

BOLTON CAMERA CLUB

THE EARLY YEARS TO 1918

The Bolton Camera Club is one of the older organisations devoted to amateur photography in England, with a history dating back more than a century. The notes which follow strive to give some flavour of the early years up to the end of the First World War using minute books and other sources. If anyone can add to the story during this period please do not hesitate to get in touch with the President of the Club at president@boltoncameraclub.co.uk.

1884 In 1884 Joseph Ridgway Bridson was President of the **Bolton Photographic Society**.

He was bleacher, born in Horwich about 1832. In 1861 he described himself as a master bleacher and finisher of calicoes living at 61 Chorley New Road, Bolton (next to the entrance to Queens Park today) with his wife Margaret, son Arthur and four servants. In 1871 Joseph was staying with his brother William, in Sella Park, near Egremont, Cumbria. (Sella Park is a 17th Century country house incorporating a 14th Century Pele Tower). By 1881 Joseph was living on Belle Isle, Applethwaite, near Keswick. He employed seven servants there, including a footman. Belle Isle is a large island at the south end of Windermere, opposite Bowness. The only other family resident on the island was that of the boatman.

In 1889 a photograph of Joseph Ridgway Bridson J.P. appeared in the Photographic Societies' Reporter as President of the **Bolton Photographic Society**. It showed a middle-aged man in three piece suit and wing collar who had fairish hair and 'pork chop' sideburns. He was said to be living at Bridge House, Bolton and Bryerswood, Windermere, where, in 1891, he told the census enumerator that he was 'living on his own means' (i.e. retired wealthy). His connection with photography dated from the days of the wet plate. He had been a prominent exhibitor at the society's exhibition, and elsewhere; and had been awarded several medals, including a gold medal given by the London Stereoscopic Company, and the Amateur Photographer silver medal for photographs contributed to the 'Home Portraiture' competition.

By 1901, Joseph Bridson had moved to Bournemouth on the south coast.

1889 Dr J Johnston, MB Mast. Surg., Edin, 1874, MD, Edin, 1877 and L.S.A. London, 1876, was President of the **Bolton Camera Club**. He was born in Annan, Dumfrieshire, Scotland in about 1853 and lived with his wife, Margaret (born in Bolton), at 2 Bridgeman Street, Bolton in 1881.

A picture of him appeared in the Photographic Societies' Reporter in 1889. He was wearing a frock coat and pin striped trousers, and had a full head of dark hair, a goatee beard and moustache. He was depicted sitting at a writing desk, perhaps writing a prescription or letter. He was described as an enthusiastic amateur, having received the distinction of an Amateur Photographer medal, and having done much photography in Norway. He had prepared a lecture on 'Norway and Norwegians' illustrated by lantern slides made from his own negatives. He was also a member of the Council of the **Bolton Photographic Society**, and in his profession found photography of great service in recording pathological and surgical work.

In 1891 he was living at 54 Manchester Road, Bolton, and had a medical assistant, James Davidson (also from Scotland), living with him. By 1911 he had obviously prospered since he had moved to Sunnybrae, Lostock Lane.

1892

There were three Bolton clubs in existence at this time:-

- **The Bolton Camera Club** – President, John Johnston, Secretary, Thomas Parkinson of Westbrook Street, Bolton.
- **The Bolton Photographic Club**, founded in 1883 – President, Jabez Boothroyd, Secretary, James Slater of Town Hall Square, Bolton.
- **The Bolton Photographic Society**, founded in 1879 – President, Joseph Ridgway Bridson, Secretary, Charles A Mackechnie MB of 355 Blackburn Road, Bolton. They Society met at 10 Rushton Street (off Corporation Street), Bolton. Ordinary meetings were on the first Tuesday of every month.

Thomas Parkinson was a landscape and architectural photographer by trade in 1891, living at 117 Westbrook Street (nowadays part of the Trinity Retail Park adjacent to St Peter's Way). He was born in Settle, Yorkshire in about 1834. He was married with at least eight children, one of whom (another Thomas) was also a photographer by trade. Thomas Senior had been employed as an usher at the grammar school in 1881. By 1901 he had moved to 604 Tonge Moor Road, Bolton.

