

President's Address at Carshalton Camera Club AGM, 02 September 2020

Good evening all members

At this stage of the AGM proceedings I take this opportunity to thank Nigel Laflin as Chairman and members of the CCC Committee and various sub-committees for all their efforts in managing the affairs and activities of this club successfully during the past 18 months, since our last AGM in March 2019.

Our last face-to-face meeting in our hall was on 9th March, which now seems a long time ago. Since the start of lockdown, we have had to adjust our programme of events to keep in touch and maintain some activity and thereby allowing us to continue to hold meetings, rather than close down.

In that regard, Steve Lenaerts, our Programme Secretary, and other members of the Committee, have been able to come up quickly with alternative events to those on the printed Programme, which members can attend and participate in from their own home, by way of our use of ZOOM, the relatively new virtual meeting facility. So far these substitute events have included presentations by guest speakers and club members, PDI competitions with judges willing to carry out their judging via Zoom, as well as a social gathering, all of which have been attended by a good number of members. Thanks to Dave Rayers and others who have enabled CCC to act as host for these events.

Changes to events on the printed Programme have been highlighted on the website Programme and John Cheshire, our Secretary, has been active in keeping you informed about upcoming events and providing the link to enable you to join the meetings.

You may have realised that, in order to maintain contact, we have continued to hold weekly meetings through what would have been our Summer break (mid July to beginning of September). We are now at the start of our new season, 2020-2021 and, although restrictions are being lifted gradually, the Committee can not envisage being able to return to hold meetings at our hall until the beginning of January 2021 at the earliest. Our programme has therefore been planned for virtual meetings to continue well into next year. Print competitions have been scheduled for the second half of next season. Our participation in SLF inter-club competitions will be governed by their arrangements.

We have decided that, under the current circumstances and to allow for short notice changes, there will be no printed Programme for the time being. Our Programme for the new season will be available on our website and John Cheshire will circulate advance notice of each event to all members. If you have not been in the habit of looking on our website, now is the time to start looking on a regular basis to keep up with developments and changes. For those of you on Facebook, please continue to contribute images and comments on the Keep in Touch (CCC) page, which was initiated by Ann early during lockdown.

I am pleased to notice, from those attending our virtual meetings, that you appear to have been keeping well and have all been able to cope with the Coronavirus/Covid-19 pandemic and I trust you will be able to make the most of the gradual lifting of restrictions in safety. Those of you whom I have not seen or heard from, I hope that you are keeping well.

Stay alert, safe and well, and stay happy with your photography. All the best

Gerald Kitiyakara
President.
02 September 2020