

## **Report from the Syllabus Secretary for North Cheshire Photographic Society (NCPS) 2019-20 AGM. 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

At the conclusion of my first season as club syllabus secretary it is pleasing to write this report for the AGM. Please accept that this has been a learning experience for me, as well as for you!

The 2019-20 programme was initially prepared by Jon Allanson and I took over its implementation last September as well as commencing creating the 2020-21 programme. My thanks go to Jon and to everyone who has been so helpful and generous in their support.

The pleasure of meeting friends and colleagues is always to the fore on a Tuesday evening and this season's syllabus contained some 36 weeks of enjoyable and informative events. The untimely arrival of a global pandemic meant curtailing activities just as our exhibition week arrived with all that goes with it. This was a big blow, but very necessary given the seriousness of the global health situation. In retrospect, the reduced programme was still very enjoyable and represented excellent value.

Highlights were some first class presentations from a wide range of presenters, including NCPS members and culminating in an excellent big night with Nigel Danson presenting an entertaining photographic programme to a well-supported gathering from clubs around the region. Some close club competitions showcased the varied interests of club members and the consistently high quality of the entry was commented on by various judges-they do get it right sometimes! The annual trip to the Lake District was enjoyed by attendees and managed as usual by Tony Redford who also made his mark once again by providing the Christmas party entertainment. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a good syllabus to deliver. The programme kept within budget, aided in part by its shortening due to the public health restrictions.

One very pleasing aspect was the willingness of members to present their own work during the members image evening last October. This is an event in which we need to nurture new members whilst encouraging all to participate.

With some relief, the plans for a full programme for next season were completed early in February, only to find shortly afterwards that the public health circumstances had changed very significantly and are still evolving. In the first instance, it looked as though a pause was required to meet the pandemic but as time advanced, it has become clear that the changes needed are more fundamental and permanent. It now looks increasingly likely that we may need to operate via Zoom video conferencing next season with members foregoing some of the social pleasures of Tuesday evenings meetings in the interests of health and safety and joining the evening by a web link. We have not undertaken this lightly and will be learning as we go.

Early experience of Zoom video conferencing by the committee has been positive and we note that other clubs are also planning similarly. Next seasons speakers have been approached and have been very supportive. Additionally, we have some excellent home grown skills in Zoom conferencing technology. To aid, and also encourage the speakers, we have offered Zoom conference training courtesy of Aamir. A very big thank you to Aamir for this and for already completing the committee Zoom training sessions.

We are pleased to report that a fully viable programme exists for next season. Our anticipation is that this will be finalised and published on the club web site in good time for next season.

Thank you  
Bernie Rowlands