



The Yorkshire Photographic Union - Annual General Meeting February 27th 2021 - Held over the Internet

Present

YPU Executive

Colin Williams, Marilyn Roberts, Alan Stopher, Andrew Pell, Richard Littlefair, Chris Hodgson, Sally Sallett, Dave Burgess, Andrea Hargreaves, Mark Lawrence, Andrew Rothery, Stephen Dean.

Club Representatives

Les Smart & Chris Charlesworth (Otley CC), Vince Cunningham (Holmfirth CC), Sharon Sawyer (Ilkley CC), Colin Shearer & Mike Barnard (Focus PG), Robin Smith (Garforth CC), Steve Forsey (Howden CC), Stuart Hartham (Knaresborough CC), Simon Dallimore (Picture This Photography Club), Jane Perryman, Richard Hall & John Scholey (Sheffield PS), Neil Fearnside (Bingley CC), Sue & James Gibson (Huddersfield PIC), Ted Clements (Leeds PS), Stephanie Cook (Selby CC), Steve Womack & David Kershaw (Wakefield CC), Julie Cowdy & Harry Kingman (Kirkbymoorside & D CC),

Paul Harrison (Dewsbury PG), Andrew Hersom & Nigel Dalton (F4 PG), Ian Whitehead & Michael Tomlinson (Ossett & D CC), Margaret Smith (Settle PG), Stan Colabella & Steve Scholey (Pontefract CC), Neil Bland & Ann Bland (Silsden PG), William Van Herp (Barnsley PS), Peter Sykes (Bradford PS), Shelley Knight & Ray Brammall* (Doncaster CC), Bill Johnson* & Neil Radcliffe (Normanton CC), Frank Roberts (Positive Image CC), Christine Carr (Wensleydale CC), Derek Lang (York CC), Morris Gregory (York PS), Nigel Plant & Ian Parker (Hebden Bridge CC), Roger Poyser (Bishopthorpe CC), Ian Palmer (Brooklands PS), Richard Chave-Cox (Harrogate PS), Jane Ellis & Richard Greaves (Leeds Co-Op PS), Michael Carver (New Image CC), Suzanne Lamb (Ripon City PS), Alan Flint (Scarborough CC), Ken Trace (Sherburn CC), John Bailey (Stocksbridge PS), John Brady (TTL Doncaster), Cein Edwards (Westfield PC), Brian Cooper (Wetherby & D CC), Peter Thompson* (New Earswick CC). * = Life Vice-President

1. Apologies for Absence

Howard Tate (Executive), David Ireland (Kirkbymoorside & D CC), Andrew Ripley (Ilkley CC), Dave Robson (F4 PG), Chris Ward (Howden CC), Alan Robson (LVP), Graham & Sue Neal (LVP), Pat Reed (LVP).

2. Minutes of the meeting on November 7th, 2020

The meetings were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Bill Johnson (LVP & Normanton CC) and seconded by Ian Palmer (Brooklands PS).

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Meeting Notice

Dave Burgess informed the meeting with the sad news that Ken Fumage had passed away the previous evening. Ken Fumage had been a popular Lecturer and Judge with many years of service for the YPU.

5. Correspondence

Stephen Dean informed the meeting that he had received news from Graham Neal who was making excellent progress with recent health issues and had even been involved in some on-line judging with old photography friends in Western Australia.

The meeting was informed that two clubs had closed and withdrawn from the YPU they were Skipton CC and YPI CC, however one club had recently sent in an application form to join the YPU.

6. The President

Colin Williams spoke of the great success of the Keighley Day which in November had to be held through the internet, the advantage was that there were twice as many attenders as usual some from distant parts of the country. Ross McKelvey unfortunately had to withdraw at the last minute, but fortunately Sharon Prenton Jones had been able to step in to fill the gap.

The format had provided the YPU Executive with some thoughts on how events might be run in the future.

Staging the YPU Exhibition in 2021 had produced many challenges however the way now seemed clear for the event to take place in Bradford at the National Media Museum.

