



Lincolnshire Photographic Association

Delegates Meeting.

Friday 11 February 2022. 6.30 for 6.45 pm.

Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Clubs present

Axholme, Dunholme, Louth, Spalding, Lincoln, Pinchbeck, Sleaford, NELPS, Deepings, Scunthorpe, Cleethorpes, Barton, RBCC.

Apologies for absence, Clubs only.

None

1. Minutes of previous meeting (already circulated and on the website).

Accepted - Proposed by J. Malinowski. Seconded by T. Taylor

2. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered in the agenda.

None

3. President's report. Ron Abbott

Back in November, we were concerned about how clubs were delivering their meetings. Most were using Zoom only, a few holding hybrid meetings, some members at the venue and some joining in from home, and some meeting in person only. If we can really say that we can cope with Covid, more face-to-face meetings should be possible this year.

We still have twenty active clubs. And we have a team of people keeping the LPA going.

At the 2019 A.G.M., we were unable to appoint a secretary. Bob Fish and Steve Percival stepped up to take the minutes of meetings and to send information round to clubs as a temporary measure. Steve Haw intended to stand down at that meeting, but no replacement as Treasurer could be found. At the Delegates meeting of February 2020, Steve Percival supplied the Secretary's report and Steve Haw the Treasurer's. Then came lockdown.

After a period of inactivity, the LPA became active again. By default, the President was given the task of coordinating the come-back.

The President's role is the only one with a set term. Two years as Vice, two as President, and two as Past President. The duties of the President when I did the job from 2012 to 2014 were to attend at Nettleham to chair delegates' meetings, and to entertain and introduce judges and speakers – with the added bonus of paying for my Sunday lunch, as well as the entry fee for the meeting, and buying at least two sets of raffle tickets!

Thus, as President and Secretary, most communications came to me. I'd like to thank all those people who helped me over this period, especially those who wished to stand down but agreed for the sake of the LPA to stay on for one more year and then one more year after that.

We've been supported by those who created and managed the new website, and by a new job caused by the pandemic – Zoom Host.

Also, thanks to Jorj Malinowski as Judges & Lecturers and N&EMPF, Mike Bennett for his work on the website, Paul Bilbrough seeing to the end of the old website and setting up and postponing the Print Battles, Brian Gromett with the AV group providing both tuition and entertainment, Mike Martindale and the Monochrome Group, Dave Weaver as Zoom Host for the delegates meetings and Grahame Dunkin for the PDI competitions.

At this year's AGM when Jorj takes over as president we shall need new faces at the LPA. Our greatest need is for a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Vice President.

The Vice President shadows the President for two years before taking over. What the Treasurer does will become apparent from this meeting. And the Secretary?

At the moment there are four Secretarial posts -Directory which I've been doing since 2015, information, minutes and everything else. So, what's the job description? Create the agenda for Delegates' Meetings and produce the minutes. Keep a check on the calendar and nudge people, if necessary, keep lists of clubs, judges and lecturers up to date. And deal with correspondence. That means forwarding emails to one of the other officers, a competition organiser, or the appropriate club. Or, if the answer is known, simply replying to the sender.

With the aid of the Horncastle donation, the LPA is in a position to help its member clubs more than ever before. It is up to the clubs to find members who are prepared to support the LPA by taking on some of the work necessary to keep it running efficiently. Often attendance at Delegates' Meetings involves only two-thirds of the 20 clubs, even now when attendance in person is not required. We need more people to be involved if we are to succeed.

4. Secretaries' reports. Ron Abbott, Steve Percival, Bob Fish

Steve P. reported that everything was progressing well.

Bob F. supported the comments made by Ron A. that a secretary would bring greater cohesion.

5. Treasurer's report. Steve Haw

Steve H. reported on the Association's finances.

Money at bank £14,582.35. Cash in hand £481.73 (total funds £15,064.08)

To date, nothing has been paid out.

