

Photographic Group: Chairman Report to 2019 AGM

This is my second year as Photographic Group Chairman and I really appreciate the support and help that I have received throughout this period.

Early in the year we set out with a small sub-committee to look into what could be done in attempt to ensure future sustainability of the Group. This has resulted mainly in activity associated with Meets:

1. Making sure that there is always photographic content but balanced with social activities in consideration of members attending as partners but not necessarily involved in photography.
 2. Seeking to improve advance communication of Meet details and plans by posting advance programmes on the website. I am particularly pleased that we achieved communication of the 2019 Meet programme during November 2018.
 3. Encouraging new involvement. Regular email communication and website updates supported by the fuller communication enabled by quarterly issues of Photocamper.
- There is possibly more we could or should be doing and all members' views are welcomed in this respect.

Photographic Group is potentially one of the largest photography clubs within the country. We are privileged with quite a number of highly qualified and experienced members willing to share their knowledge and skills with others. Social camping is a key factor in our existence and I remain puzzled to understand why we never see a greater proportion of members at our Meets. What further needs to be done to engage with them?

In common with many other voluntary organisations and Club units we consistently need to spend time and effort in filling roles and running Meets; at times it seems that the willing few are quite rapidly depleting. Against this background we are extremely fortunate to benefit from involvement of new Secretary, Nicola (accompanied by husband Sam) and Exhibition Secretary Ian. Both joined us and accepted responsibility at an immediate working level - in at the deep end! We really could do with a few more willing to take a similar risk whilst enjoying the satisfaction of keeping operations running successfully.

During the 2018 season we have enjoyed a programme of successful Meets in a range of locations and under conditions of snow, waterlogged fields and unusual extreme temperatures. Photographic Group was successful again in the three way battle at the Festival Meet. There was a nominal increase in entries for a well-supported and administered Exhibition. It's a difficult act to maintain but Alan has diligently set up a wider ranging and interesting programme for 2019 which we look forward to with anticipation and appreciation of his stalwart (sometimes frustrating for him) commitment. Please continue to offer him best possible help and encouragement. Thank you Alan for your continued patience and commitment.

My personal vote of thanks firstly to all of the Council members who patiently tolerate my enthusiasm, persistence and inevitable interference yet keep things running by often stepping in when no other help has been offered. You will see from the financial reports that we remain in a stable and healthy position due predominantly to the diligence and willing involvement of Hon Treasurer, Pat Mitchell. I offer a particular thank you to Pat Perkins for returning to secretarial duties up until the 2018 AGM, providing a period of stability for the Group. We remain indebted to Pat's husband John for storing and organising transportation of the wooden print stands. I offer appreciation to Fred for keeping Photocamper running at a sound/reliable level of content/presentation and arranging on behalf of us all a painless transfer of responsibility to Jenny.

I look forward with interest and anticipation to 2019 with expectation that many more of you will become actively involved in helping to keep things running smoothly.

John Hartill
Chairman

20 February 2019