There had been problems with the printing of the 2020 Exhibition Catalogues which in the end had to be reprinted due to the incorrect paper being used. The new copies had now been distributed to those who requested.

The simplicity of calling a meeting on Zoom had made it an advantage to call YPU Executive meetings at short notice. Colin Williams thanked all the members of the Executive for all the hard work they had put in over the past year in the running of the YPU.

The Exhibition had also reminded Colin Williams of the contribution of Bob Free who had regularly helped out at the judging of the Exhibition also made a great contribution to the judging and lecturing regularly for YPU Clubs, unfortunately he had passed away in November and will be greatly missed.

Many clubs had taken advantage of the Zoom system and invited Lecturers and Judges to 'visit' them from other Federations and even from abroad; for other clubs had preferred to wait things out until the pandemic abated. Colin Williams was sorry to hear that two clubs had decided to disband but was pleased that another club had applied to join the YPU.

The new website was well received by clubs, webmaster Mark Lawrence was keen to receive contributions.

Colin Williams reminded the meeting that using Facebook was certainly not an appropriate way to submit complaints about the YPU and direct contact should be made with the Executive or through the Club Representative meetings. The YPU Executive was always contactable by Email.

The judging process this year was made difficult as people were accessing the competition website at the same time as the judging.

Colin Williams thanked Marilyn Roberts, Alan Stopher, Richard Littlefair and Andrew Pell and members of Bradford Photographic Society for the hard work in planning of the 2021 Exhibition in Bradford.

The background work at the Media Museum had been truly exceptional this year it was a shame that the opening would be delayed but when given the opportunity YPU Club members would be impressed when they were eventually able to visit the Exhibition.

Colin Williams thanked Stephen Dean for his work over the previous eight years on the Executive and keeping minutes, records and providing support.

Presentation

Meghan Tate kindly presented a bottle of Whisky to Stephen Dean as a thank you gift for the years of service on the Executive.

Colin Williams thanked all those who had supported him over the past two years and wished Marilyn Roberts all the best for her new role as President.

7. Treasurer

The YPU Christine Hodgson directed the meeting to the previously circulated balance sheet (see addendum). This year the accounts had been vetted by a representative from the Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union and Christine Hodgson had in turn vetted their accounts.

At the end of 2020 the Current Account contained £5,712.18 and the Premium Account £13,773.75; in 2019 the figures had been Current Account £3,805.40 and Premium Account 13,753.90.

Regarding income and expenditure Chris Hodgson pointed out that clubs now dealt directly with the brokers Darwin Clayton so those amounts would no longer appear on the balance sheet from 2020, but a list would be kept as to which clubs had taken out Public Liability Insurance for the attention of Lecturers and Judges.

The income from the Annual Exhibition entries had gone from £4,576 in 2019 to £5,010.50 in 2020. Although the final cost of the catalogues and postage was much higher in 2020 at £3,715.94 compared to £1,813.07 in 2019 the overall expenditure remained similar £5,178.31 in 2021 and £5,089.97 in 2019.

The Keighley Day was done as a free event in November due to the exceptional circumstances of the Cov-19 outbreak, the YPU did not have to pay for the room hire and catering.

Income and expenditure for the Yorkshire Salon in 2020 was blank as of course it had not taken place.

IT Services covered the arrangement to host the YPU web, the competition web and also a new service agreement with Adrian Lines who had developed the YPU Competition software used for the Annual Exhibition.

Chris Hodgson was pleased to announce that as there was a clear demand for the YPU annual fee to be paid by bank transfer this would now be available for the 2022 payment.

The meeting accepted the accounts for 2020, proposed by Alan Stopher and seconded by Sue Gibson.

8. The YPU Exhibition

8.1 The YPU Exhibition Coordinator

Marilyn Roberts provided background details to the forthcoming Exhibition at the National Media Museum. The Exhibition had undergone its very first planning at Bradford Photographic Society in 2016 when contact was first made with the YPU and then with the Media Museum in 2017.

