

THE DUNFERMLINE PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

THE FIRST SEVENTY YEARS -- By Tom Scott

CHAPTER I - 1926 to 1939

On Friday 28th May 1926 an informal meeting of nine camera enthusiasts was held in the Yorkshire Insurance Company office to consider the formation of a photographic club in Dunfermline. Those present were:-

J Simpson, W Brown, A Lauder, G Morgan, J C Rae, R E Forrester, D E Horne, D Ednie and R Steedman

Two other interested parties were unable to attend, they were:

D Longmuir and D Anderson.

A basic constitution was agreed at the meeting of 28 May 1926, the main points being the title of the Club which was to be "The Dunfermline Photographic Association". The composition of the Council was agreed and new members had to be proposed by two members and approved by the Council. There was to be an entry fee of 2/6d (12 ½ pence) and an annual subscription of 5/- (25p). A public meeting to be held in St Margaret's Hall was to be advertised in the local press.

This meeting was held on 4th June 1926 when the society was formally launched under the already proposed title and a management Council elected as follows:-

President J Simpson
Vice Presidents D Brown and A Lauder
Secretary R Steedman
Treasurer R E Forrester
Council Miss Philp, G Morgan, D Anderson and D E Horne

A Social Committee was elected comprising Miss Philp, D E Horne, R E Forrester and the Secretary. A meeting room was leased at 77 Queen Anne Street for an annual rental of £18 where meetings were held during the first year. This did not provide accommodation for a dark room and almost immediately negotiations were put in hand with the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust for the lease of unfurnished rooms at 17 Pilmuir Street, the Pilmuir Hall. This was successfully concluded in November at a half yearly rental of

£4, a rate which remained unchanged until the outbreak of war in 1939. A quote from the President's address to the first Annual General Meeting on 27 September 1927 reads as follows:-

"The Association was formed in the month of June of last year owing to the feeling that there was a growing demand for an Association such as this to meet the greatly expanding populace who are interested in the Art".

This would appear to refute a claim made in 1958 that the Association "was previously known as the Dunfermline Naturalists Photo Section".

Honorary appointments were made at a meeting held on 29 September 1926 when Ex Provost J Norval, FRPS was appointed Hon. President and Hon Vice Presidents were to be Andrew Allan, A Swan Watson, FRPS, and A Keighley, FRPS.

Fund raising activities were high on the list of priorities in these early days and jumble sales and whist drives featured in the Club's activities. Club meetings were on alternate Tuesdays but the Club Room was made available for Social Evenings every Saturday. It was also agreed to offer the room to members of the Photographic Section of The Dunfermline Naturalists Society for their annual exhibition. The Society became affiliated to the Royal Photographic Society and the Scottish Photographic Federation as a result of a meeting on 9 October 1926. A syllabus for the following months was taking shape.

Work progressed apace in furnishing the meeting rooms at 17 Pilmuir Street and fitting out a dark room. In January 1927 an "enlarging lantern" was purchased for the sum of £7.10.0d and a demonstration of enlarging was given by Mr Simpson on 25th January.

Mr Robert E Forrester, Treasurer, was elected as a Member of Council of the Scottish Photographic Federation.

At the first annual general meeting held on 27 September 1927, it was reported that there were forty-eight members, including the four honorary members. Mr Andrew Allan, Hon Vice-President presented a Member's Trophy, "The Allan Trophy", which was won by William Brown and Mr George Douglas presented a trophy for the Beginner's Section which was won by Andrew Sharp. This of course became known as the "Douglas Trophy".

A portfolio of seven prints were chosen from the sixty-eight entries in the Annual Exhibition for the SPF Portfolio and gained sixth place out of sixteen clubs competing. In the following year the Association achieved first place in the SPF Portfolio.

In November 1928 Mr Andrew Allan, Hon Vice-President and donor of the Allan Trophy, died. Not long afterwards, in 1930, another Hon. Vice-President, Mr A Swan Watson, FRPS, also passed away. One of these appointments was filled by Mr W Mungall. Mr Mungall presented the Association with a lantern slide projector. The other vacancy was filled by the election of Mr J Campbell Harper, ARPS in 1932. Mr William Brown was awarded an ARPS.

Social activities continued to take a high priority with socials, whist drives, jumble sales, whist drive and dance, etc, which was fortunate for the finances as these proved to be the main source of revenue, but even with this income the Association was £2.4.1d in the red by the end of the first season. Thereafter however the balance remained in the black.

1931 proved to be a particularly active year for the Association. The 1931 Scottish Salon was hosted and the Exhibition in the Pilmuir Hall was on display daily for three weeks in February and March. This was the first time the Scottish Salon had been presented in Fife.

By 1932 a few members were beginning to take an interest in cinematography and this later blossomed into a very successful Cine Section of the Association which, in later years, held their own meetings on Wednesday evenings. The main group met on Tuesday evenings.

