graeme Taplin agreed to continue in his role as Society President for his second year of office.

Vice President positions remains vacant, there have been no proposals for this position.

Honorary Member; Helmut Wagner remains an Honorary member, there have been no proposals for additional honorary members.

Officers of the Committee:

Tom Watson - Chairman

Simon Ciappara - Vice Chairman

Adrian Richmond - Secretary

Jeff Turrell - Treasurer

Maurice Young - Programme Secretary, Competition Secretary, Exhibition Secretary

Paul Cowcher - Membership Secretary

All agreed to remain in post and were unopposed.

8. Election of four eligible members of the Society to serve on the Committee

Bill Daniels

Dave Jordan

Joan Jordan

Andrew Loveday

All agreed to remain in post and were unopposed.

9. Election of Examiner/Auditor of the Accounts:

Paul Oliver undertook this role for the accounting period to 31 December 2022 and has agreed to stand again unless any other member wishes to undertake the role. No one came forward so Paul Oliver is elected again unopposed.

10. Closing Remarks from the Chairman:

The Chairman invited everyone to consider the remarks made in the reports from Maurice Young with regard to his workload for the Society. The time Maurice has to contribute to the Society is unacceptable moving forward and the Society desperately needs members to help so that the standard of meetings and presentations, the Society's image to the outside world and our ability to compete in external competitions can be maintained or even improved. Members were invited to speak to any committee member for more information and offers of help.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited all to the buffet supper.

The meeting closed at 8:23pm.