The Media Museum have dedicated a great deal of commitment and plan to make it first class exhibition and a prominent visitor attraction for the general public. Alongside the Exhibition the Museum would be able to draw on all their unique archive material for display, it is most unfortunate that Covid -19 has struck hampering plans to some extent. Nevertheless, there would be a section for Bradford Photographic Society and a strong representation of the YPU.

The meeting was asked to remember that Pontefract CC had unfortunately missed out on staging the in 2020 due to the Covid 19 outbreak.

Marilyn Roberts thanked the YPU Executive and particularly Alan Stopher, Richard Littlefair and Tom Heggie and Peter Sykes of Bradford PS for their support during the planning of the 2021 Exhibition with the Media Museum staff. For several months meetings every fortnight have taken place with the Museum which shows the considerable amount of background work that has been undertaken.

In 2021 there had to be changes to the judging of the Exhibition as it had to be carried out online and was carried out online with two sets of three judges over two days, this had now been completed.

There had been a major problem on the second day in accessing the software during the judging and the support of Adrian Lines was required. This had been caused by six clubs accessing the data at the same time as the judging, however it had been possible to complete.

The meeting was reminded that the prints from 2020 would be on show at the Media Museum together with the 2021 Projected Images. Further attractions would be a behind the image story, background details from two YPU photographers illustrating their work and the Media Museum would also display items from their collection illustrating the development of the photography.

The Assembly and award announcements would be carried out by the internet the final arrangements including the date in late April were awaiting final confirmation from the Museum, it was hoped that visitors would be allowed in to view the prints in May.

8.2 Digital Projected Image Secretary

Richard Littlefair informed the meeting of the very large entry at 3,168 Projected Images in 2021, there had been an increase in the number of categories as the Record section would now be included again.

The upgraded entry software was popular with clubs and on the whole had worked very well. There were minor glitches; due to the transfer of previous data initials were now not accepted such as 'Richard P Littlefair'. Two more glitches were one club with two members having exactly the same name and there was a problem with an inserted space in the names in some of the club entries.

Richard Littlefair provided details of the recent judging with it being split over two days of with three different judges each day working for eight hours each over the internet. The judges chosen were from across the country were excellent, it was also recorded by the Media Museum team.

There had been a major problem with eight clubs entering the competition software during the judging period as it caused a crash, it was necessary to contact Adrian Lines to get advice. Henceforth, the system would be locked out to clubs during the judging.

The meeting was reminded that a score of 12 or even 13 does not necessarily mean a guaranteed acceptance and the judges always screen the high scoring images at the end of the round. Similarly, a score of 15 does not guarantee a Trophy win and should accepted also as a screening score. Of the 3,168 entries, 479 were accepted an acceptance rate of 12.4%, there were 13 Certificate winners in each category.

A reminder also that the Mobile Phone section should always have the Exif data included in the entry. There were still some entries in inappropriate sections such as colour images in the monochrome which were then disqualified, and also clubs should not enter previously accepted images.

The higher number of acceptances of 479 meant that clubs were advised to show the 2021 Exhibition over two separate evenings. It was hoped that the presentation of the projected images would be available to clubs in the two batches available by mid-August.

The competition portal was now able to show a display of previous year's acceptances from 2020 in the form of a virtual gallery.

Suzanne Lamb (Ripon City PS) informed Richard Littlefair that she had accessed the software at the time he was concerned about, but it was a purely unfortunate coincidence as she was downloading a list of club entrants, Colin Sheader (Focus PG) pointed out the communication issue that the YPU should have asked clubs not to access the software on these particular days.

Richard Littlefair informed that from now on Adrian Lines had amended the software so access for general members would not be available during the judging.

Bill Johnson (LVP & Normanton CC) asked if the very large entry numbers meant the organising and judging of the competition was getting unwieldy.

