



The Yorkshire Photographic Union

Meeting of the Club Representatives – November 7th 2020 – through the internet.

Present

YPU Executive

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

Club Representatives

Les Smart & Keith Crowther (Otley CC), Patrick O'Donoghue (Holmfirth CC), Sharon & Tim Sawyer (Ilkley CC), Colin Sheader (Focus PG), David Higgins (Forest of Galtres CC), Robin Smith (Garforth CC), Christopher Ward (Howden CC), Stuart Hartham (Knaresborough CC), Simon Dallimore (Picture This Photography Club), Larry Walker (Pudsey CC), Erica Oram, Richard Hall & John Ferretti (Sheffield PS), Chris Duffy & Neil Fearnside (Bingley CC), Sue & James Gibson (Huddersfield PIC), Ted Clements & Alan Parsons (Leeds PS), John Gerhold & Stephanie Cook (Selby CC), Steve Womack & David Kershaw (Wakefield CC), Julie Cowdy & Harry Kingman (Kirkbymoorside & D CC), Mike Woodcock (Aireborough CC), Gill Batson (Dearne Valley CC), Frank Lodge (Dewsbury PG), Andrew Hersom (F4 PG & YPI CC), Ian Whitehead (Ossett & D CC), Margaret Smith (Settle PG), Graham Robinson (Whitby PS), Stan Colabella & Steve Scholey (Pontefract CC), Ann & Neil Bland (Silsden PG), William Van Herp (Barnsley PS), Peter Sykes (Bradford PS), Shelley Knight (Doncaster CC), Bill Johnson (LVP & Normanton CC), Wendy North (Penistone CC), Frank Roberts (Positive Image CC), Christine Carr (Wensleydale CC), Derek Lang (York CC), Max Malisan (Hebden Bridge CC), Derek Knight (Wolds PS).

1. Apologies for Absence

David Ireland (Kirkbymoorside & D CC), John Ellis (Pontefract CC), Andrew Ripley (Ilkley CC), Alan Robson (LVP), Sue and Graham Neal (LVP), Pat Reed (LVP), Vince Cunningham (Holmfirth CC), Chris Hartley & Peter Farthing (New Image PS), Mike Barnard (Focus PG), Neil Radcliffe (Normanton CC), Peter Thompson (New Earswick PS), John Bailey (Stocksbridge PS), Andrew Chandler (Viewfinder PS)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Feb 29th, 2020 were approved proposed by Colin Sheader (Focus PG) and seconded by Alan Stopher.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence

Stephen Dean reported that he had been in contact with Life Vice-Presidents, Sue and Graham Neal, Graham had been poorly recently but was now back at home from a spell in hospital and making good progress.

The Club Activity Survey

Stephen Dean outlined the YPU Club activity survey during the Covid 19 outbreak sent out in September, at the time of the survey's design it was thought there would be more choices available to clubs. At the moment there were only two choices available to clubs either to meet using the internet using Zoom or to forgo meetings. From the returns it appeared that at least 40 clubs were now meeting through the internet, eight clubs had reported that they had not tried it.

Stephen Dean pointed out that it was worth trying it was fairly straightforward and had the advantage that it was keeping members in contact, although perhaps in some cases with a reduced attendance.

Some clubs had joined together to share meetings and lectures on an informal basis, for example Wakefield and Pontefract were sharing some meetings.

Several Clubs expressed concern about the long-term viability of their usual premises particularly if they met in a local social club.

Club Representatives provided an update of their current situation.

Ian Palmer of Brooklands PS reported that the club had been using Zoom with success and even holding an international competition with Raleigh of North Carolina and even had a speaker from far away Tbilisi, Georgia. Colin Sheader of Focus PG and Alan Parsons of Leeds PS both clubs had now planned Zoom meetings for the considerable future.

Neil Fearnside of Bingley CC was keen to point out that the club committee had put in a great deal of effort using Zoom but the membership numbers had now increased to 75, there had been a mixture of lectures and photoshop nights.

Mike Woodcock told the meeting that Aireborough CC were holding general meetings using Zoom and also used Snapchat for informal and social one to one links.

Graham Robinson spoke that Whitby CC were not meeting by Zoom and but had now managed to hold their first competition using You Tube, they hoped to try Zoom in the near future.