Jabez Boothroyd was a tailor and draper, born in Denby, Yorkshire, about 1849. He was married to Elizabeth (also from Yorkshire) and had two sons and a daughter. One son was in the family business, and the other was a student of theology. He lived at 4 Wentworth Street, Bolton in 1881 (near Mere Hall, now redeveloped for modern housing).

Charles Alexander Mackechnie was born in Argyleshire in about 1863 and was a medical student in Glasgow in 1881 where he graduated as MB Mast. Surg. in 1885. In 1891 he lived at 355 Blackburn Road with his wife Mary acting as a General Medical Practitioner. By 1895 Charles had moved to San Bernardino, California. San Bernardino had a population of 12,000 in 1892

and “several miles of paved streets”. In 1901 he was elected Health Officer for San Bernardino. He later moved to San Francisco (by 1911) where the major earthquake and fire there had taken place in 1906. By 1919 he was in Thargomindah, Queensland, Australia (in the outback, 600 miles west of Brisbane, population today still only 203). By 1923 he had moved on to Penong, South Australia (a small settlement on the edge of the Nullarbor Plain, established in 1915), and by 1927 he was in Sydney, where he remained until at least 1939.

Charles Mackechnie seems to have had the pioneering spirit! (See also below for September 1916)

1905

The Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union was founded. The Union was the idea of William Tansley (founder and secretary of Everton Camera Club) who wrote to every known photographic club in Cheshire and Lancashire in June of 1905 suggesting the formation of a federation.

On the 9th October 1905 delegates from the Cheshire and Lancashire photographic societies met at the rooms of the Liverpool Amateur Photographic Association at Eberle Street for the purpose of agreeing to form a federation of societies, and drawing up a constitution. A month later, on the 4th of November 1905 the representatives of twenty-eight societies witnessed Thurston Holland (MRCS., FRPS., president of CAPA) sign the charter of the federation's first constitution at the rooms of the Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.

The organisation had about 3000 members, including some 70 lecturers, becoming the largest organisation of photographic societies in the world within months. Its aims and objectives were to foster and encourage the advancement of the science and practice of the art of photography; to provide means for the mutual benefit and protection of the federated societies and their members and to provide a link with the Royal Photographic Society. (Today the national link is to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain)

1908

The Bolton Amateur Photographic Society (BAPS) was meeting. The President was William Mellor Balshaw. He was born in Bolton in about 1881 and lived at Saxonhurst, 41 Seymour Road, Bolton in 1911. He was a solicitor in partnership with John and Walter Balshaw. William was active as a solicitor in Bolton, certainly up to the 1930's, if not beyond.

Club events that year included a ramble to Summerseat and a visit to Adlington. Joint lectures were arranged with the Bolton Field Naturalists, who also loaned the BAPS Lantern. The Society's had its own rooms which were looked after by a room steward, Mr A Jackson of 57 Churchgate, Bolton. A monthly Circular was printed for members outlining the activities of the Society.

New members and resignations were considered formally by the Society Council.

June 1908 The BAPS Council met with Messrs Wylde, Dyson, Gent, Lightowler, Isherwood and Jenkinson present. They discussed the loan of the Society's Lantern. A Rooms Committee and Portfolio Club were formed.

Albert Neilson Hornby Wylde was born in 1883. He was almost certainly named after Albert Neilson Hornby, the first man to captain England at both rugby and cricket in 1882. Hornby captained the England team that lost to the Australians that year, giving rise to the ashes. The Bolton Camera Club's Albert was a manager and salesman for a cotton manufacturer, living at 25 Croston Street, Bolton in 1911 and Holmlea, Lever Edge Lane, in 1915. He had married Lillie Higson in Govan, Lanarkshire late in 1911 and eventually died in Wilmslow in 1946. One of his sons (Colin, born 1915) was killed in Canada in World War 2 flying with the Commonwealth Flying Training School.

Harry Lightowler lived at 26 Mackenzie Street, Astley Bridge, in 1911. He was a cotton twiner by trade from Halifax.

August 1908 New locks were fitted to the Club rooms and new keys were distributed to members on payment of subs and surrender of old keys. A booking fee was paid for 'Focus 1908'.