At this time, 1932, the membership had almost doubled to seventy-two and the object of a three figure membership was in the Council's sights. A Summer Syllabus of excursions was started and

charabanc outings to the Trossachs and other venues became an annual feature, as was an outing on the Spring Holiday.

Prior to 1932 the Annual General Meeting had been held on the last Tuesday of September, but in 1932 it was decided to conduct this meeting on the last Tuesday in March, a policy which has continued.

1932 also saw a repeat of earlier successes with a second place in the Scottish Photographic Federation Portfolio, beaten only by the "West of Scotland". In this year the summer outings were on a weekly basis and were well attended with visits to the Silk Mills, Broomhall, etc.

The Annual Exhibition in 1933 held in the Pilmuir Hall took the form of an International Exhibition and while a success from a photographic point of view, was not a success financially. Weekly summer meetings continued but were not as well supported as in the previous year. Membership was stuck at seventy. Several members particularly R E Forrester were successful in having acceptances in various overseas exhibitions. The Association's own exhibition comprised seventy prints by seventeen members from which five prints were selected to represent the Association in the SPF Portfolio.

At this time a lot of interest was being taken in portraiture and a separate portraiture section was formed. A half-plate camera had been gifted to the Association and a suitable portraiture lens purchased for it. Studio lights and a background were also purchased.

The 1934 session got off to a rousing start with a "large" Military Whist Drive and Dance in the Pilmuir Hall. A Junior Section of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides aged between fourteen and eighteen years was introduced, to meet on alternate Thursday evenings. A jumble sale in the YMCA Hall helped augment funds. For the second year in succession an evening of "Baby" Cine was included in the Syllabus. Membership still hovered around the seventy mark, the magic hundred yet to be achieved.

March 1935 saw the death of Founder Member and Ex-President Mr William Brown, ARPS.

The year also started a trend of subscription increases with rates for Ordinary Members at 7/6d per annum, and Lady and Associate

Members at 5/-d pa. The number of summer outings was reduced to two, on Wednesdays. The William Brown Memorial Plaque was purchased by subscription to be awarded annually to the member exhibiting the best three pictures in the Annual Exhibition. It was won for the first time by A Mitcheil in 1936. The number of trophies was now up to three.

The entry to the SPF Portfolio had a poor result but for the first time the MacDougal Plaque for the best print in the Portfolio was awarded to an Association member - Mr Peter Scott. The Junior Section of Boy Scouts proved a success, three members having passed their test and received their badges. Mr F C Diemer was appointed Hon. Vice-President bringing the total to four.

1936 saw further changes in the Honorary Members with the deaths of Hon. President Sir James Norval, FRPS, and also Hon. Vice President Mr W Mungall. Mr William Dick was elected to the vacant post of Hon. President at the March 1937 AGM. The honorary members were by no means "sleeping" members, Mr F C Diemer, ARPS won the Brown Memorial Plaque for the three best prints in the

Annual Exhibition and also gave lectures to the Members. Mr Alexander Keighley, Hon FRPS gave a lantern lecture. Many items on the Syllabus were presented by Association members, particularly R E Forrester, M B Jackson, P B Scott and others.

There were still only three trophies to compete for and in 1936 there was no competition for the "Douglas" Beginners Trophy, although it was awarded again in 1937.

In 1938 there was an intimation from the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust terminating the lease of the rooms in the Pilmuir Hall but a temporary stay was obtained for a further year providing the premises were not required by the local authority or the Government in the event of a National Emergency. This crisis was overtaken by the outbreak of war and at a meeting on 27 November 1939 it was agreed to suspend the activities of the Association for the duration of the war.

Membership numbers never did reach the magic hundred and peaked at seventy-six in 1935 and at close of play stood at sixty-seven.

CHAPTER 2

THE POST WAR YEARS

An Annual General Meeting held on 26 March 1946 in Abbot House was attended by thirty pre-war and new members. Mr R E Forrester in the Chair. The meeting proceeded as if there had been no break with the reading of the 1939 AGM Minutes. The Treasurer's Report amounted to a declaration of the balance in the bank as it stood in 1939.

It was at this meeting that the proposal to amalgamate the Dunfermline Photographic Association with the Photographic Section of the Naturalist's Society, a proposal emanating from an unrecorded meeting held on 12 March. It was agreed that an Agreement with the Naturalist's Society would be signed. The Agreement was drawn up by James W Stirling, solicitor, Treasurer of the Naturalists society and was signed by representatives of the two clubs on 17 September. The Dunfermline Naturalists Society was to retain its name but the Dunfermline Photographic Association was to have "Affiliated to the Dunfermline Naturalist's Society" added to its title. All members of the Photographic Assoc. would also be members of the Naturalists and the sum of 5/- (25p) per annum would be paid to the Naturalists in respect of each member. A copy of the Minute of Agreement is appended.

Subscriptions were fixed at 15/- (75p) and 10/- (50p) for Associate Members, 5/- to be remitted to the Naturalists as mentioned above.