Peter Sykes (Bradford PS) suggested at his club money saved on room rental could be put towards the Zoom fee also Wendy North (Penistone CC) suggested that the 40minute free time could be used as a trial.

Sue Gibson (Huddersfield PIC) suggested opening the meeting a half hour earlier was useful as members were able to meet socially.

Christine Carr of Wensleydale CC asked as they were only a small club of twelve members would anyone be able to help them out with a trial Zoom link, David Kershaw of Wakefield CC agreed to do so with an invitation to their Monday night meetings.

Colin Williams encouraged clubs to keep in contact using the internet as the situation was likely to carry on for some considerable time.

5. The YPU President

Colin Williams told the meeting that the Covid-19 outbreak had brought changes to club and also his own personal activity as he was now working from home.

The YPU Executive had taken the significant decision that it had to cancel the postponed Annual Exhibition and Assembly which had been pencilled in for October because of the Covid 19 outbreak.

Plans would be detailed later in the meeting for the 2021 Exhibition.

Clubs had been notified with information concerning the Lecturers and Judges who were willing to partake in the Zoom system, clubs were asked to make contact with the Executive if they needed more details.

The number and style of photographs taken was most likely have enforced changes perhaps with still-life setups at home becoming more common, but as mentioned previously there were opportunities to arrange lecturers from a distance.

The outbreak had changed the way clubs operate and the YPU Executive were concerned that clubs may report a loss of members once physical meetings resume.

As noted at previous meetings a reduction in the numbers of Prints at clubs was of concern across the PAGB Federations unfortunately the current situation was of course not helping this.

6. The Treasurer

The YPU Treasurer Chris Hodgson informed the meeting there was £8951.66 in the current account with expected expenses of around £2000 to come out by the year end, this included IT services, Executive expenses and 2020 Exhibition Catalogue production and distribution.

The Premium Account had in £13,773.40; the meeting was no doubt aware that the interest rate was very low at the moment.

The YPU would receive back from Wakefield Council the deposit £250 for the booking of Pontefract Town Hall.

The YPU Executive had taken the decision to make a flat rate retention fee for 2021 of £5 for each club it was hoped this would be helpful to all clubs; payment of fees had already started to come in.

7. The YPU Exhibitions 2020 and 2021

7.1 The YPU Exhibition Coordinator

Marilyn Roberts regretted that she had to inform the meeting that the 2020 Exhibition had to be cancelled in Pontefract.

The Exhibition Prints from 2020 were still in storage and available to the YPU, under the present circumstances the best way forward was to display them at the National Media Museum in Bradford in the spring of 2021.

The Projected Images from 2020 were now available for clubs to access for an evening as a download.

The Award winners would still have the Trophies engraved and would receive the newly commissioned YPU Exhibition Winners Medal, which they were able to keep permanently. These would arrive through the post as would the Certificates and requested 2020 Exhibition Catalogues.

The Annual Exhibition in 2021 would be for Projected Images only no print entry, next year the 2020 Prints would be on display. The Media Museum wishes to make the Exhibition a major event and an attraction for the general public. They were keen to involve extra items from their national archive collection to display alongside the Exhibition such as antique cameras showing how photography had changed over the years.

The Museum were able to provide a 'Covid' safe environment for visitors by extending the Gallery space.

At this stage it was not certain if the YPU Assembly would go ahead but would if possible, the Pictureville Theatre is booked for the YPU on the opening day April 17th.

Regarding the judging of the 2021 entry, a safe environment would be provided at the Museum for the three judges, Richard Littlefair of the YPU and a number of observers from the Museum.

Reserve contingencies for the judging would have to be planned in case it was not be possible at the Media Museum.

The meeting asked if the prints from 2020 could be put together in a PDI show, Richard Littlefair suggested that all images both projected and print were available for the last five years on the YPU portal.

Richard Littlefair told clubs when using the YPU portal that 'Google Chrome' browser was recommended as the software did not like 'Firefox'.

Richard Hall (Sheffield PS) also suggested using Apple's Safari which had worked fine.

7.2 The YPU Projected Digital Image Secretary

Richard Littlefair announced that the 2021 Exhibition commencing on April 17th would be for projected images only.

The Exhibition entry site was now open for all entries and would close on Sunday February 14th, 2021.

The size of the images was unchanged at 1600 x 1200, the meeting was asked to note that the updated software would not allow images to be posted if they are greater or equal to 2Mb, entrants should aim for 1.9Mb.

