

Minutes of AGM held on 17th April 2023

The Annual General Meeting of the King's Lynn & District Camera Club was held online on Monday 17th April 2023 via Zoom. The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. with Steve Duncan in the chair.

1 Attendees and Apologies:

The meeting was chaired by Steve Duncan with a further 15 members attending. Apologies received from 3 members. See Appendix 1.

2 Chairman's report (S. Duncan):

The Chairman's report had been distributed to all members in advance of the AGM and was accepted by unanimous show of hands. (Includes reports from DA and LR on membership and social media). See Appendix 2.

3 Treasurer's report (D. Clarke):

The Treasurer's report had been distributed to all members in advance of the AGM and was accepted by unanimous show of hands. See Appendix 3.

David Clarke proposed that Glenys Lee be appointed as Independent Examiner as she has successfully performed this task previously. The motion was accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

4 Election of Officers and Committee:

There being no other nominations or objections, the members, nominated prior to the AGM, and as advised to members previously, were elected to take office and their terms to commence at the end of the AGM. See Appendix 4.

5 Motions:

Motions to authorise the committee to set the subscription rate for 2023/4 and to authorise the committee to finalise the 2023/4 season programme were passed unanimously by a show of hands.

6 Date of the next Annual General Meeting: The provisional date has been set as 8th April 2024

7 Any Other Business

Vote of thanks:

David Clarke proposed that the club year should be re-aligned to the programme, i.e. commence in September and conclude in the following July. It was agreed that this proposal should be considered at the next committee meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 19:54

The meeting was then opened to the members for a general discussion. See Appendix 5.

Appendix 1: Attendees and Apologies (in alphabetical order by surname) -

ATTENDING:

DAVID ASHFIELD ARPS ADPS
PAT ATTER
DAVID CLARKE
STEVE DUNCAN LRPS
ALEX HARVEY
CLIVE MATTSON
MICHAEL MYERS
LINDA ROBERTSON
MALCOLM ROWLEY
JEREMY RODWELL ARPS
BRIAN SADLER
JOEL SANTOS
SARAH THORPE
MARTIN WARREN
PAT WEIR
TONY WILLIAMS CPAGB

APOLOGIES:

MIKE BRINDLE LRPS
DIANA FOXBRINDLE LRPS
SUE REID

Appendix 2: Chairman's Report -**KLDCC CHAIRMANS REPORT 2022/2023**

Once again, the club has faced significant difficulties this year, and we continue to face some very challenging times. As we emerged from the covid pandemic and began meeting up again, the committee soon came to understand that some members, facing their own challenges, would be unable to meet at live gatherings and others would decide not to continue their club membership for a variety of reasons. But as we started to take the club forward, I, and the committee, had not foreseen how the world events, leading to the cost-of-living crisis, would open up a whole new set of challenges.

In the Autumn 2022, and after helping to see the club through the worst of the pandemic, David Clarke took the decision to stand down as chairman because of health issues. Whilst he felt confident that he could continue his contribution to the club as Treasurer and serving on the committee, he felt his health would limit his efforts to take the club forward and I was asked to step up as interim chairman. Little did I know what we would be facing.

Shortly before Christmas 2022, the committee at Willian Burt took the decision to apply room hire charges in addition to membership fees, a decision that placed KLDCC in an impossible position and with very little time to find a solution but it became obvious that changes had to be made.

As with many difficult times, new opportunities come along and, thanks to the work and tenacity of David Ashfield, we took the decision to move to Springwood High School where we had been offered a new home, free of charge. The hope and intention is that the arrangement will be mutually beneficial. SHS is an arts-based school and will gain kudos from their association with the local photography club and, in addition to a secure venue, KLDCC will have better lines of communication with a much wider audience, opportunities for additional events at the school and a potential source of new members from staff, students and parents.

It is disappointing that, with the exception of the free use of a meeting room, we are yet to see any of these benefits. This is largely due to the problems we have been experiencing, settling into our new home and finding a setup that works for us all. It was once thought that zoom would only be used long term for external speakers, and that all members would return to live meetings. I think that members would support the idea that live meetings improve our enjoyment of photography in a variety of ways. However, I have to report that, at the start of the club year, membership renewal was at an all-time low and, without our zoom members, the financial position would have been considerably bleaker.

So, the committee continues to persevere and will do so until we achieve a stable solution that provides the opportunity to meet in the same room every time, with ample space for our meetings, including practical sessions and competitions, adequate and secure storage for our kit, a display facility at least as good as our own projector and screen and good enough wi-fi to permit Zoom meetings without hassle. In this regard, I am sure you will all join me in thanking Brian in particular for his work. On a positive note, the committee now has a better understanding of the problem and we are more confident that Monday meetings will run smoothly from now on.

I would also like to thank Clive, who, having already spent several years on the committee, has agreed to continue as Program Sec, and has already started work on dates for 2023 - 2024. I can report that we will have a mix of competitions, external speakers, practical evenings and members nights. All

external speakers will be zoom only, all competitions will be zoom and live at SHS. Having said earlier how important zoom membership is to the club, we will zoom as many of the members' nights as possible.

There remains a lot to do, but with that come some fantastic opportunities and membership is slowly increasing. We have work to do with promoting the club, on our own website, social media and the traditional methods like flyers and posters. The committee is fully aware of the options and I am sure we will find the time and make this a priority as soon as we are settled at SHS.

