



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Strictly speaking this report should cover the year up to March 2020, but we are now living in unprecedented times in which it has not been possible to hold any physical meetings since the beginning of March. As a result, my report is for an AGM postponed until September 2020. At the start of the Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown your Committee took prompt action to keep the Club running. They have subsequently worked extraordinarily hard to ensure the Club offers a full programme of weekly online (Zoom) meetings. On behalf of Carshalton Camera Club and its Committee I would like to thank all those that have in the past year and a half facilitated the smooth running and success of the Club.

There are some names that deserve a special mention. In no particular order they are:

Gerald Kitiyakara (President) for his work often behind the scenes, encouraging us all, as well as representing our club at the meetings of the South London Federation of which we are a part.

Dave Rayers (Digital and A/V Secretary) who so competently supervises and handles the technical facilities of our club. There is a lot of work involved in setting up the sound, computing, and the projection needs of our club. In the past year he successfully managed the introduction of PhotoEntry to ease our submission process for digital images. Dave has also presented occasional AV shows to other clubs.

Darren Pullman (Publicity Officer) who does a great job maintaining an up-to-date website with the latest events, news and results.

John Cheshire (Secretary), who in addition to valuable work supporting the committee, sends out numerous and informative MailChimps (emails) to remind members of forthcoming events and activities.

Joan Tucker (Judges Secretary) who books and communicates with the judges of our various competitions - recently a particularly challenging role coping with last minute changes arising from the temporary move to online competitions.

Ann Rayers (Print Secretary) who spends many hours sorting the prints and organising the frequent print-based competitions and events. As ever I have appreciated her advice and inspiration on competition matters. In May 2019 Ann took the lead in organising a very successful Annual Exhibition (with lots of help from others) and in May 2020 Ann was the driving force for an on-line exhibition.

Tony Ogilvie (Treasurer) for maintaining the accounts - most of us are unaware of the significant effort that goes into this task that includes chasing up members for their subscriptions and encouraging new members to join up.

Steve Lenaerts (Programme Secretary) who continues to amaze us by putting together a comprehensive programme that includes interesting and informative speakers. In the past few months he has gone even further, tracking down fascinating presentations from the wider UK and putting together the future programme based on significant uncertainties. Steve also organised a weekend away to Canterbury last September.

The late Pat Bradford who hosted our Committee Meetings, organised raffles and managed a hosting rota for visiting judges and presenters. See below for a tribute to Pat.

Gareth Curtis (Vice Chairman) for running meetings when I'm absent.

Doug Crocket, for his input as Chairman of the Competition Sub Committee.

Finally, our club only works at all because of the contributions made by many members, those who come early to set up, those who stay late to put away and all the people who have helped to serve the coffees and teas.

There are a few other things to mention:

A significant change to the competition league structure will be introduced in September. This is the introduction of 'Critique Class' where members of all skill levels can submit their photo entries on a non-competitive basis for a judge's assessment. The competition rules have been revised to reflect this change and the opportunity taken to clarify the presentation of all rules. The previous 'Preliminary' category in the league competitions has been removed. If you haven't done so already, please find and read these on the Club Website.

During early 2020 our membership reduced for various reasons including the sad death of two members. It seems unlikely that we will grow the membership again until our meetings resume once again in the Church Hall.

In April we heard that Peter Rowlands had died suddenly at home. Peter (and his late wife Joyce) had been a leading light in the Club for many years. He was one of the Club's great characters, always helpful and supportive and of course a great photographer. From the many tributes received it is clear he will be very much missed as a friend at our meetings.

Then in May when we were saddened to hear that Pat Bradford had lost her brave fight with cancer. Pat was a strong character and turned up for meetings even when she was clearly exhausted coping with intensive treatment. She continued bravely during this time supporting the Club activities, including hosting Committee meetings. Pat will also be missed greatly in the Club.

Some good news this year with members obtaining several distinctions; Ann Rayers an AFIAP in June 2019 (now upgraded to EFIAP since May 2020), Darren Pullman his CPAGB, BPE1\*, BPE2\* (he already held the AFIAP distinction) between April '19 and April '20 and Balwant Thanki his ARPS in May 2019

Looking forward and despite the current restrictions, I'm confident that the Committee will offer you an interesting programme of events in the forthcoming Club year. Let's hope there will be favourable circumstances for us all to meet in person once again.

Happy photo shooting wherever you manage to do it!

Best wishes,

Nigel  
(Nigel Laflin, CCC Chairman)