Richard Littlefair considered that not having a print competition this year had encouraged projected entries, fortunately the updated software had taken eased the workload considerably and he was satisfied that the Judges still had time to come to their best decisions.

Colin Williams had looked at the entries and found few had been putting in their full complement of ten entries so in effect there were more authors than previous. Reducing the maximum entry level from ten may not therefore make a great difference, further analysis was required.

The meeting was grateful that the entry to overall the entry level to the annual exhibition encouraged new photographers, Bill Johnson expressed concern that the YPU Executive didn't over burden themselves in the future.

Richard Chave-Cox (Harrogate PS) questioned whether a much lower entry would give the Judges more time to consider the entries and result in better judging.

Richard Littlefair replied that the Judges chosen were experienced and used to making quick decisions in Salon judging, in his view they had given a fair appraisal of the entries.

John Brady (TTL Doncaster) asked if the entries were still marked out of five by each judge, Richard Littlefair confirmed this was the case with the maximum possible score for an entry being fifteen, but this was of course the screening score.

Richard Littlefair emphasised that the Museum would not have on display all of the projected entries but just the Award and Certificate winners plus a selection of entries from each section.

Steve Womack (Wakefield CC) expressed concern that all clubs would be represented, Richard Littlefair replied that was an item for discussion with the Media Museum in the following week.

Marilyn Roberts reported that a number of screens throughout the venue would be used to show individual parts of the projected image show this would avoid large numbers gathering around a single screen.

The Exhibition catalogue in 2021 will again show at least one accepted image from each entrant this did involve a great deal of work in the preparation.

8.3 Print Secretary

Andrew Pell spoke of the trials of the updated competition software involving several members of the Executive which now seemed to be working well, the Zoom system did cause a slight delay but this was manageable. One glitch had been found where a club entered the abbreviation 'Mr or Mrs' in the image title rather than the actual image title.

Wearing a bow tie similar to Winston S Churchill but without the cigar, Andrew Pell spoke of the 'blood, toil, tears and sweat' and 'never had so much been owed by so many to so few' as describing all the background work that had been undertaken in getting the competition software running so efficiently.

Clubs were reminded to regularly update their details on the competition portal particularly the contact details of club officers as the system would be used for Email notifications.

Steve Scholey (Pontefract CC) asked when taking a look at the software he had noticed a section 'Annual Returns' could this be explained Andrew Pell replied that this was for a facility to pay the annual fee but was not in use at the moment.

Stephen Dean reminded the meeting that all the print entries from March 2020 were still in store at Carleton Community Centre, Pontefract.

Sue Gibson (Huddersfield PIC) asked when the Exhibition results would be posted, Marilyn Roberts replied that the final date for the virtual assembly had yet to be confirmed but would be in April.

Brian Cooper (Wetherby CC) spoke of how much easier it was to enter the annual competition and thanked the team involved.

9. Member of the PAGB

Alan Stopher recounted the problems that had arisen with the running of the PAGB Cup and Trophy which had been scheduled for January in 2021 but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

An alternative date for the PAGB Cup (Projected Images) was planned as March 13th and 14th and entries had now closed.

The website remained open for the PAGB Trophy (Prints) as at the moment it was not possible to finalise a judging date for the physical handling of prints, clubs should refer to the PAGB website.

The entry site for the PAGB Trophy was still open.

Peter Thompson (New Earswick PS & LVP) thought the judging of the PAGB Cup was on March 8th but Alan Stopher thought he was mistaken by that, confirmation was required.

The Masters of Print Competition had to be postponed in 2020, Alan Stopher reported that the event would be carried over and proceed this year with the online entry closing date of 15th April and the closing date for receipt of prints 22nd April. The meeting was reminded this was for unmounted A3 prints submitted with a digital copy; a catalogue would be distributed to all entrants.

The Master of Print Competition for 2021 would be scheduled for December in Birmingham.

The Inter-Federation Championships were all cancelled in 2020 it is likely that only the Projected Image competition will run this year and was provisionally planned for 6th June. The judging would be done remotely; there would be a need to select the YPU entry in the Open and Nature sections.