6. Directory Secretary. Ron Abbott

New Judges & Lecturers with three-fold division: on Zoom only, in person only, and both. Fewer names on the lists since some did not reply: they can be reinstated if they wish. 13 both Zoom and in-person; 10 in person only, and 2 on Zoom only. Club directory updates are underway: emails were sent on the 6th of this month; over half of the clubs have so far sent updates.

7. Judges & Lecturers Secretary. Jorj Malinowski

Jorj M. reported at length about changes for judges. There would be 3 categories of judge – Provisional, Accredited and 'Super'. At each level, there would be far more structure in the system – mentorship, mock judging, live evaluations, development sessions and feedback forms.

Delegates commented on the proposals. Some felt the requirements might dissuade club members from making the decision to become a judge.

Noted that N&EMPF judges judging an LPA competition should request a feedback form be completed.

8. Webmaster Mike Bennett, Paul Bilbrough

Apart from a slight hiccup over the web address that was cleared up within a few minutes, everything is running well. Bill for this year's hosting is paid. The new judges/lecturers lists and latest results are now on the website. Paul B. has set up a 6 month's reminder.

The 'old' website is now defunct.

9. N&EMPF Jorj Malinowski

Jorj M. read out his 'View from the LPA' that summarised the responses as to how N&EMPF functions.

Main points included: – LPA has 20 clubs of which 15 are affiliated to N&EMPF. It is an autonomous organisation, holding its own events, interest groups, workshops, competitions and has its own pool of judges and lecturers. It does not have direct access to the PAGB. LPA clubs wishing to access PAGB services need to affiliate to N&EMPF.

The LPA recognises that N&EMPF fulfils its Constitution objectives. The services provided are good. However, for LPA the problem is one of geography. Return journeys from Barton, Skegness and Scunthorpe to Nottingham are 175, 162 and 140 miles respectively. Faced with a five hour round trip in the dark and potentially bad weather conditions, it is not surprising that events have been attended by very few Lincolnshire club members. The setting up of the N&EMPF Newsletter and an improved website have helped – leading to a large number of Lincolnshire club members engaging with the Memorial Lecture for the first time. This is largely due to Zoom and many clubs, hesitant at first, have embraced the technology. The fact that more LPA members have accessed N&EMPF events via Zoom shows there is interest in their N&EMPF events.

One complaint raised by LPA clubs is that although not intentional N&EMPF competitions favour a small number of elite clubs. This often means that clubs with a small number of members with high expertise are excluded from taking part simply because it is impossible for them to supply the required number of high-quality images needed.

The majority of Lincolnshire clubs are based on membership that pursues photography as a hobby. Competitions are a platform to get all members' images seen. The fear is that some clubs tend to develop cliques and members not included in those cliques eventually drift off. Equally, clubs with members of higher ability find they drift off and join 'prestigious' clubs.

The LPA recognise that competition is essential to maintain high standards of work, but everyone needs encouragement and assistance. Many club members can't afford expensive equipment and the hire of studios or workshops and this puts them off entering exhibitions. The N&EMPF exhibition often focuses on the 'fashion' which is dependent on a judges' preferences leaving an exhibition that is uniform in content.

Regarding the N&EMPF exhibition the question arises as to who is the intended audience. Is it for the public to see the work of N&EMPF, member clubs or just for friends and family of the authors represented? The venue for the exhibition should be one that enjoys a large footfall by the public. Currently the two venues are the Art Gallery in Mansfield and Patchings Art Centre. Mansfield is reasonably accessible, Patchings, however, is in a rural location, not easy to get to, leaving the venue far from satisfactory.

With many clubs struggling with their meeting accommodation, losing members and being perceived as an 'older' person's hobby there is a need to attract a younger membership is vital. N&EMPF needs to embrace a new breed of photographers by providing for those intent on using mobile phones.

The outlook for the links between the LPA and N&EMPF is uncertain in the long term especially if the geographical problems are not addressed.

There have been several discussions at LPA meetings about breaking away from N&EMPF to form a separate region. Despite the current uncertainty, with some clubs struggling owing

to dwindling membership the possibility remains that the LPA could break away to become a separate entity under the PAGB.