William Dick, OBE, was re-elected as Hon. President.

Hon. Vice Presidents:- Mr J Campbell Harper, ARPS; Mr Waugh; Sherriff Substitute Hamilton

The first post-war Council was elected as follows:

President	Robert E Forrester
Vice Pres	Matthew B Jackson; J C: Rae
Treasurer	E Hogg
Lanternist	M B Jackson
Auditor	J W Stirling

Council:- G Wallace; D L Horne; A Laudor
Miss A G Lyon; A Cunningham; G Fraser;
W McCormack; L R Brown.

A Secretary was not appointed at this meeting and at the next Council meeting A Cunningham was elected. At the following meeting this was changed to J MacKie, but it would appear the duty was subsequently performed by Alex Cunningham. There seems to have been some difficulty in filling this post as, at the 1947 AGM, L R Brown was elected "Interim Hon Secretary".

Thereafter meetings were held in Abbott House in rooms shared with the Naturalist's Society. The condition of the proposed dark room was unsatisfactory and an approach was made to the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust to have the room refurbished. I don't know what improvement may have been made but ten years later it was still a very dismal place to work in.

Between April and December 1946 subscriptions were received from fifty-eight members of which twenty were members from pre-war (including seven Founders), twelve Associates and seven who were also members of the Naturalist's Society. They were J MacKie, W McCormack, Arthur Thomson, W Clarke, W G Prattis, W Cunningham and Miss Lyon. Miss Lyon had been a member of the Photographic Association since 14 January 1930.

For the first time Mr John T Knight, FRPS of Musselburgh presented a lecture to the Association and was to be a popular visitor both for his lectures and judging for many years thereafter. I remember one judging session when he was appraising one of my prints, which incidentally won the competition. It was a night-time skyline of Singapore over which I double exposed a shot of lightening on the enlarger. He enthused about how patient the photographer must have been to wait for the lightening strike and then expose at just the right moment. I doubt J T had ever photographed a lightening

storm. I refrained from enlightening him. He was later appointed Hon Vice-President.

A Kodak sponsored lecturer appeared on the syllabus for the first time and in the following years was to be joined by lecturers from Ilford, Johnson of Hendon, Agfa and others, together with colour slide postal lecturers from these and other companies. The supporting text of these postal lectures had to be read, there were no taped talks. C L Clark of Kodak first visited The Association in 1947 and was to be a regular and very popular visitor well into the sixties. Many lectures and instruction continued to be given by members. The social activities were not immediately revived.

The Annual Exhibition was held in March 1947 and there were now four trophies to compete for, the additional one being The Seath Trophy to be awarded for the best naturalist print. It can be assumed that this came from the Naturalists Society and was probably presented by Mr Seath of Seath & Loudon, Chemists, Bridge Street. The Allan Trophy continued to be awarded for the best print in the Exhibition, the Douglas Trophy for the best beginner's print, and the Brown Memorial Trophy for the best three prints by one entrant. The beginner's print had to be a contact print or an enlargement not greater than 6 1/2" x 4 3/4"!! The Slide Competition was held separately from the Annual Exhibition and the slides had to be 3 1/4 x 3 1/4" square, made from negatives. They were of course monochrome.

The 1948 season continued in much the same pattern, although the syllabus now included more "trade" lecturers. L R Brown was now Secretary and his minutes were on the brief side so it is difficult to conclude what activities took place. The report of the Annual Exhibition as an example is as follows:

"The Annual Exhibition was opened tonight (23.3.48) by the Hon President William Dick, Esq, OBE, the prizes were presented by Mrs Hamilton, Mr Jackson presided. The judging of prints was carried out by Mr Carlile."

Fortunately the Presidents address to the AGM provided the names of the three trophy winners. The Beginners Section did not form part of the Exhibition although, presumably, Beginners were permitted to enter in open competition.

By September 1948 the dark room was at last habitable and fit for use, thanks entirely to members of the Association, principally Willie Clarke, Willie McCormack and Jim MacKie.

The first Fife Inter-Club Competition was held between Dunfermline Photographic Association and Kirkcaldy Camera Club, on 14 February 1949. The trophy, donated by R E Forrester, was won by Kirkcaldy. Social activities and summer outings were once again a feature with a coach tour to the Trossachs and whist drives. In 1950 the day trip was to Melrose and Dryburgh.

The 1950 Annual Exhibition displayed fifty-five prints from advanced workers, nine in the natural history section and eleven from beginners. There were still only four trophies for the club competitions. For the first time Willie Clarke's name appears as the winner of the Allan Trophy for the best print in the Exhibition.

The Forrester Inter-Club Plaque was won by Kirkcaldy with 140½ points against Dunfermline's 119 points. Two members who had contributed greatly to the success of the Association died during the year, they were Mr J W Stirling and Mr G R Anderson. Mr Stirling was a member of the Naturalist's Society.

