



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023



Message from the Vice-Chair

While some clubs are struggling to bounce back from the COVID pandemic, the AGM of M&DPS heard from the management Committee that 2022-23 has been our most successful year yet with an increase in membership, money in the bank, a freeze on subscriptions, a new and better venue, a new laptop, that the prospect of a new projector. More importantly, we have received flattering comments from several independent judges regarding the quality and standard of our work. In particular we were advised by Vic Hainsworth, EAF Chair, that some of our images would grace Federation and national PAGB exhibitions. In recent weeks we took joint first place with East Ipswich in the regional five-way interclub competition historically won by Bury-St-Edmunds, and we prevailed against Harwich in our local derby. While this is all positive, perversely, these successes were achieved despite a decline in the number of members submitting images in our competitions, particularly in the case of prints. I know that many of you feel, as I do, that your photography has been greatly improved through membership of the club and through submitting your images to independent judging in competitions. Clearly, we therefore need to understand better the reasons for this decline in entries, and consider what more the club can do to encourage more entries. Your thoughts and ideas, addressed to any member of the Committee, would be most welcome.

I am sure that we all want to build on our successes of 2022-23 and this will require a dedicated management Committee under the leadership of a strong Chair. I am delighted to report that Jill has taken on the role of Programme Sec. following the resignation of Colin who skilfully maintained an impressive array of judges and speakers throughout the pandemic. In turn, Jill has passed into the capable hands of Andy Soar the role of Print Sec. Sadly, Viv has stood down from her exemplary stint as club Secretary and events organiser with Pat Ainger stepping into the role of Secretary and Samantha picking up the Events Sec. role. I am pleased to note that we will continue to have the benefit of the Laverock expertise with John continuing as Treasurer and Ann dealing with External Competitions where we have done so well. Likewise, the Bancrofts will continue to handle publicity and social media and would welcome more support with kitchen duties.

On a less positive note, Tim's decision to stand down after a lengthy stint as PDI Sec. and a brilliant 3-year reign as Chair through the pandemic, has left us with something of a dilemma. While Kevin has taken up the role of PDI Sec. alongside his role as Web Manager, we have, thus far, received no nominations for Chair. I have expressed my willingness, in the interests of continuity, to continue on the Committee as Vice-Chair, that is, occasionally standing in for the Chair due to holiday/sickness absence. Despite the encouraging comments from many of you that I should take on the role of Chair, I am not in a position to do so. Over the last few years, I have wound down my various business and volunteer activities due to accumulating health issues. I simply do not have the energy or stamina to do justice to the role of Chair on your behalf. To ease the process of succession, the AGM agreed to remove from the Constitution the requirement for nominees for the role of Chair to have served on the Committee. I am sure you would all agree that this is a key role that we need to fill urgently if we are to capitalise on the progress we have made over recent years. I would therefore ask you all to give some serious consideration to this dilemma and get back to me or the Secretary with your thoughts.

Thank you on behalf of the Committee for your continued support for the club during what has been a difficult but, nonetheless, very successful period for us.

Harvey

Correction to Minutes of AGM 25 May 2023:

Item 12 Inter-Club Competitions ... we won 413 points to Harwich **399** (Not 319).

Fund-raising for New Equipment:

The two raffles have raised £133 – £85 pounds on 11 May and £48 at the AGM.

A big thank you to everyone who gave raffle prizes and bought tickets.

Viv

Dates for your diary

Rookie Club will now be known as Club Workshop.

June 22th - the first one of the summer programme will be in Mistley Village Hall. Competition Review – Reflections / Minimalism £5.00 to help cover the cost of the hall.

July 16th – Tea and cake at Jill's beach hut at Wrabness – from 2.30 pm.

July 27th - Competition Review - Wildlife / The Colour Blue.

August 24 - Club Workshops – topic still to be decided.

August Photo-Marathon will be the weekend before or after August Bank Holiday, followed by BBQ.

Keep an eye on your emails for further details.

June 11th Manningtree Earth Festival – 12-6pm, Manningtree High Street.

June 18th Fathers Day Steam at East Anglian Railway Station 10-18.00 - <https://www.visitcolchester.com/whats-on/fathers-day-steam-p1851451>

June 24th-25th Colchester Food & Drink Festival - <https://www.visitcolchester.com/whats-on/colchester-food-and-drink-festival-p1263611>

Spotted in The Times:- Fifty Years of Tom Wood: Liverpool through a photographer's lens.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/d6cd464c-015f-11ee-a364-04e704863f75?shareToken=e6066151d3e164bb0fa14510f2ab03ef>

Spotted in The Guardian:- Mário Macilau

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/jun/07/the-news-from-a-mozambique-landfill-site-mario-macilaus-best-photograph>