The arrangements for the PAGB Inter-Club competitions were still in the process of being finalised, the YPU will be represented by the clubs that were selected back in January 2020 as they missed out on the competition last year. The projected competition was likely to be an internet event and not as usual at Warwick University. The YPU Clubs involved would be notified as soon as rules and information was available.

Richard Hall (Sheffield PS) asked what plans had been made for the print competition, Alan Stopher replied that it was hoped to go ahead but final arrangements including the venue were not as yet available.

Suzanne Lamb (Ripon City PS) asked how she would be able to gain a log in code for the PAGB, Alan Stopher advised her to take a look at the request procedure on the PAGB website, all clubs were advised to update their contact details on the PAGB Competition website.

The new PAGB Handbook would be published again as a hard copy in late 2021, however following the questionnaire the PAGB had noted that there was a demand for future publications to be made available online.

Alan Stopher reported that the new procedure of clubs obtaining their own public liability insurance had gone smoothly.

The PAGB had thanked the YPU for supporting their entry to the FIAP 2021 Colour Biennial, three members of YPU clubs had provided four images: Andrea Hargreaves (Pontefract CC), Julie Cowdy (Kirkbymoorside & D CC) and Tim Sawyer (Ilkley CC). The competition would be judged in France on 27th March 2021.

10. Awards and Advancing Photography Secretary

Andrea Hargreaves reported that there were no PAGB Awards for the YPU in 2020 as most events were postponed due to the Covid -19 outbreak.

However quite a number of YPU photographers were involved with FIAP Awards in 2020.

Duncan Hill	(Doncaster CC)	EFIAP Diamond 1
Ray Brammall	(Doncaster CC)	EFIAP Silver
Tim Sawyer	(Ilkley CC)	EFIAP Bronze
Judy Smith	(Sheffield PS)	EFIAP
Brian Trout	(Doncaster CC)	EFIAP
Sue Trout	(Doncaster CC)	EFIAP
Steve Womack	(Wakefield CC)	EFIAP
Peter Wells	(Wakefield CC)	EFIAP
Jane Lazenby	(Wakefield CC)	EFIAP
Michael Carver	(New Image CC)	AFIAP

Regarding 2021, Jane Lazenby (Wakefield CC) had achieved a DPAGB Award for Projected Images. There would be further closed adjudications in April when the YPU would have one candidate at CPAGB and in May 2021 when the YPU would have three candidates at DPAGB.

The meeting was reminded that the YPU mentoring scheme was available for club members.

Further news of recent awards were from Sue Gibson that Huddersfield PIC had entered the FIAP World Cup for the first time achieved 26th place and Sally Sallett reported that Julie Cowdy (Kirkbymoorside D CC) had achieved the ARPS Award recently.

11. YPU Event News

Howard Tate, not in attendance, had passed on the information that the arrangements for the Keighley Event Day for 2021 were on schedule.

12. The YPU Webmaster

Mark Lawrence was pleased to announce that the new designed web site was running smoothly and averaging around 150 visits per day.

A link to the competition portal had now been added together with image galleries.

Mark Lawrence provided a warning to clubs that some search engines were still pointing to the older YPU web site. The YPU site itself now had a search box.

There was now a way of integrating club events and planning for the ten most recent changes to the YPU web made available to YPU clubs for their own web sites as an RSS feed, see ypu.org.uk/feed or the icon on the front page.

Mark Lawrence was happy to answer any future enquiries from clubs about the website.

13. Judge and Lecture List Secretary

Sally Sallett recounted the rather strange year of 2020 and its effects on the Judge and Lecture circuit, she thanked colleagues that had taken part in Zoom events for clubs.

Adrian Lines of the PAGB had provided a splendid service by forming the Zoom register for Lecturers and Judges, it was quite common now for clubs to be entertained by lecturers from other Federations and similarly images judged from afar. The majority of the YPU Lecturers and Judges had contributed to Adrian Lines or similarly arranged Zoom web bookings.