November 1908 Accounts were passed for the following:

Bolton Corporation Gas	3s.7d
New locks/keys	£1.15.10d
Members register	5s.0d
6 receipt books	7s.6d
Total	£2.11s.11d
Discount to gas	4d
Total	£2.11s.7d

December 1908 Slides were to be selected for the L&CU in February 1909, to be announced in the Society's January Circular.

The case of a member taking an award at an exhibition even though they had not paid their subscription was discussed. It was decided that because the Exhibition Secretary had allowed the picture to be hung, the member 'should be allowed to take his choice of prizes on payment of 2/6 fine'. This variation of the rules was not to be viewed as a precedent.

January 1909 A sub-committee was formed to 'look out for suitable premises for this Society'. Subsequently, it was decided to stay put.

A letter was received from Mr W H Lever (contents unknown)(presumably the later Lord Leverhulme, who was a Club patron).

A special monthly meeting was called to consider changing the name of the society from the BAPS to the **Bolton Camera Club**. The current Bolton Camera Club name was about to emerge.

During 1909 The L&CU Annual Subscription paid by the Society was £1. The Society subscribed to 'Amateur Photographer and Photography and Focus' at 1½d weekly.

The Society had its own darkroom. The monthly Circulars to members were printed by Messrs George Robinson at a cost of £1.11s.3d for six months (including 1s.3d. tram fares). Messrs Robinsons also printed the membership cards.

Club events planned included:

- A whist drive combined with an awards ceremony (the whist drive was subsequently abandoned).
- A joint ramble with the Bolton Field Naturalists
- A ramble to Jumbles – at which 'hints on pictorial composition' will be given by advanced members to beginners.
- A ramble to Whalley district led by Mr Duxbury of Blackburn.
- A ramble from Prestolee to Clifton.
- A ramble to Turton and Entwistle.
- A ramble to Liverpool.
- A Holiday Ramble.
- A ramble to Sunnyhurst Woods, Darwen.
- A ramble to Summerseat.

Rambles organised on a Saturday were repeated on the following Wednesday. A 'Summer Ramble Competition' was organised to encourage participation – one print was to be submitted by a member from each ramble announced in the Monthly Circulars, and points awarded. Two prizes were awarded for the highest number of points.

February 1909 A scheme proposed by Blackburn and District CC to have a competition for Clubs within an 18 mile radius of Blackburn was approved.

March 1909 A lecture was organised with a Mr Dicks. This was advertised in the Bolton Chronicle and Bolton Evening News over three nights. The Club/Society obviously felt able to organise events beyond its own membership. The adverts cost 5s.9d.

May 1909 The secretary was asked to write for permission to photograph in Peel Old Hall.

The old rules of the Society were revised by the Council prior to them being presented to the AGM. (Probably in anticipation of the change to the Bolton Camera Club).

June 1909 The Council appointed Reporters, an Hon. Librarian, Hon. Lanternists, delegates to L&CPU, a delegate to the Blackburn and District Inter-Club Photographic Alliance, a Rooms Committee, a Portfolio Club, an Hon. Circular Secretary and Hon. Auditors.

A number of L&CPU Lectures and Demonstrations were selected for the coming Winter Syllabus, and other lectures were sought on 'Simple effective mounting' and 'Combination Slides'. (Presumably this was after the AGM. Some of the arrangements would not look out of place today.)

July 1909 Advertising space on the monthly circular was to be offered to local dealers. Further lectures were planned from Mr F Griffin, Art Master at Mawdsley St. Technical School, from Mr J Lord on 'London to Boulonge (sic)', Mr Thomas Edmunds on 'Coulbourne Villa, Menston, Yorkshire' and Mr J Wild and Albert Wylde about Bromoil.

August 1909 Six frames were authorised for Circulars to be hung in the dealers' shops advertising on the back page of the Club Circular. (The six frames cost 7s.6d.)