Membership at the close of the 1949/50 session stood at 52 full members, 9 associates and 4 photographic members of the Naturalists. In 1950 two more trophies appeared, one presented by Mr G R Wallace, to be known as the "G R Wallace Shield" and the other purchased by the Association to be known as the "Dunfermline Photographic Association Shield". They were to be awarded for the best monochrome slide and the best colour slide, respectively, in the Annual Exhibition. Slides could be 2" x 2" or 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" but no hand coloured work would be permitted, and there would be no trade processing of monochrome slides.

The Annual General Meeting of 1951 amended the Constitution including, inter alia, the title which was to be The Dunfermline Photographic Association, the amendment presumably being the deletion of "affiliated to Dunfermline Naturalist's Society". However, this did not mean an end to the affiliation, that was to come later.

All six trophies were awarded at the Annual Exhibition, the Beginner's Section and Monochrome/Colour Slide Sections now being

included. Willie Clarke was again to the fore with a success in the monochrome slides winning the Wallace Shield. There were 53 entries in the Advanced Section, nine in the Natural History and 24 Beginners; 30 monochrome and 41 colour slides. Kirkcaldy again won the Inter-Club Forrester Shield with 139 points against our 122.

Founder member Robert E Forrester, past president and donor of the Fife Inter-Club Forrester Shield was rewarded for his long service to the Association by appointment to Hon. Vice-President. He was not long to enjoy this honour and I quote the obituary by Mr Wallace in full as it appears in the minutes of the 1951 AGM.

"The death of Mr Robert Edward Forrester, 18 Garvockhill, Dunfermline, has removed from our midst one of the stalwarts of photography in Scotland. His interest in Photography began at an early age, the Dry Plate had not long been invented, and the considerable difficulties of the wet plate, and the slow speed of the emulsions then available, made success a tedious process as compared with the high speed and colour sensitivity of the emulsions of the present day. He had often recalled taking as much as 25 minutes to expose a live portrait, an endurance test for both photographer and sitter.

Later when the Finlay and Autochrome colour processes were available, he became an ardent enthusiast, and produced many fine transparencies, as would be expected from one who was a skilled Monochrome slide worker.

Latterly his holidays abroad provided many subjects, and the resulting prints eventually graced the walls of the Exhibition Salons both at home and abroad.

He was a member of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, a Past President of the Scottish Photographic Federation, and an Honorary Vice-President of the Dunfermline Photographic Association. The funeral took place on Monday 11th instant (June 1951) to Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, the Federation being represented by Mr Forbes Adam, and Mr G R Wallace. Mr M B Jackson, Galashiels, and Mr Alan Lauder, Cowdenbeath represented the Dunfermline Photographic Association."

I have reproduced this obituary to indicate the esteem in which one of our most notable members was held throughout the photographic community.

Another of our stalwarts, Willie Clarke, was elected President of the Council at this AGM. Rules were agreed for the Inter-Club competition which would permit all Fife Clubs to compete in addition to Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy, and defining the number of prints permitted. The object was to limit the total number to sixty. Up to three clubs the limit per club would be twenty prints, if four clubs joined the limit would be reduced to fifteen, and so on. In the event some of the smaller Clubs failed to meet their quota.

In 1951 a Competition Secretary was added to the Council. A panel of six prints was chosen to represent the Association in the SPF Portfolio. A proposal to form a Cine Section within the Association was agreed, Mr A E Michaels was elected Convener. Meetings were to be held on a separate evening from the Photographic Section. At the AGM Willie Clarke was re-elected as President, J Mackie and L R Brown, Vice--Presidents, J W Yorkson, Secretary; Fran Ferguson, Treasurer; F W Smith, Competition Secretary; Miss A G Lyon, Social Secretary; J Mackie, Lanternist; and E J Hogg, Auditor. The Council comprised P B Scott., F N Ferguson, G MacDonald, E Prince. A E Michaels, Mr Bowman and Miss M A Armstrong.

A panel of six monochrome and six colour slides were chosen for the Scottish Photographic Federation Portfolio. This appears to be the first occasion on which the Association submitted slides to the SPF Portfolio. A display of prints had become a regular annual feature of the Civic Week Exhibition, and on this occasion included a show of the Cine Section's films.

1953/54 session closed with a membership of 60 ordinary members, 4 associates and 2 juniors. Bill Prattis was elected Convenor of the Cine Section. Capt. W S C Jenkins was transferred away from Rosyth and presented a trophy, "The Jenks Trophy" to be awarded to the member gaining most points in the monthly competitions. His intention was that it would be awarded to an advanced worker, but in the first year a beginner gained most points and after discussion, received the trophy. In future years it was decided that the trophy would go to an advanced worker and another trophy be provided for the beginners. A

Social Sub-Committee was elected comprising Miss Lyon and seven members plus the President, Secretary and Treasurer as ex-officio members. The Association was taking its social activities very seriously and the first item on the agenda was a Christmas Party.