Entrants were asked to check titling of entries as spelling errors were still causing a problem, as was syntax such as a comma or space in the wrong place.

The categories in 2021 would be the same as the previous year except that the Record section would be reintroduced making eleven categories. Entrants to the Mobile Phone category were asked to make sure they included the metadata. Entrants would again have a maximum entry of ten images; the judging was planned to be done at the Media Museum.

Richard Littlefair was looking forward to seeing how the Media Museum with their professional expertise would present the images as in 2021 they would take responsibility for the audio-visual show. Club Representatives were strongly recommended to take a look at the new style YPU portal.

7.3 The YPU Print Secretary

Andrew Pell reported that the new YPU competition portal ypuportal.org.uk was ideal for clubs as it now contained the full results and slideshows individual club entries of previous competitions from 2016.

Club members were asked to respect the copyright of other entrants when viewing entrants.

A valid Email address must now be used for all entrants as their own individual reference point and should be kept up to date, false addresses were no longer valid.

Clubs were also advised to update fully the details of their club committee officials on the YPU competition portal.

A documents page was available for all clubs such as the guide for using the portal and club directory, a calendar for YPU events was available, this was not suitable for Club only events.

The new system would allow for uploading of the images as drag and drop, it was much easier to delete an entry after an error and to print out the results. It was also straightforward to view previous year's entry if required.

The club passwords have not been changed.

The meeting was asked to note well that it was not possible at all to enter late entries once the deadline has been passed

New contact Email addresses for the Print Secretary and Projected Digital Image Secretary were now shown and should be used.

Richard Hall (Sheffield PS) asked if Judges and Lecturers could edit their own entries, he was advised that this facility had not been used at the moment and they should enter their own details.

Ted Clements (Leeds PS) asked about the process of paying the entry fee.

Clubs paying by direct transfer were advised that this must be done by getting in direct contact with YPU

Treasurer Chris Hodgson to make an arrangement, otherwise the payment should be made by cheque the Club Treasurer ensuring that the number of entries and club name are included.

Steve Womack (Wakefield CC) asked if the payment details could be included in the rules for 2021.

8. The PAGB Report

Member of the PAGB Alan Stopher initially reported that the PAGB Masters of Print Competition for 2021 had been cancelled, however as the meeting progressed Howard Tate received an Email update that it was after all hoped that the competition would go ahead.

Alan Stopher outlined plans for the GB Trophy (Print) and GB Cup (Projected Image) which it was hoped would still go ahead in January 2021, entry for both was now open.

The Small Clubs section had now been removed, print entries would be free of cost, this year limited to maximum A4 size only, projected image entries would have a fee attached.

In the recent past there had much debate about the PAGB Nature definition amongst club members; he was pleased to announce that the contentious 'montage' reference had now been removed completely for Nature competitions.

In 2020 all of the Inter-Federation Competitions were cancelled, and it would seem likely that the 2021 would be only for Projected Images if that turned out to be the case then 2022 would be Print only.

The PAGB Handbook was due for a replacement in late 2021, there had been much discussion on how to proceed. The PAGB had decided to hold off printing the new Handbook and seek the views of Clubs on the Handbook through their own Federation.

There were three main topics to consider the final two of relevance to clubs:

- a) Were Federation Judges and Lecturers willing to take part in live internet meetings? Sally Sallett had already started some work on this question.
- b) Should the Handbook be a fully digital interactive copy which can be easily update be available online? (There would still be a printed copy available.)
- c) Should Lecturers who ask for a fee be included?

Clubs were asked to send in their views to Sally Sallett by December 31st 2020.

Alan Stopher recommended that clubs continue to purchase the Public Liability Insurance through Darwin Clayton and they would be entitled to a discount providing they renewed their YPU membership for 2021.

Bill Johnson (LVP & Normanton CC) asked if the PAGB Trophy was for unmounted prints, Alan Stopher confirmed it was.

9. Judge and Lecture List Secretary

Sally Sallett spoke of the opportunities to be involved now that the internet was playing such a major role so providing an interesting time for judges and lecturers. The recent questionnaire revealed that many YPU Judges and Lecturers were involved with the Zoom system and helping clubs out and not only in the YPU Federation.

The UK Zoom Photography Register web site run by Adrian Lines was recommended as a rich source to gain Judges and Lecturers for a club programme also recommended was the UK Club Photography Facebook page. Sally Sallett asked for Judges and Lecturers to contact her if they are prepared to use Zoom if they have not done so already.