September 1909 Arrangements for an Open Exhibition were being made, to be held in early 1910 in Victoria Hall. Mr F J Mortimer FRPS was to be asked to judge the exhibits. (The Exhibition was advertised for two weekends in the Bolton Journal and every day up to Friday in the Evening News and Chronicle. Six posters were made and Exhibition Catalogues printed for sale at a penny each. A doorkeeper for the Exhibition was also appointed. Lanternists were arranged as was a Saturday lecture by Rev. H W Dicks). Interestingly, the Exhibition date was subsequently deferred and a Committee was formed to write to other societies to provide pictures.

November 1909 Lecturers' expenses were paid as follows:

- Mr Coutes of Liverpool 10s.6d.
- Mr Grindrod of Rochdale 2s.6d.
- J Lee Syms of Leigh 1s.0d.

December 1909 A Junior Section was formed with a subscription of 2s.6d. per annum. 1,000 Circulars were ordered to advertise the new Section. (Currently, [2011] the Bolton Camera Club does not have a junior membership.)

February 1910 The Mayor of Bolton, Cllr J T Cooper was elected a member of the Society.

- March 1910** Amongst others, Alderman J Mills JP was elected a member.
- November 1910** An invitation was accepted to attend a lecture course on 'The Four Stages of Art' at the Bolton Arts Guild.
- March 1911** A notice was put into the Club Circular – "Will the member who borrowed the lens from the optical lantern please return same at once or the Committee will be forced to take action, and also the matter be put in the hands of the police." Postcards were also sent to all members.
- April 1911** A small sub-committee was elected to interview Messrs J Wild, E M Horrocks, H M Kellam and G Holt, and if possible, 'try to smooth the matter over'. (But what was at issue?)
- December 1911** The Council agreed "that the fittings for an oxygen cylinder be purchased and that same to be left in the hands of the lanternist and the secretary." (projection seems to have been a hazardous business)
- April 1912** It was proposed that "a suggestion book is kept at the rooms in which members are desired to enter any suggestions which they may wish to bring before the Council relating to rambles or any other club matter."
- June 1912** The Council proposed to "have demonstrations for beginners outside the club and same circularised in the photographic dealers shop windows and that we have the following demonstrations:-
- Roll film development
Plate and tank development
PDP Toning etc
Self Joining Paper."
- June 1913** AGM. Mr Glendenning resigned as secretary and the Club was considering a move to new premises. They were presently located in Corporation Street. The election of club officers was to be temporary, apart from the President, Mr W M Balshaw, until the new premises were occupied.
- July 1913** The AGM was resumed. New rooms had been obtained at Bradford Buildings, 27 Mawdsley Street, as tenants, at a rent of £10 per year exclusive of rates and taxes. The Club remained in Mawdsley Street until the 1980's.
- The meeting elected two people to be Joint Secretary, a Treasurer, seven Vice-Presidents, a Committee of nine members, two Reporters, two Lanternists, an Auditor, an L&CPU delegate and a Blackburn Inter-Club Alliance delegate. Junior members (under 21) were to be accepted at 2s.6d. per year.

- September 1913** The Council agreed to the Bolton Microscopical Society renting the Club rooms.
- October 1913** There was an upsurge in membership following the new rooms being taken (15 new members being elected). A special lecture was organised by a Mr Frost called 'Peeps into Nature's Ways with Camera and Microscope'.
- November 1913** The secretary was instructed to call the attention of members to the poor attendance at lectures.
- May 1914** In view of the number of members who had failed to pay their subscriptions it was decided to place a list on the Club notice board marked with those who had paid. It was also proposed that the Club financial year commence on October 1st rather than July 1st (this proved controversial because it involved extra subscriptions for people in membership prior to the move of rooms, but was accepted in July 1914).
- June 1914** Mr W M Balshaw resigned as President after many years. Mr J Galloway was elected as next President. A Subscription List was subsequently opened for Mr Balshaw (with a maximum subscription set at 1s.0d.).
- John Henry Galloway, born about 1845, lived at 30 New Hall Lane, Bolton in 1911, and was a commercial traveller in the mineral water trade.
- July 1914** The Club agreed to admit 'Lady Associates'. These were to be the wives of present members. Thursday afternoons were 'set apart for the Ladies'.
- August 1914** A joint ramble to Summerseat with the Bury Photographic Society was sought. In addition members were asked to report to the Secretary 'any difficulties which they meet, in the photographic world, and that the Syllabus Committee be asked to try and arrange, to help quit these difficulties, in the way of giving demonstrations etc.'
- November 1914** An exhibition was organised, opened by the President, together with a musical entertainment and slide show.
- The Club Council agreed to keep Mr J Mitchell on the list of members 'until the end of the war'. (John Mitchell worked for Bolton Corporation rates department and survived the war – living at 14 Mornington Road in 1932)
- It was also agreed that the lantern could be used for Belgian Refugees and at Bolton Fire Station.