For the Hobbies Exhibition for 1955, organised by the Rotary Club, a joint display with the Naturalist's Society was arranged to combine the interests of both societies. The Association's Annual Exhibition was given prominence with the opening ceremony being performed by Provost John Allan. Eight Trophies were presented after the Annual Exhibition, the extra one having been purchased by the Association, "The Dunfermline P A Cup", for award to the Beginner with the most points in the winter competitions. The Jenks Trophy would thereafter be for the Advanced Section-

The Secretary reported at the 1956/57 AGM a total membership of 96, an increase from the previous year's total of 81. The magic hundred was in sight.

The 1958 AGM was attended by only sixteen members. The death of founder member D L Horne was reported. There was a complaint from the Cine Section about the lack of heating in Abbott House and they proposed to hold their weekly meetings in other premises. This received little sympathy from either the Council or the Naturalist's Society and may well have been the start of the breakaway of the Cine Section. At a subsequent Council meeting a partial breakaway was proposed but no compromise was offered, it was to be all in or all out. A joint meeting was convened with representatives of the Naturalists, Photographic Association and Cine Section. It may have been significant that W McCormack sat in the meeting representing the Naturalists while at the same time being a Vice President of the Association. He was accompanied by Mr Shaw, Pres. of the Naturalist's Society and it would appear Mr Shaw adopted a less than friendly attitude towards the Cine Section, and for that matter, the Association.

The build up for the meeting and the meeting itself was conducted in a very formal manner with matters such as heating, crockery, lighting and items which may have led to the Cine Sections dissatisfaction with the premises, but appear to have been irrelevant to the main item

of discussion which was the breakaway of the Cine Section. This item was eventually tabled and Mr Shaw started by pointing out that "up to 1926 it was Dunf. Naturalists Photo Section until the Photographers broke away. In 1946 they asked if they, the D P A, could come back. . ." So far as I can determine this comment was both erroneous and, for the context of the meeting, irrelevant. Bill Prattis was a member of the Naturalist's Society Photographic Section prior to the war and has confirmed to me that the Naturalists Photo Section and the Photographic Association both functioned concurrently and independently throughout the thirties.

Over a period of years the Cine Section had produced public shows of their own films and also The Amateur Movie Maker Ten Best. These were held in a hired hall for which tickets were sold and some profit made, together with sponsorships. These funds benefitted the Association, and indirectly the Naturalists. Because the Abbott Hall projection screen amounted to a 6' x 6' white painted square on the end wall, the Cine Section required a portable screen for their shows. This they purchased from some of the proceeds of their public shows. At the time of the meeting they also had a cash balance of £22.

Mr Shaw claimed that the screen and the cash "legally belonged to the Naturalists", not mind you the Association, in spite of the original Affiliation Agreement which stated that the Association's liability to the Naturalists amounted to 5/- per annum in respect of each member and whatever funds were raised by the Association by member's subscription or otherwise could be disposed of by the Association. The disassociation of the Cine Section was concluded and the screen "gifted" to them. At a subsequent Association meeting it was agreed to donate £10 to the new club, to be known as The Dunfermline & District Cine Club, and they parted with the good wishes of the Association.

My recollection of these events coincides with the minuted record but in discussion with Bill Prattis recently, he cannot recollect any problems resulting from the purchase of the screen and considers the breakaway resulted from the Cine Section growing too large to be a sub-section. Whatever the reason the Dunfermline & District Cine Club, of which I was a member, became very successful until camcorders ousted cine

cameras, but is still in existence, with some of the founder members, in the Dunfermline Sound & Vision Club. It is perhaps worth noting that several Cine members continued their membership of the Association and one or two, myself included served concurrently on the committees of both clubs! However, I was to have an enforced break from these politics with a tour of duty in Mauritius.

Back to the activities of the Association in 1959. A scheme was introduced whereby a number of advanced workers would each take one beginner under his wing. This was proposed instead of running a series of beginner's lectures and demonstrations. There is no record but it would appear James Mackie died about this time and the "James Mackie Trophy" was presented by his brothers and sisters. It was decided that this should be awarded to the member gaining most points in the Inter-Club Competition. A new Aldis 1000 watt 2 3/4" x 2 3/4" projector, with carrier to accept 2" x 2" slides, was purchased. The Forrester Trophy (Inter-Club) Competition was hosted by the Association. Seven clubs competed and Dunfermline came third. In the Scottish Federation Portfolio Print Competition, Dunfermline was placed tenth out of twenty clubs.

Kodak offered clubs throughout the country the opportunity to host a "Spectacular" on condition a suitable venue could be provided for a large public audience. The challenge was accepted and we were fortunate in obtaining the Carnegie Hall, which proved a resounding success and continued for, I think, three years.

