

Chairman's report for the AGM - 12 June 2025

Financial position

The club's finances and on-line banking system have been ably managed by our Treasurer Mike Hall. His report to the AGM indicates a deficit of ~£360 after exceptional capital expenditure of £500 on a new computer and software and after all expenses have been met for the year. I thank him for his excellent stewardship in continuing to manage club funds.

Membership

This year we had 27 paid members excluding our two honorary members. Unfortunately we lost 5 members at the start of the season but happily we recruited 5 additional members during the year. However, membership numbers remain critical for the club's future wellbeing and we are grateful for the work undertaken by our membership secretary, Gwen Ward, in following up new member enquiries keeping numbers stable.

Club programme

My thanks to Angela Karney for her work in arranging all the judges and guest speakers and putting together a varied programme again this year with 35 meetings including the annual exhibition.

We held all 5 rounds of the colour prints, mono prints and PDI competitions plus the Reg Mullard, Chairman's challenge and Best print and PDI competitions as well as participating in a two-way club competition hosted by Ludshott.

Four external speakers Roger Reynolds, Claire Carter, Tony Worobiec and Fred Barrington entertained us with interesting presentations during the season. Three of our members, Dave Brooker, Ron Boon and Pete Baldrey gave talks on: A little bit of everything, Mobile phone photography and apps, and Using Lightroom and Photoshop. We also ran a special evening ("Anything Goes") during which six members, Norman Price, Ron Boon, Ed Hull, Pete Baldrey, Ann Smith and Mike Guy, gave a short talk on a topic of their own choice. My thanks to all members who played an active role and helped make the programme a success.

Publicity

Mike Guy took on the role of publicity officer this year continuing to oversee the club's social media outlets on Facebook and promoting club activities on other local community sites. Thank you Mike for your efforts ensuring club publicity reaches as wide an audience as possible. This is vital work and in turn it helps support the formal club website which is designed as the CCC *de facto* information centre.

External SPA competitions

The club competed in both SPA inter club Prints and PDI competitions in November 2024 and May 2025 respectively and did exceptionally well in the PDI nature section finishing 8th out of 24 clubs – an excellent achievement by a small club such as ours.

My thanks to Miles Thompson for organising the club's qualifying entries and enabling us to compete in these prestigious competitions.

Congratulations to Miles who was awarded 14 marks and a judges medal for his Curlew image in the PDI Nature section.

Also congratulations to Ron Boon whose print "Stillness- South West France" has been selected by the SPA as one of their entries in the PAGB inter federation competition. An honour for Ron and for the club.

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Annual exhibition

The relatively low footfall at our annual exhibition at the village hall in March was a little disappointing but nevertheless it was a fitting showcase for displaying club members' work. As well as providing good publicity and demonstrating our presence in the community it also generated a small cash surplus after all expenses thereby making a valuable contribution to club funds for future investment. A big thank you to all the members who volunteered for work parties which were vital for ensuring the event ran smoothly throughout the day.

IT

This year we finally took the plunge and purchased a new club computer and software after having delayed its purchase for the past 18 months. Problems with the computer encountered during the 'Anything goes' event was key to finally making the decision. I would like to thank Phil Copestick for his dedication in looking after our IT needs and for his invaluable work as projectionist in managing the Dicentra database for the projection of digital images.

Committee

The committee met five times during the year and I would like to thank them all for their continuing dedication in keeping our club running efficiently.

Three committee members are standing down: the external competitions secretary Miles Thompson, me from the Chairman role and Ann Smith. I would like to thank Miles for all his sterling work ensuring the club was able to compete in the SPA competitions and for organising our entries for inter club competitions. If the club wishes to continue entering these competitions it is important that his role is filled at the AGM. I would also like to thank Ann for bringing her knowledge and sage advice to our committee meetings.

The role of Vice chairman was not filled last year and remains vacant. Hopefully that will change after the AGM.

I would like to encourage more members to volunteer as shadow committee members to become familiar with various aspects of committee work and with a view to taking on a committee role in the future.

So again a big thank you and well done to all members for playing your part in making this past year successful, whether through volunteering for club duties, giving presentations or taking part in competitions and other club activities.

Ed Hull - Chairman