10. Keighley Event Day

Howard Tate provided details of the forthcoming Keighley Event Day to be held on November 14th.

Two photographers from Northern Ireland were to present Ross McKelvey and Bob Given, there would be two presentations from each throughout the day. The start time was to be 10.15am with a break for lunch, the programme was to be distributed very shortly to those who had registered.

11. Advancing Photography

Andrea Hargreaves reported that the PAGB Awards planned for November at Smethwick had been cancelled. The Awards planned for May could possibly be held online, feasibility trials were taking place. The PAGB were planning a closed adjudication in January to help move the Award scheme along.

The meeting was reminded of the advantages of choosing the YPU Mentoring system if club members were considering a PAGB Award also letting Andrea Hargreaves know if Awards were achieved outside the PAGB remit.

12. YPU Webmaster

Colin Williams welcomed Mark Lawrence as the new YPU Webmaster, Mark was then able to demonstrate the new style YPU web site he had produced asking the meeting to note the following points.

- The new YPU Logo was now present.
- The front page was now dedicated to club and YPU news about events.
- A calendar was not about events but contained dates of postings to the site.
- Club events were also available as a menu item, it was possible to comment on club events to which positive comments were encouraged.
- A club finder with map was now available for the general public and thus attracting potential members through Google search.
- A contact us form is now available.
- The Executive are listed plus contact Emails.
- A page about founder Alexander Keighley and the Event Day.
- Distinction and Award information including details of the mentoring scheme are available.
- General search facilities are available.
- PAGB and FIAP information is available.
- A page would be dedicated to the YPU Competitions, the rules for 2021 would be put on as soon as available. At the moment this also contained images from the YPU portal.
- There will be a link to the YPU Facebook page and YPU portal.
- There is a downloads section for reference documents.

Mark Lawrence told the meeting he would welcome any information from clubs to go on to the website.

Andrew Pell reminded the meeting that access to the competition portal was only available to password holders on the club committee.

Max Malisan (Hebden Bridge CC) asked if it was possible to pause slideshows, Mark Lawrence confirmed that it was not possible to do but he hoped it would be in the future to have the galleries controlled by the viewer.

Mark Lawrence confirmed he was able to provide a link to a club's Facebook page if desired, clubs were advised to check their entry on the YPU web directory.

Colin Williams thanked Mark Lawrence for his work on the excellent website and asked clubs to contact him with any suitable information for publication.

13. The YPU Folio Secretary

Andrew Rothery reported that the Covid 19 outbreak in 2020 had meant that the number of bookings of the YPU print folio for 2020 – 21 had been nil as clubs were not meeting physically.

14. Archive

Colin Williams told the meeting that the YPU Archive had now been transferred from the stewardship of Ray Brammall to storage at Carleton Community Centre, Pontefract.

Colin Williams spoke of the diligent work and care that Ray Brammall had taken with the Archive for many years, the YPU Executive thanked him gratefully for all his hard work.

Dave Burgess also thanked Ray Brammall and pointed out that he had also produced a full record of all the items both as a hard copy and a digital copy. There were still a small number of items that were in the possession of Dave Burgess, Andrew Pell and Alan Stopher however the storage at Carleton was now completely filled.

Marilyn Roberts asked for a copy of the Archive list she could pass on to the Media Museum who may find it useful.

Bill Johnson (Normanton CC and LVP) spoke of two prints he had loaned to Keith Adamson and then not returned for the Centenary book, unfortunately these had not been located.

15. Club Events

The following club events were announced:

Ted Clements of Leeds PS promoted the Zoom lecture on 5th December 2020 by Joe Cornish, details and ticket information was available on the club website.

Harry Kingman of Kirkbymoorside & D CC their club online Exhibition which went up in October was extended and still available for viewing.

Neil Fernside of Bingley CC reported that the club had done a photographic project on the town of Keighley, 'Keighley in focus' and that was now available on the club website.

Any other business

Colin Williams asked club members to consider a position on the Executive at the next Annual General Meeting as one member YPU Secretary, Stephen Dean, was to step down.

Howard Tate clarified that even though it may not be able to stage a 'Masters of Print Exhibition' physically by the PAGB it was still intended to produce a catalogue and a slideshow of the print images.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.40pm.