The reply from N&EMPF stated that the points raised had been considered, There was an acceptance that geography was an issue and there was a need to organize events on a rotational basis. The allegation that N&EMPF was an elitist organization was rejected. Equally, if larger clubs do dominate then it was within the bounds of possibility that this would change over time as other clubs came to the fore.

N&EMPF's response concluded by thanking Jorj for bringing the issues raised by the LPA to its attention.

In light of the response, Colin L. proposed setting up a feasibility study into the possibility of the LPA forming its own association under the PAGB as the only benefits of N&EMPF were access to accreditation and group insurance (now no longer available). Mike M. seconded the proposal to which all delegates agreed.

Colin L. and Jorg M. agreed to undertake this task.

10. AV Group. Brian Gromett

Attendances remain good with a couple of meetings a week – Mondays and Fridays. Meetings are 'fairly' general and, as usual, an invitation to all remains.

11. Monochrome Group. Mike Martindale

The programme is completed. Group continues to meet at Nettleham.

Group has its own Facebook page – 'Lincolnshire Mono Group'. Contact is Mike Martindale.

12. Print Battles 2022. Paul Bilbrough

With 15 home rounds confirmed Paul B reported he had only received notification of 4 judges.

The discussion focused on whether the Battles would remain viable this year. Brian G. mentioned the amount of driving required and questioned whether it would be better to wait one more year before committing to a full programme. Others agreed and there was some hesitancy about meeting together. However, a majority of delegates came out in favour of continuing with the Battles this year.

13. Individual PDI. Ron Abbott, Jorj Malinowski, Grahame Dunkin

Huge response 156 images in the Open and 65 in the Creative. Monumental job for the judge. Recording made: 8 clubs have so far downloaded the 4 and a half hours of the competition to use at their meetings.

14. Future competitions and events.

On the LPA website on the Organisers' page, the following competitions and events are listed. Ron A. informed delegates of the need to produce a programme of events for this year.

Before the interruption, this was the order of events

Individual PDI – January

AV competition – February

Portfolio – February but no opportunity to collect

Day of Photography – March, though we haven't had a Day of Photography organiser for some time.

Fosters Colour challenge – April. Ron A. agreed to continue to organise the Fosters Colour Challenge as a PDI and as a print competition if able.

Print Battles – May, June, July

Interclub PDI – early November

POTY – late November

At the moment the competition organisers are Alan Tyrer, Paul Bilbrough, Jorj Malinowski, Steve Haw, Mike Martindale and Ron Abbott.

A checklist on the website spells out the duties of competition organisers.

15. Horncastle & District Photographic Society donation.

Update from Ron A. To date, we have received bids from 12 clubs. Steve, Jorj and I have looked through them and in some cases have asked for further clarification to support the bid. The bids are split between financial support to keep the club going and equipment to better deliver the club's programme to its members. We've discussed how to get the money to clubs and have found there's no single way of doing it. For equipment, paying for the items out of club funds and sending the Treasurer the invoice so he can reimburse the club seems the easiest way. But some clubs might not have that amount of money at their disposal. So, this is the method I propose.

If the meeting agrees, Ron will contact each club that has put in a bid and let them know how much money we are prepared to donate from the Association. The club treasurer should then get in touch with Steve to agree on the best way of making the payment.

Members agreed to this as being the best course of action.

We will need the details of how the money is spent, not only for the LPA accounts but also because I will inform the former H&DPS Trustees and members how their money has helped clubs within the LPA.

This first distribution accounts for roughly £6,000 of the £12,000 in the fund. Clubs have applied for differing amounts, and some clubs have yet to put in a bid. I would like to keep the £600 per club cap on bids until all clubs have had a chance to make a claim.

Jorj M. mentioned purchasing display frames but suggested purchasing enough new ones might prove too expensive for something with limited use. He agreed to look into the cost of renewing and altering the existing ones.

We have already decided not to charge clubs a subscription fee this year

16. Any other business at the discretion of the President.

None registered

17. Date(s) for next meeting(s).

AGM – Zoom 20 May 2022