

Photographic Group Chairman Report to 2018 AGM

Firstly can I thank all who have willingly helped and given up their time during the past year to keep Photographic Group on track and to ensure that our Meets programme continues to be a great success. In particular my sincere appreciation to my fellow Council members and unelected officers, to The Club HQ staff and to you the members who have offered support and advice when needed. Due to health concerns Mick and Sandra Harding, our relatively new and very hard working, Regalia Officers have found it necessary to resign from Council. On behalf of the Section I thank them for the excellent work that they have done during their involvement.

When I took on this role at the 2017 AGM it was in recognition that changes needed to be made and best attempts initiated to ensure the on-going future of the Section. I outlined in a presentation to those attending the Exhibition Meet last year an analysis of the current situation and the challenges facing PG in respect to future sustainability. I am encouraged by the response and offers of help thus far but there remains much to be done. We are effectively one of the largest camera clubs within the UK having over 1000 individual members. The sustainability challenge is reflected in the age profile of members attending our Meets programme. We are not alone within The Club in facing this challenge. In practice it is the Meets attendees from whom we engage our existing and future volunteers for day to day management of the Section. The current Council remains under resourced with some undertaking multiple roles and vacancies not covered. Aging and health will inevitably result in future unplanned loss within the existing volunteer base. The Section desperately needs new involvement and where possible a younger input. In recognition of this a small sub-committee was set up by the Council to consider and recommend what can be done. For 2018 we seek to (i) publicise the Meet programme earlier and with more detail on activities and photographic content (ii) emphasise the option to attend a Meet for less than 5 days and particularly just for the weekend (iii) use all facility sites when possible (iv) publish the Meet programme a suitable period in advance of the start date (v) include beginner/workshop sessions at each Meet (vi) introduce a new Young Person photograph class based on images taken at or during Meets (vii) encouraging members to book for Meets so that we can better plan for each one. All of these have been progressed but will inevitably need fine tuning as the season progresses. To enable improved publication and member communication the website has been improved, a closed Facebook page launched and regular email updates will continue.

Topics still to be addressed include: display stand transportation cost, lighter display stands and a dedicated PG print display stand and lights. Research is underway regarding projector and laptop upgrade.

As an update on the 2017 AGM Members Forum topics raised last year:

Missing print display stands: Some components have been found and with some assistance from Sites Co-ordinator one has been restored to a serviceable condition with a new LED lamp fitted. The arrangement is less than ideal and a new reliable stand that can conveniently be transported needs to be sourced.

Photocamper distribution: The current printer is providing a cost effective fulfilment service at competitive cost. Arrangements may change as a consequence of GDPR.

Festival organisation: At time of writing the suggestion to share responsibilities has been adopted with volunteers pencilled in. We may well need to mirror this approach with the 2019 Exhibition Meet as at present there are no new volunteers as yet to take over from Sue and Dave Tawn as Exhibition Secretaries.

Out and About (magazine): Still on a learning curve with the magazine entries and there have been a number of problems flagged to HQ. Full Meet details have been on the website since 1st January 2018 and are on the Out and About smart phone app.

John Hartill (Chairman)