



Carshalton Camera Club AGM – 2 September 2020

Secretary's Report

Becoming Secretary in a well run committee

Is it really the end of March last year when I took over the Secretary role? It seems longer ago and not just because of the strange new world we are living in now. In May 2018 I joined the Club committee not to fill any specific role but in the first committee meeting I attended it was clear that a volunteer was needed to look after the Club trophies. At the second committee meeting I attended it was news to me that our Club Secretary Doug Crockett was standing down due to work commitments and we would need to elect a new Secretary from the current committee or a new committee member, though it was also noted that we already had a very reasonable number of committee members. I looked around and saw no volunteers. I saw a well functioning committee with members perfectly suited to their roles, carrying out their numerous duties as a well knit group of, in some ways, diverse people with a common goal for the smooth running of the Club. It was clear to me that there were committee members who could take on the Secretary role but it would take them away from their current very well performed role. At our next Club meeting Nigel asked me if I would consider becoming the Club Secretary. I would like to thank the committee for inviting and accepting me and also thanks to members who have given me feedback on mailchimp communications.

League Competitions – fun and challenging but there's much more to enjoy

For the 2019/2020 season I decided to take a break from Club League competitions. This primarily came from a time and financial constraint for prints and I do like printing on expensive paper. I generally prefer print to PDI competitions so did not want to bother entering PDI if I was taking a break from print. This did allow me to experience the Club for one season without having a personal interest in our league competitions. While I did regret not having entries in league meetings I attended I was pleased with the non competition-centric approach taken by the Club. Members are encouraged to enter competitions but there is absolutely no requirement to do so. Club meetings are varied and interesting and include great innovations such as the Photostory evenings. It will be interesting to see how the new Critique Class works in practice. Joan Tucker does some excellent hard work lining up judges for all our competitions.

The Club continues to entertain and educate with varied and quality guests

Some of our varied 2019/2020 meetings included; Olympus Imaging Guru Jez Sugars – perhaps a bit of an Olympus sales pitch but also informative of a system used by some members and no more manufacturer specific than our Canon specialist a previous year, Dave Mason who delights in showing us sometimes humorous images and often non-league worthy photos, Bob Webzell ARPS EFIAP who gave us so much to think about by turning the exposure down and then down some more, Eddie Hyde ARPS who is always generous with his time and knowledge. There were many great speakers for our Club also including recent online meetings via Zoom where we welcomed speakers such as Kylie-Ann Martin, Gareth Martin with his inspirational editing approach and Tracey Lund with her superb mostly non edited nature images. This paragraph is not at all intended as a complete recap and there were some meetings I personally missed so apologies for not highlighting good points from all our speakers. I can nonetheless summarise that the varied entertainment and education from our Club guest speakers is in itself a great

reason to be a member and the line up of guests seems to get even better every year, thanks of course to the superb work by Steve Lenearts.

Membership

While not at a high point for our number of Club members, we still remain with a good mix between Critique, Standard and Advanced members. The lockdown situation is not the best time to attract new members but our committee has been working even harder than usual in these strange times and we continue to discuss new ideas. As our Chairman Nigel has stated in his report we regret the sad loss of Peter Rowlands and Pat Bradford, two members who passed away and will be greatly missed.

Internal Competitions

Some of our league competitions finished with a point or two separating some of the top three, so they continue to be well contested and exciting to the end.

It is good to see a high standard of photography appearing in all three tiers of the league. Our open competitions show that our non advanced members can make their presence felt by sometimes providing images worthy of top marks.

The Photostory evenings have become a Club favourite and deservedly so. Apart from anything else it is great to have members sharing a set of images which may not be league worthy. Our leagues are challenging and fun but our love of photography goes beyond Club standard photographs.

External Competitions

Ann Rayers EFIAP and Darren Pullman AFIAP CPAGB BPE2* both had a number of acceptances in to the SPA Biennial Exhibition 2020.

In the SLF, CCC received Runners-Up trophies for both the Monochrome Print and PDI Competitions, CCC also won the PDI Plate competition. Congratulations of course due to Lynda Bailey for winning best PDI in the individual open competition.

CCC was delighted and proud to win the Inter-Club Competition hosted by Kingston in June 2020.

General Notes

The club aims to keep members informed of various club and external events through email and the web site and Steve Lenearts produces a wonderful list of exhibitions each month. Members are welcome to let us know if they are aware of events that other members may be interested in then these can be notified to the Secretary for circulation to the whole club.

The club committee work to try and concoct a varied programme for the members but as we say every year it is perhaps worth reminding you all here that the committee are always happy to take suggestions for new activities or presentations that individual members may want to put forward – this is your club!