Competitions continue to provide an excellent way of sharing images, getting critique, and stimulating debate, and rightly so. The committee has, for some time now, wanted to get some help for Michael Myers with the competitions, and hopefully, in the fullness of time, learn the competition software, giving Michael a backup. I can repost that Linda Robertson has volunteered to take on the role of competition secretary.

I hope that, during these difficult times, we have kept you, the members. informed and I assure you all that the committee appreciates your continued support.

In conclusion, whilst it would be easy to focus on the negative and dwell on the difficulties we have been facing, the committee is confident the worst is behind us, and we can now look forward to building KLDCC into a club that we can all be proud of.

Steve Duncan Chairman April 2023

Appendix 3: Treasurer's Report –

KING'S LYNN AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

The financial figures to the end of March are included in a separate document and I think are self explanatory.

The year started in a reasonably good position and we were gradually building back to pre covid levels then after the committee had spent considerable time looking at amongst other things setting a budget for this year the bombshell was dropped by Wm Burt Social Club at the very last minute before Christmas. I don't think I need to say more other than the request from Wm Burt would have had a serious impact on club life by adding about £900 a year to our budget. Suitable rooms elsewhere are available at a cost of £10/£20 per hour. Moving to one of these venues would have cost use £1500/£1800 a year for a 38 week programme. On our then current membership fee with reserves reduced to covid restrictions etc. this was a total no go. In order to keep the club alive the committee reluctantly had to ask members for a fee of £120 . Many thanks to you as most of you agreed to this. On checking around I discovered that many clubs and societies were charging much more. I think we are still in the lower end for membership fees.

Just as we were about to announce a much revised programme and with literally days to go before we had to pay Wm Burt the membership fees for the year we were offered the use of Springwood School on very much better terms. Yes there have been teething problems but from a financial perspective over the longer term I feel we must bear with it. Again I think Steve will cover and talk more on this during the meeting

We have ended the year with a bank balance of £2759 which looks on the surface a reasonably good figure. However things are not quite what they seem. As you may remember when the Springwood offer came in ,we asked members if they would mind us not refunding some of their £120 . If Springwood works we expect the fee to be around £65/£75. So we suggested not asking existing members who paid in January to pay again until autumn 2024 . Our only income until then will be from new members unless you have any ideas.

A second word of caution. The competition laptop is about 5yrs old and it seems the whole computer industry and Microsoft and Apple have an obsolescence plan of a similar period. We may have to consider renewal soon with a cost of £800/£1000 and the committee will need to budget for this and future renewals .

The situation is tight but not desperate and Clive has a reasonable budget for speakers and Judges. Many thanks for supporting the club. Please encourage possible new members to come along to try us out.

David Clarke, Treasurer April 2023

KING'S LYNN AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB FINANCIAL STATEMENT**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023**

	2022/2023	2021/2022
<u>INCOME</u>		
MEMBERSHIP FEES	1,787-50	1,880 -00
DONATIONS	90-00	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>1,877-50</u>	<u>1,880-00</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
WM BURT FEES	40-00	406-50
INSURANCE/EAF FEES	185.23	173-71
SPEAKERS AND JUDGES	755-00	910-00
WEBSITE COSTS	69.72	82-04
PHOTO COMP COSTS		50-00
EE DONGLE DATA	10-00	35-00
ODDMENTS/ MOUNTS/ENGRAVING EQUIPMENT	315-27 46-36	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>1,421-58</u>	<u>1,657-25</u>
OPENING BALANCE	2303-18	2,080-43
PROFIT/LOSS FOR YEAR	450-92	222.75
CLOSING BALANCE	2759-10	2303-18

BALANCE AT BARCLAYS 31ST MARCH 2023 £2,759-10

Appendix 4: Election of Officers and Committee:

STEVE DUNCAN	CHAIRMAN	steve.kldcc@gmail.com
BRIAN SADLER	VICE CHAIRMAN	brians.kldcc@gmail.com
DAVID CLARKE	TREASURER	davidc.kldcc@gmail.com
DAVE ASHFIELD	SECRETARY	sec.kldcc@gmail.com
CLIVE MATTSON	COMMITTEE	clivem.kldcc@gmail.com
LINDA ROBERTSON	COMMITTEE	linda.kldcc@gmail.com
TONY WILLIAMS	COMMITTEE	tonyw.kldcc@gmail.com

Appendix 5: Notes on discussion following AGM:

Steve Duncan opened the discussion with concerns regarding the number of members of KLDCC and invited comments and suggestions as to how the issue might be addressed in order to attract new members.

There was a lively debate with members contributing a wide variety of ideas, ranging from simple and cost-free to others requiring a great deal of planning and preparation and the need to carefully consider any potential costs.

The proposal was made by Pat Atter that a working party be set up to investigate and explore all avenues and report to the committee. The idea was accepted in principle and the details of the make up and scope of the working party will be determined as a priority at the upcoming committee meeting

Open Day/Exhibition

Advertising – local magazines and journals, local Facebook groups and similar social media platforms

Posters, business cards, badges, car stickers

Displaying members' images in prominent places

Using the website and social media to tell potential members that the club offers support and education to all levels of competence to guide improvement of their photography

Use of same devices to display the interactive and practical elements of KLDCC and emphasise the entertainment side of club life

Create an induction programme for new members, guiding them through all aspects of the club, in particular entering competitions, helping to ensure they they have a full appreciation of all the club can offer and to help them feel at home as quickly as possible