



ANNUAL REVIEW 2020/21

Overview

- ❖ Impact of Covid-19 pandemic
- ❖ Meetings at Southdown club replaced with video conferencing via Zoom
- ❖ Good attendance at virtual meetings
- ❖ Speakers and judges from across the UK
- ❖ Flexible programme
- ❖ Weekly fees suspended
- ❖ Print competitions replaced with PDI's
- ❖ First Kent inter-club competition held via Zoom
- ❖ Membership numbers sustained
- ❖ Financial position stable
- ❖ New policies developed and constitution revised
- ❖ Regular updates and information from the Chairman
- ❖ Monthly news releases issued
- ❖ Annual exhibition planned for June 2021

Review

The pandemic meant that the club stopped holding meetings part way through 2020. Virtual meetings were instigated for the season beginning in September 2020. Print competitions scheduled for the first quarter were deferred and PDI's brought forward, the intention being to return to normal meetings at the club from January 2021. This subsequently proved impossible, so the virtual meetings continued, and all print competitions were substituted with thematic PDI competitions instead.

Members responded positively to the virtual meetings with usual attendances of 23-27.

Competition entries held up well, with a high of 96 entries for "Yellow" on 1 March 2021. Judges were engaged from across the UK, and they have all provided a useful critique and advice to help us improve and develop different styles and approaches to photography.

We have enjoyed varied talks on topics ranging from Eagle Hunters through Landscapes to Wedding photography, with some excellent and inspirational images.

Our thanks to John S for adapting the programme, finding judges and speakers new to the club. Many thanks also to Nikki for managing some of the challenges thrown up by the technology and for keeping the website up to date.

We were pleased to join eight other clubs from Kent in the lockdown challenge, where we came a creditable fourth; many thanks to the Selection Committee for putting forward our entries.

We have been pleased to welcome several new members to the club this season and we look forward to meeting them in person at the start of the next season.

The club's financial position is sound; a summary of the accounts is attached. Thanks to John D for taking over the Treasurer's role and setting up the bank account, making it easier to manage the club's finances.

Your committee met virtually on 24 November 2020, 21 December 2020, 24 February 2021 and 19 May 2021. These meetings enable us to maintain an overview of the club's financial position, membership numbers, changes to the programme, updates from the Nature Group, external relations and to agree actions for the next few months. This year we have taken the opportunity to review the Safeguarding Policy and to completely revise the Data Protection Policy, in line with guidance from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). The opportunity has also been taken to update the Constitution taking into account the changes to our financial arrangements, data protection and need to provide greater flexibility in the future (for example, the right to use video conferencing or other means of holding virtual meetings).

Monthly news releases have been sent to the local media and *Photography News*, with a selection of members' images for publication. Most have been published either on-line or in print. The news releases are also placed on our website.

The Kent County Photographic Association (KCPA) has been largely inactive this year and agreed to waive their membership fees. We have yet to hear about their future plans.

Under the Chairman's leadership this year, members have been encouraged to participate in set challenges and to talk about their interests in photography. Members have welcomed the opportunity say a little about their "winning" images (those placed in the "top 3" in competitions). Laura has been unstinting in her activities for the club, promoting us through social media as well as sending us regular reminders and items of interest. Our grateful thanks to Laura for all her hard work – as well as congratulations on being awarded all those first places and the Mick Talbot Trophy!

Finally, thanks to you, our members, for your support and involvement during this unusual year and we look forward to seeing you on the "out and abouts" this summer as well as welcoming you back to the clubhouse in September.

Rod Giddins

Secretary

(On behalf of your committee).

8 June 2021