In 1963 members of the Cine Club were continuing to take an active part in the management of the Association with Phil Cole as Treasurer, myself Vice President and Syllabus Secretary, and Bill Prattis as Projectionist (no longer called "Lanternist"). We were down to ninth place in the Forrester Trophy and there had been a fall off in the number of beginner's prints. Abbott House was to be refurbished and occupancy both by ourselves and the Naturalists came to an end. Our affiliation with the Naturalist's Society also ended. Lease of the ground floor flat of a condemned building at 156 Chalmers Street was obtained, so far as I recollect, rent free, but with a Rateable Value of £22 pa which had to be paid. Cost of heating was high and subscriptions had to be raised to £1. We no longer had to remit 5/- per member to

the Naturalists. A beam was inserted to support the floor above and a wall removed to make two rooms into a suitable meeting hall. There was a kitchen and the premises provided a room suitable for a dark room. Once again the members rallied round to make the rooms suitable, and again Bill Groundwater carried out a great deal of the work.

Rosyth Camera Club folded in 1964 but a proposal that Rosyth Club should amalgamate with Dunfermline was defeated, largely because of the difficulty of absorbing the Rosyth Trophies and balance of funds. Instead members of the Rosyth Club were invited to join the Association and several did so, including Alec Mercer. A few, including John Hewitt and myself were already members of both clubs. In the summer of 1965 I was transferred to Singapore for three years and for that time have no personal knowledge of the activities of the Association.

During 1966 Mr Ord Cunningham, Honorary President, died. The building which we occupied as club rooms belonged to Mr Cunningham, but we were assured that settlement of the estate would take at least a year and our tenure was secure for at least that long. The 1966 Annual General Meeting saw the election of Alec Mercer as Vice President. Alec had previously been a member of Rosyth Club. Brian Blackmore was appointed to the Council. From here on I propose to mention some of those who are still members or associated with the club.

1967 passed without recorded incident. It is unfortunate that no mention is made of competition winners or our results in Forrester and SPF Competitions. Only eighteen members attended the March 1968 AGM. Brian Blackmore was Competition Secretary in 1967. Bob Munro and Ian Parnell were appointed to Council. Past President W/Cmdr. Martin died. The tenancy of the Chalmers Street rooms being under threat, two rooms in the Bruce Street Drill Hall were leased at a weekly rental of £1.2.6d. This was not a shared facility and the club had full use of both rooms one of which was large enough for our weekly meetings and the other suitable for kitchen and darkroom. Once again Bill Groundwater and others got stuck in and got the rooms organised to our satisfaction and comfort. Alec Mercer was elected President, and having completed my tour in Singapore, I

was to join Bob Munro and the others on Council.

During the winter of 1969 I ran a special course for juniors, mainly High School students, on Friday evenings. While I gave most of the instruction several members helped by giving talks and demonstrations, notably Willie Clarke and John Hewitt. The kids paid a nominal subscription of 2/6d for the session, which went to the Treasurer, and I provided all materials and equipment necessary. I think the juniors received a sound grounding in photography and while there were only about a dozen of them, it was probably enough to form a manageable class. Most of them were producing well composed photos by the spring and were all capable of developing and enlarging monochrome prints. I was disappointed when, at the AGM it was decided to discontinue the Junior Section, my recollection was that some old fuddy-duddy claimed the extra cost of heating for the extra evening was too much. According to the minutes the reason given was "the number of Juniors did not come up to what was expected." I thought this was very short sighted. I resigned from Council.

At the Annual General Meeting held in March 1971, Margaret Chalmers was elected Assistant and Social Secretary. It may be appropriate to list the office bearers and council at that time;

Honorary President J W Ormiston
Hon Vice Pres John T Knight, FRPS
William McGormac, FRZS

President David Sommerville
Vice Pres Gordon Allan
Robert Munro
Hvn Treasurer William Clarke
Hon Secretary Mrs Chris Stewart
Asst & Svcial Secy Miss Margaret Chalmers
Competition Secy Brian Blackmore
Projectionist A Carruthers

Council:

Frank Shepherd; J Gallacher; I Bald; M Laing;
J Parnell; Alec Mercer; Ian Stewart

By this time the "trade" lecturers from Kodak, Ilford, etc had dried up and our visiting speakers came mainly from other Scottish camera clubs, predominantly Edinburgh PS, and invariably at least one visit from John T Knight of Musselburgh. There was an increase in the number of competition entries which had fallen

in previous years. The policy of having a competitor's number instead of his name on the back of prints was introduced. There was a surplus of trophies at this time and it was agreed that the spare cups would be awarded to members scoring the most judge's points over the year.

March 21 1972 was the date of the AGM and coincidentally the day on which I departed for a twelve month tour of duty in Nepal. Dunfermline won the Colour Trophy in the Inter-Club Competition. The Treasurer reported a financial crisis, this was already obvious as a need to replace the ailing projector the previous year had been abandoned because of lack of funds. The subscription was raised from £1.50p to £2.00 and £3.00 for husband and wife. Iain Wilkinson joined a substantially unchanged Council. Summer outings were to Culross and Blair Castle.