February 1915 The Club's cupboard was broken into and lenses for the lantern were missing, along with notes from previous Committee meetings. The insurers were informed.

Meanwhile, it was suggested that the Club should have Gentlemen Associates.

March 1915 The Camera Club and Microscopy Society organised an entertainment called a 'Conversazione' to be held between 7.30 pm and 10 pm, March 10th 1915. Photographs were hung on the walls and exhibits from the Microscopy Society were on show. Admission was 3s.6d. per couple. Refreshments were provided and evening dress was optional. The Camera Club proposed to make the financial provision for the event, and take any profit. If there was any loss, it was hoped this would be shared with the 'Micro Club' pro ratio.

April 1915 At the Annual General Meeting, the following members were present:-

T Midgley (Chairman)	J Isherwood	George Gilbert gave his
A E Hadfield	A Hopkins	apologies
F G Atkinson (Secretary)	H Jones	J H Galloway sent a letter
Ben Wright	D Woods	saying he would remain
E Fairhurst (Treasurer)	H Mills	a loyal worker
W A Brunt	J Pilkington	
D Collier	H W Phillips	
J Dyson	H Rothwell	
J L Graham	W Torkington	
G Holt	A N H Wyld	
A P Williams		

Thomas Midgley was the curator of the Public Museum, working for Bolton Corporation, in 1911. He was born about 1875 in Bolton and lived at 45 Hastings Road, Bolton. His father had also been the museum curator and meteorologist and was responsible for the creation of the Egyptian collections in the Bolton museum. Thomas did a lot of work at Hall i'th' Wood after it had been donated to the town by Sir William Lever (later a patron of the Camera Club) in 1901. Thomas was still the Museum curator in the early 1930's. He had close connections to the Bolton Field Naturalists through his work (and was a member). The Naturalists had close connections to the Camera Club as well. Thomas was also a Unitarian Sunday school teacher.

Frederick George Atkinson (born 1885) was employed at the Co-operative Society's Central Grocery Stores as a grocer's assistant and lived at 71 Grasmere Street, Bolton by the end of 1915. He was married to Ethel at the Blackburn Road Congregational Church on December 1st 1915 and

then enlisted on 28th February 1916. Unfortunately, he was killed in action in Flanders (the Somme) on 27 March 1918 as a member of 146 Sqn. Royal Garrison Artillery. He is commemorated on the Arras War Memorial and probably has no known grave. His widow received a pension of 13/9d a week.

Walter Asprey Brunt, born about 1866, like John Galloway, was also a commercial traveller, but for an oil merchant. He lived with his wife Elizabeth and three children at 40 New Hall Lane, Bolton, five doors down from John Galloway.

May 1915

The following summer programme was proposed:-

May 15th – Ramble (Kenyon Peel Hall) (in fact they went by car to Dunscar, then Gale Plantation and Longworth Clough).

May 27th – Meeting in Rooms

June 12th – Ramble (Wardley Hall) (in fact they went to Kenyon Peel Hall. Kenyon Peel Hall was demolished mid-20th century for a housing estate)

June 23rd – Meeting in Rooms

July 17th – Arranged with Darwen (in fact they went to Clifton where they found that photography was not permitted by HM Forces guarding the Chloride works)

July 29th – Meeting in Rooms

Aug 14th – Ramble (Clifton and Prestwich) (in fact this was the date the Darwen meet eventually took place – see below)

Aug 26th – Meeting in Rooms

Sep 18th – Borsden Woods (this ramble was subsequently abandoned in favour of one to Smithills Hall one week later because of restrictions on photography near military installations)

Sep 30th – Meeting in Rooms

The meetings in rooms were for the purpose of print and negative comparison, criticism and suggestive treatment etc.

