

Eric Bennett - SPF Roll of Honour

Eric became a member of Alton Camera Club during the 1962/63 season. Since that time he has been a stalwart of the club, throwing himself into whatever role he has been given with enthusiasm, determination and ability.

In 1967 he became the editor of the then club magazine, 'Highlight' and presided over its development and expansion. As times changed he oversaw its evolution into an electronic monthly news letter which is the principal method of circulating news and information to and between members of the club. Nearly 50 years later he is still the editor and author of this regular missive.

In 1973 Eric founded the Audio-Visual group within the club in which he still plays the lead role, making much needed income for the club from frequent showings of the work of the group around Hampshire and beyond. He acts, with some success, as instructor and teacher to younger and newer members who wish to develop this art.

He became the club programme secretary in 1993 and continued until 2009. During this period he developed a wide range of contacts of both speakers and judges to the great benefit of the club. He eventually handed the job over, after 15 years, but has always been on hand with much needed advice and introductions for his successor.

For eight years, until fairly recently, Eric, along with Jennie Pearson, was also responsible for the organisation of the Club's annual safari competition - a task which takes lots of time and effort.

He became the club representative for the SPF in 1994 and has continued since, becoming a council member in 2006.

Eric was the prime mover in obtaining our Lottery Grant some six years ago. He identified the technical needs of the club, applied successfully for the grant, sourced the equipment required and organised the purchase of it. He then set up the equipment for club use.

More recently Eric has been very supportive of the recently founded Monday Club, which is aimed at new photographers who as yet are unlikely to join a mainline camera club and/or people who just wish to improve their photography. This monthly event has led to an increase of members in the main club as well as helping swell the club's coffers.

Eric, again in conjunction with Jennie Pearson, wrote and produced the club handbook and present constitution.

He assists the Disabled Photographers Association in its events.

During his time with Alton Camera Club Eric has found time, on top of all the aforementioned roles, to keep up with his photography making the transition from film to digital with great success. He has, on various occasions, won all the major internal club competitions; slide, mono slide, colour print, mono print and of course A/V. His name is to be found [often multiple times] on most of the club's trophies.

Eric continues as a member of the club committee and is there to offer advice and wisdom to all. His experience and obvious ability is a role model for all the newer members of the club. Eric's calm manner, often amusing tales of photography and photographers engenders a warm and happy feeling throughout the club. His influence can be found in the current ethos and culture of Alton Camera Club.

We at Alton are indebted to him.

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