1973 and concern was being felt at the lack of success in Inter-Club competitions, also with the continuing poor state of finances. The Coffee Evening had boosted funds a little but after discussion attempts to increase revenue through raffles, jumble sale etc were abandoned. Efforts to increase membership, down to 46, were also considered.

Things were little better in 1974. Membership was down again, to 43, but funds were a bit better due to a successful Coffee Evening. Competition entries were very small, so small that one competition had to be abandoned. This year the minutes do record the results of the competitions and it was no surprise that Iain Wilkinson won all three of the monthly print and one of the slide. Dunfermline came last in prints and third in slides in the Four-Way Competition, Perth/Kirkcaldy/Dunfermline/Dundee; and in the Fife Inter-Club, third in prints and fourth in slides. Brian Blackmore resigned as Competition Secretary after eight years service. The AGM being held prior to the Annual Exhibition, there was no record of the Trophy Winners.

Next year Iain's name was well to the fore again, winning two of the four print competitions, Don Paris winning the other two. Iain was first in three of the slide battles and second in the other. He also won the Allan Trophy for Best Print in the Annual Exhibition. The Club fared a little better than previously being second in the print section of the Fife Inter-Club, but last with

slides. Third in both prints and slides in the Four-Way Comp. Alec Mercer took over the purse strings from Willie Clarke as treasurer. The new projector was finally purchased. 1975 saw me on my travels again, this time for two years once again building roads and bridges in Nepal on a British Aid Project. On my eventual return I was to give up serious photography for a number of years.

It was also in 1975 that fire gutted the Bruce Street Hall and the Club was once again looking for premises. It was to be the end of exclusive premises and a darkroom facility, henceforth meetings would be in premises hired on a one night basis. Competition entries were still low, as were the finances. Noises were made about fund raising and publicity but things remained much the same in 1976. Iain Wilkinson was promoted to President. Membership fees were increased to £2.50 for Full Member, £4.00 Husband and Wife, and £1.00 for under 18. For some years only the Minutes of the Annual General Meetings are recorded but we can judge from the Syllabus that the quality of the weekly meetings were of a very high order. Sadly my old friend and good servant of the Association since 1946, Hon. President, William McCormac, FRZS, passed away. Wullie was primarily a member of the Naturalist Society and had been a member of their Photographic Section since the early thirties, coming to the Association in the affiliation of 1946.

Another well respected member from 1946, William Clarke, and also a former member of the Naturalists Photographic section from the early thirties, was elected Hon. Vice President in 1975, and on the death of W. McCormac, was made Hon. President. No one ever did more to earn this honour.

Bob Munro, Bill Fyfe, Margaret Chalmers and Don Paris were each elected to Council in 1977. For once we have a report on competitions. Fifth for slides and eighteenth for prints in the SPF Portfolio. Second in both prints and slides in the Inter-Fife. Two Dunfermline prints were included in the Scottish Portfolio to the British Alliance. Not surprisingly Iain Wilkinson won both the Mackie and Douglas Trophies, and Don Paris the Jenks Trophy. Insurance premiums were a matter of little concern with only two projectors, one old and one nearly new, on the inventory. Cash was still tight so fees were again raised but only by 50p. Since the Bruce

Street Hall fire meetings were being held in The Music Institute, Benachie.

In the following year Iain was establishing a firm claim to the Mackie and Douglas Trophies, winning them once again. Competition entries were better. Club entry was fifth in the SPF prints and fourteenth for slides. Margaret Chalmers was elected Secretary. Low membership was still a concern.

Thanks to the change of Secretary minutes became both legible and comprehensive. The main item on the 1979 agenda was the forthcoming 62nd Scottish Salon, to be hosted by Dunfermline and a joint project with Kirkcaldy Photographic Club. A joint meeting was held to arrange selection, about 500 prints and 400 slides had already been received with more to come. Unmounted prints from abroad had to be mounted. A catalogue to be assembled and printed at a cost of £330. A daunting task and the normal activities of the Association had also to proceed. Dave Mitchell, now a Vice-President was deeply involved in this work, along with other members and members of the Kirkcaldy Club. Concurrently, the Association had undertaken to make a photographic record on slides of the Civic Week activities. A greater effort was to be made to recruit new members and if numbers warranted a Beginner's Section would be formed.

A third equal place for prints was achieved in the SPF Portfolio and for the third time Don Paris had a print accepted for the British Alliance. It was decided to show the Annual Exhibition prints in the Pittencrieff Park Museum. Membership was now up to fifty-seven and consideration had to be made in reducing the number of competition entries to manageable numbers. An interest in audio-visual prompted the purchase of a manual dissolve gadget. I wonder if they realised what this was to lead to.

