

CHAIRMANS UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2024

I can hardly believe that I am writing this update to you all already, as it indicates that the summer months are coming to an end already.

But for photographers, we are now approaching autumn, the season of colour and an abundance of photographic opportunities.

September also marks the beginning of a new season for our club, and this year we will again enjoy a full programme of events with many outside speakers having been booked to entertain and educate us.

The programme of events is published on the website for you all to see, and this year we have included a smaller A5 version for you all to print off and use as reference.

<https://www.sbacameraclub.co.uk/programme>

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING !!!

Since we last met there have been two club photoshoots.

On 11th June a group of us visited Cerne Abbas and enjoyed a wonderful morning discovering and photographing this idyllic rural Dorset village.

Then on 17th July we visited Dawes Twineworks in West Coker.

Everyone that attended one or both of these photoshoots thoroughly enjoyed the days and captured images that they can be proud of. There is a sample of what was taken at: <https://www.sbacameraclub.co.uk/gallery/photoshoot-galleries>

Unfortunately due to poor weather the photoshoot at Portland Bill in August had to be cancelled. But there is still a full programme of photoshoots to look forward to over the rest of the year.

Our next meet up will be 15th September at Wiscombe Park Racing, (full details will be published in the next couple of weeks).

I cannot recommend attending these events enough as it gives everyone an opportunity to practice their art in the company of friends. It also allows anyone who wants some help with their photography to be coached by another member of the club who has skills in the area they are looking to develop. They are also great social events which are enjoyed by all that come along.

CLUB NEWS

Our first meeting on 10th September will be our AGM, and some club news will be included on this evening.

However, there are a couple of items that I can let you all know about now.

It is with some sadness that I must tell you that Chas Williams will be leaving us to venture to pastures new. Chas is a well respected member of our club who has until recently been a member of the committee. He will always be known to most for the friendship and welcoming smile he offers as we attend each meeting and for providing us all with our refreshments during the evening.

He will most definitely be missed by the whole club, but I know you will all join me in wishing him all the very best for the future. Chas will be at the AGM, but this may be the last meeting that he attends. So please come along to say your goodbyes and make this a special night for him.

Jon Riding has also decided to leave the club and the committee. Jon's decision came as a surprise to a lot of us but having spoken with him he felt he had got all he needed to from being a member of our club and had other priorities that he wished to pursue.

These changes have left the committee a little short in membership now, and so we would welcome hearing from anyone who has an interest in either improving the club going forward or maybe even just being able to help in a limited way. It really is an interesting role and one that can make a real difference to SBACC. If joining the committee interests you or you would just like to explore what would be involved please make contact with either myself (Tel 07368257980) or any other member of the committee. We would all be delighted to explain what is involved.

The committee has worked hard over the summer to develop our future meetings and events so that they reflect some of the feedback that was collected from the meeting in May. I would like to thank everyone who attended this meeting as your input has proven invaluable.

Without meaning to sound like a politician, I would ask for your patience in making some of the changes that were discussed. They can't happen immediately but there is a strong desire that these changes are implemented as soon as possible.

Paul has been extra busy working on the website. Some of you may have noticed that there is a Forums area now included on the website. This area is a great tool that is available to all members to share hints and tips, and even locations right across the club. I would strongly recommend that you all have a look at it and post a comment or two to see how useful this forum can be. There is already a few posts included but to be more valuable participation needs to be by as wide a community as possible.

The members forum can be found in the Members Resources area of the website. The password to access this area is **SB@cameraclub17**

If you want any advice on how to use the forums then please speak to Paul or myself and we can hopefully answer your questions.

I'm sure you will also remember that I sent out an email letting you all know that we have set up a WhatsApp group for club members. This facility is successfully used by many clubs, as it is seen as being much simpler and quicker than sending lengthy emails. However to negate the need to send a duplication of emails it does need participation by as many club members as possible. Unfortunately at this time take up has been disappointing. Please consider joining this group. It's a really easy and effective method of communication.

To join the SBACC Camera Club WhatsApp group, click this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/I6J6aAft3ej0YY9vGjUbfP>

LOOKING AHEAD

Many of you will have noticed that there has been a change to the first meeting of the year. Traditionally this meeting was assigned to the AGM and images that had been taken during the summer by club members. This year after the AGM we will be viewing images entered to the Bradford Abbas Shield. This change has been introduced to allow a little more time to prepare for the competition night in October.

The Summer images evening will therefore now take place at our second meeting on 24th September. The benefit to this change will also mean that we can spend more time enjoying your summer images. I know some members find it challenging to enter images, but please do not ever feel uncomfortable in doing so. I know that we would all love to enjoy the images that everyone takes. *This event is not one where images will be judged or assessed.*

On 14th September some members will be attending a workshop with Huw Alban at Careys Secret Garden. Huw is a renowned creative photographer who lives near Shaftesbury. I will be attending this workshop with a number of you and am very much looking forward to the day.

Workshops are something many members have asked for us to arrange. We are happy to look to arrange future days with highly qualified photographers but I'm sure you will understand that they can only be run if they are fully supported by club members.

We are about to start planning our 2025 schedule of photoshoots. If any member has any suggestions for locations or events that they have visited which they feel would make good outings for club members I would welcome hearing about them.

We generally plan on arranging one event per month, but for 2025 we have decided to avoid August and December as these months are usually very busy months for us all.

Photoshoots can take place anywhere really, but within a reasonable distance is preferable.

We are also planning to include more evening shoots and weekend shoots to accommodate for the members that find attending during working hours difficult.

AND FINALLY.....

We are still looking for a volunteer to take over responsibility for the catering at our meetings.

I have had some feedback regarding setting up a rota. Whilst this is a great idea, a rota still needs to be organised and for someone to take ownership of the catering equipment. As I stated earlier the committee is currently reduced from our ideal number of seven members to five, and as such I do not see how we can possibly take on this responsibility as well as all the other areas that we are working on for you all at this time.

If you feel you would like to explore this further, please make contact with me or any other of the committee as soon as you can. Chas assures me that this is not an onerous task, but it is most definitely one that is greatly valued by all our members.

Steve Davenport
Chairman