Sally Sallett thanked the recent retirees from the YPU circuit and appealed for new Lecturers and potential Judges to come forward. As mentioned previously the new PAGB Handbook would become available later in 2021.

Andrew Pell asked if an update of the list of lecturers and judges was available this was being worked on and clubs should contact Sally Sallett if they encounter problems.

14. Print Folio Secretary

Andrew Rothery reported a very quiet year because of the Covid-19 virus however, he hoped that by September a folio service would be up and running again.

Andrew Rothery also pointed out he would be looking after the YPU Frames if clubs needed to hire them.

15. The YPU Archive

Dave Burgess told the meeting that around 90% of the Archive was now in store at Carleton Community Centre, Pontefract. There was still some work to do on the storage to get it to 100% when the rooms became available. YPU clubs with suitable material and ideas for the archive were asked to contact Dave Burgess.

16. The Election of Officers 2021

The following were elected to serve by the meeting until 2022.

President	Marilyn Roberts*
President-Elect	Chris Hodgson*
Secretary	Shelley Knight
Treasurer	Chris Hodgson
Past President	Colin Williams
Member of the PAGB	Alan Stopher
Judge & Lecture List Secretary	Sally Sallett
YPU Webmaster	Mark Lawrence
Event Secretary	Howard Tate
Awards & Advancing Photography Secretary	Andrea Hargreaves
Exhibition Coordinator	Marilyn Roberts
Exhibition Projected Image Secretary	Richard Littlefair
Exhibition Print Secretary	Andrew Pell
Archive Officer	Dave Burgess

Folio Officer

Andrew Rothery

Elected to serve for two years*

Marilyn Roberts thanked the meeting for voting her in as President. She thanked Colin Williams for handling a very difficult year so well in his role as President and thanked Stephen Dean for his role of Secretary in the previous years.

Thanks, were also given to Chris Hodgson for being the President-Elect of the YPU and the meeting was asked to look forward to YPU events in the next few years when the situation returns to normal.

17. Visitor fees for YPU Clubs

Marilyn Roberts sought the views of the meeting about fees charged to visitors to a YPU particularly if the visitor was from another YPU Club and the lecturer was listed in the PAGB / YPU Lecture list.

Ideally the visitor would be asked not to pay a visitor fee which was a traditional practice in some YPU clubs as an example Normanton CC's prestige lectures.

David Kershaw (Wakefield CC) spoke of the difficulties such an arrangement would have with his club the high room fees and lecture fees meant that a door fee was extremely essential for the financial viability of a club. It was not fair on their own members if they paid more than visitors, it was not a problem for Zoom meetings when no venue was being used.

Peter Thompson (LVP & New Earswick) had always expected to pay a visitor's fee if that was required by a YPU Club, Cein Edwards (Westfield PC) reported that her club could not afford to invite visitors without them making a contribution.

Richard Chave-Cox (Harrogate PS) told the meeting to beware that some Lecturers using Zoom were not amenable to a broad invitation for many other clubs. Richard Hall (Sheffield PS) reported that in fairness to their own members, visitors would be expected to pay with a well-known speaker.

Ray Brammall (LVP) said he would always contact the club before visiting and was happy to pay any fee required on the door.

Brian Cooper (Wetherby CC) announced that they were offering a lecture by nature photographer Simon Roy in the next month free to YPU club members but there were limited places

Marilyn Roberts described the combined view of the meeting was that the decision of whether or not to charge a visitor fee must be left to each individual YPU club which was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

18. Any other business

David Kershaw (Wakefield CC) announced that while the club was meeting via Zoom his club were offering free places to other clubs, Steve Scholey (Pontefract CC) agreed that Pontefract CC members had enjoyed many evenings over the past year through Wakefield CC.

Ray Brammall (LVP) noticed that this was the first time the YPU Executive had a Lady President, President-Elect and Secretary, he wished them well.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1.05pm.