1980 saw the introduction of yet another trophy, The Magnet & Southern Cup for beginner's prints. Twenty-five members attended the AGM on 18 March. The Exhibition in the Pittencrieff Park Museum had been a great success with an attendance of 3905 visitors. This promised a substantial boost to recruitment. New Competition Rules were introduced. The weekly meeting place was moved to the Nethertown Institute, now Dell Farquharson Centre, where it still remains.

Thirty-one members attended the AGM on 31 March 1981, R Laing in the Chair as retiring President. The death of Hon. Vice-President Gordon Allan was reported and the health of Hon. President Willie Clarke was giving concern. Alec Mercer was appointed Hon Vice-President and also continued his duties as Treasurer. The 62nd Scottish Salon, hosted by the Association, was claimed to have been a success. One print from the Association was accepted for the SPF portfolio to the Alliance. Amended Constitution and Competition Rules were agreed. The annual dinner was held in the Queen's Hotel, Inverkeithing. The location of the Annual Exhibition was moved from the Pittencrief Museum to the Viewfield Museum as it was considered "unfortunate" that the Arts Club had shared the exhibition hall.

Only thirty of the seventy-four members attended the 1982 AGM. The meeting place was moved from the Music Institute to the Dell Farquharson Centre for the next winter session. The marking of prints "Trade" or "Home" processed was introduced. The Lloyd Trophy from the defunct Rosyth Camera Club was accepted, to be presented to the winner of the Tape/Slide Competition. After two years participation in the Hobbies Exhibition, it was considered a great success with attendances exceeding three thousand, and the Association would continue to participate.

The 1983 AGM opened with the announcement of the death of William Clarke. Willie joined the Association in 1946 but his work for photography started more than ten years previously with the Photographic Section of The Dunfermline Naturalists Society with which the Association affiliated in 1946. Retiring President Dave Mitchell paid tribute to the work Willie had contributed to the Association and photography. His sister gave his prints, slides and equipment to the Association. She was to lose her life as a result of a car accident in June 1984.

Membership was down to sixty-four but the finances were healthier than hitherto. There was however a lack of interest in entering competitions. A new system of awarding points was agreed. The summer exhibition was once again held in the Pittencrief Park Museum and the Glen Pavilion Hobbies Exhibition was once more a success with attendance exceeding four thousand. Annual dinner was again in the

Queens Hotel attended by thirty-five members when the thirteen trophies were shared by eight members. Application for membership of the Dunfermline Arts Council was accepted.

It was decided not to have the annual dinner in 1984 but to serve wine at the trophy presentation instead. Membership for the 1983/84 session was down to forty-eight. Once again only the first monthly competition was well represented, entries falling off for the rest of the year. Never-the-less two prints, by W Hands and John Honeyman, were selected from the Association's entry to the SPF to be included in the portfolio to the Alliance. The Arts Council purchased sixteen picture frames for the purpose of showing a selection of Association members' prints in the Carnegie Centre. The first exhibition to consist of a selection of Willie Clarke's photos and thereafter the prints were to be changed every two months. As in the previous two years, tuition nights held separately from the normal meetings would continue.

Difficulty was still being experienced in filling the vacant post of Syllabus Secretary and in order to get the preparation of the next year's syllabus off the ground, a sub-committee of four members was appointed. Membership was up to sixty-five in 1985 and finances were in a healthy state. A new Kindermann projector was purchased with the help of a grant from the Arts Council, and soon after a 150mm lens was added. A trophy had been presented by the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust to be awarded to the author of the best print in the "Dunfermline Theme" competition. This was won by J Wilson and for future years the trophy would be awarded to the author of the three highest marked entries in the Annual Exhibition. It was decided that 70 x 70mm slides would no longer be permitted in competitions and an appropriate deletion was made to the Competition Rules.

Towards the end of 1986 a new Phillips tape recorder was purchased and the Association entered the audio-visual scene. Sponsorship was being sought for new trophies! Competitions were well supported and the Association fared better in the Inter-Club Competition with a first for colour slides and individual awards for Lynn Stout for the best slide and Don Paris for the best print. Audio Visual was now a feature of activities. There were no tuition nights for new members as these "had not been asked for". The Hobbies

Exhibition featured a selection of Jack Conboy's colour prints. Altogether a successful 1986/87 year. However, a very poor response was received for the Civic Week Photographic Competition organised by the Association, only six entries being submitted, and it was decided not to organise the event next year.

That concludes, at least for the time being, my History of the Dunfermline Photographic Association. I found difficulty in extracting further notes from the Minutes of Meetings for the following years. Perhaps this can yet be done.

Tom Scott .
Dunfermline
1997



PENSIVE

Tom Scott 1961

16" x 20"

Scottish Photographic Federation Portfolio 1961

*The Photographic Alliance Inter-Federation
Competition 1961*

*Exhibited Royal Photographic Society
Aberdeen
Newcastle upon Tyne
Wednesbury, Staffs*

Fife Inter-Club Competition 1962

*47th Scottish Salon of Photography, Kilmarnock
June, 1962*