

Garstang Camera Club AGM Held on 30-04-2025, Garstang Arts Centre

Apologies received from
Mervyn Stokes

- The 2024 AGM Minutes were circulated by email and there were no matters arising.
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - The Treasurer's Report and balance sheet had also been previously circulated by email for members information.
 - Robin gave a thorough explanation of the accounts and the reason for the slight increase in GCC's fees from £58 to £60. This being due to the Arts Centre increase of their fees to the Camera Club.
 - Robin thanked GCC Members for their generosity – supplying biscuits, cakes for the coffee morning & raffle prizes – all these contributions assist in keeping the fees down.
 - Also noted was the increase in Long Service fee to £50 and Student fee and half year fee to £42.
 - There were no questions from the floor about the budget or the accounts.
 - Mike Jenner proposed the acceptance of the accounts, Freda Taylor seconded them. The accounts were accepted unanimously.

GCC Competition Report

- At the 2024 AGM the Club voted to change the competition scoring system, from places to scores for each image.
- As the number of entries had increased, the maximum number of entries per person were reduced from 7 to 9.
- Briefly – Summary of all competitions –
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	2023-2024	2024-2025
PDIs	268	247
Prints	115	64
TOTAL	383	311

- Lewis noted that
 - The club usually had 60 – 70 entries for competitions but for the Events Cup the entries fell from 74 to 44. The question 'Why?' was put to the club.
 - As the year progressed there was a decrease in the number of prints entered. For the Anything Goes competition numbers dropped from 26 to 9.
 - The total number of prints fell from 115 to 64. If members prefer not to produce prints – does this matter?
 - Comments from the Floor –
 - **John M** – Prohibitive factors – cost of prints and mounting
 - Are there too many venues for the Events cup?
 - **Stan P** - suggested the distance of some of the Events Cup venues may be a factor.
 - **Ian T** – Could the diminishing number of entries be just a natural ebb & flow ?
 - **Tim F**– Queried the number of entries from newer members and suggested that they maybe need more support, with an 'educational' supplement on the GCC website.

- We need about 60 prints for an exhibition and if there are only 64 prints there are enough only for one exhibition.
- John Moxham is to give a presentation on printing and will prepare a PP presentation for the GCC website.
- Thoughts on the new scoring system were generally positive.
- A lively discussion ensued about the allocation of points and when the entrant's names should be read out.
 - Eventually it was agreed that for points 18, 19 & 20 the entrant's name should be read out.
 - The Club agreed to keep presenting prints for competition and review the number of entries next year (2026).
 - It was also agreed that it is preferable that prints are mounted, mounts can be re-used.

Chairperson's Report.

- ❖ Membership has risen to 41 members. The increase mainly due to GCC's free course called 'Get Off Auto' which was run during the summer of 2024 from June to the beginning of August.
- ❖ Initially 17 people applied for the course of which 9 / 10 regularly attended.
 - The main topics were
 - How a camera works
 - Long exposure & freezing the action
 - Composition & framing the image
 - Software editing in Lightroom & Photoshop
 - All the camera gear you didn't know you needed
- ❖ These 'theory' sessions were augmented by practical sessions, followed by refreshments, a recap and feedback.
- ❖ GCC are looking to run another free course this summer with a slightly different format
- ❖ We are not holding a stand at Garstang Show this year – the stand was well visited – but it is difficult to know if we did attract any new members. GCC intend to have a stall in 2026.
- ❖ Due to a change of management/co-ordinator we did not have a stand at Oakfield Home, Dimples Lane in 2024.
- ❖ Some club members went out and about in early September photographing participants in the 'En Plein Air' painting competition. From the camera club's point of view it was a success and provided Sue and Adrian with some source material for an excellent AV presentation.
- ❖ Garstang Camera Club had success in 2 out of their 3 Battles this year.
 - We came 3rd in the 4 way Garstang, North Fylde, Poulton & Lytham battle
 - We Won the GLAM battle (Garstang, Lancaster, Arnsdale (Silverdale) & Morecambe)
 - And – we also won the Battle with the New Zealand Club, Rangiora PS – but by only 3 points.
- ❖ For the 2025 Arts Centre Calendar we provided 36 images from which their committee choose the calendar images. For the 2026 calendar the 'boundary' has been widened to include images from the district of Garstang. The 2026 calendar maybe the last.
- ❖ Two print exhibitions were held – September 2024 was of the 1st 2nd 3rd, Highly Commended & Commended prints and recently April 2025 – the prints 'not placed' in competition.
- ❖ In April 2024 GCC ran the Charles Flatt Inter-Club Quiz which the Songbirds won and they ran this year's competition.
- ❖ The Club held 3 coffee mornings throughout the season and we had a successful Christmas Bash. Coming up is our Annual Presentation Evening on May 21st.
- ❖ There were 5 internal competitions – well supported – and it was good to see new members entering images and getting into the awards!

- ❖ GCC have/have had, an excellent, full and varied programme – both live and on Zoom.
Thanks must go to 'our own' members for their superb presentations in no particular order -
 - ✚ Stan
 - ✚ Sue & Adrian
 - ✚ Lewis
 - ✚ Robin
 - ✚ Tim
 - ✚ John M
 - ✚ John G
- ❖ Amongst the Chairperson's favourite (external) speakers – also in no particular order were
 - Justin Garner – Macro workshop
 - Ruth Grindrod – Colour, Texture & Tones
 - Boyd Harris – A Photographic Journey Through History
 - Kas Stone – (On Zoom from Canada) – Making Meaningful Photographs
 - Paul Dunmall – an Excellent interactive evening on an 'Interactive Critic Night'
- ❖ The 2025/26 Programme is ready to be sent to Club Members
 - Including the venues for the Events Cup and the Summer Programme
- ❖ Thanks to Tim for the management and organisation of the GCC website and to Rhona for the updates and organisation of the GCC Facebook page.
- ❖ Mike thanked the committee for their support and invaluable contributions throughout the year - without which the club would not run.

Election of the Committee

- ◆ The committee was elected en bloc – there being no volunteers for any of the posts.
- ◆ Tim Flesher proposed the action which was seconded by Ian Taylor.
- ◆ Therefore your committee members are
 - Chairperson – Mike Jenner
 - Vice – Chairperson Freda Taylor
 - Treasurer – Robin Shorrock
 - Competition Secretary – Lewis Thompson
 - Secretary – Freda Taylor
 - Publicity – Maurice Barker
 - Facebook – Rhona Giles
 - Programme Secretary – VACANT
 - Committee members – Sue, Claire and Elaine.

AOB

- Stan commented that as Treasurer, Robin accounts for every penny of the Club's money – he does an excellent job!
- There is approximately a 40%+ increase in speaker's fees up from £500 to £1000.
 - The Club was asked to consider :-
 - Carry on paying?
 - Club members to participate more?
 - With critiques
 - Challenges
 - Member's evenings
 - The result of this
 - The majority of the meeting voted for continuing 'as is' with speakers.

- There was a very low vote for more members evenings and it was noted that there may be less attendance at members only meetings
- In 2025 – 2026 we have 17 Speakers

➤ **Examination of the Club's Accounts**

◆ After having scrutinised The Garstang Camera Club Accounts, Mr Stanley Pearson signed them off as correct.

➤ Tim Flesher gave a vote of thanks to all the committee members for their work.

The meeting ended at 20.30 with refreshments.