The Council meeting planned for 18th May 1915 was abandoned as inquorate – with only two people present.

May 1915

The rules of the Club were revised. Amongst other things the rules stated:-

1. The Club shall be known as “THE BOLTON CAMERA CLUB” and its object shall be to encourage the pursuit and promote the advancement of the Art of Photography.
2. The Club shall consist of ladies and gentlemen who practise photography. The name and address of intending members, along with the names of the two members who propose and second their nomination, shall be submitted to the Secretary, in writing, for consideration of the Council. The voting for such elections shall be by

show of hands unless a ballot be demanded. If the nomination be approved by three-fourths of the votes recorded, the applicant shall be declared elected.

3. The subscription, due on election and annually in October, shall be 7/6 for gentlemen, 5/- for ladies, and 2/6 for juniors under the age of 21 years. Members joining after May 1st shall pay 5/- for the remainder of the year. Associate members, who do not practise photography, may at the discretion of the Council be accepted at a subscription of 5/-, such Associates have no powers of voting or the use of any apparatus belonging to the Club. Lady friends of members wishing to attend the series of lectures etc. arranged during the winter months, may become Associate members at 1/- for the season.
4. A member wishing to resign may do so by giving written notice to the Secretary on or before September 30th, provided all monies due for the current year shall have been paid. Failing such notice the member shall be liable for the payment of the next year's subscription.

August 1915 A party of 16 "took 2.15 train to Darwen where a large gathering of Darwen Photographic Association met our members. The Joint Societies proceeded to Sunnyhurst Woods. The weather was very adverse, thunderstorms and heavy rain occurring.
Tea was had at the kiosk and afterwards the Societies adjourned to the Darwen rooms for a social. Items were rendered by Miss Brunt (M Sop), Mr Fairhurst (violin) and Mr S Hart (Humorist) (Sec. Accompanied). Baritone, Mr W E Seddon, arrived too late – owing to accident on Rly – to participate.
At close the joint Societies were addressed by the President of the Darwen Phot. Assocn. and by the President of the Camera Club (Mr E Haslam). Seconded by Mr Brunt.
Comments were made on the great success of the venture and assurances made for the repetition of the scheme on future occasions."

August 1915 The minutes of the Club Council indicate a membership of between 50 and 100.

Use of the Club darkroom was to be limited to one hour if another member was waiting. The Council agreed to ask members to assist in the taking of snapshots of local soldiers' and sailors' dependents under the auspices of the 'Snapshots from Home' scheme organised by the YMCA.

The Club negotiated a 15% discount from Messrs Waller and Riley Ltd for certain photographic goods.

September 1915 The Council agreed to give 10% of net profits from the next Exhibition to War Funds.

- October 1915** The Council proposed to purchase a piano, “provided sufficient shares to be taken by members at minimum 5/- or a multiple of same, to be repaid to shareholders at the rate of 10/- per social”. Five days later it was reported that subscriptions had reached £17 and that other members were to be given a personal visit. By December 1915 the fund was sufficient to buy the piano, but by then the process was changed, with the owner/subscribers loaning the piano to the Camera Club on hire-purchase of not less than £2 per annum.
- December 1915** W Mather and W T Waterhouse resigned because of the war. It was hoped that their memberships could continued after the war. It seems likely that Mr Waterhouse did not survive.
- January 1916** W Rowland Reay, a new member of the Club from Parbold, had enlisted and wrote to the Council to this effect. Second Lieutenant William Rowland Reay died serving in the Machine Gun Corps on 27 May 1918 in Marne, France.
- May 1916** Canon Chapman agreed that the Camera Club could photograph the interior of the Parish Church. Subsequently, the Secretary had an interview with the Chief Constable in connection with a report of a constable on the night of members photographing the church. (Probably there was concern about possible espionage) The outcome was more freedom for such photography.
- September 1916** The Secretary reported that the Club had been narrowly beaten by Chorley (73 points to 74) in the print section of the Blackburn Alliance Competition, and had come 6th (41 points) in the slides – won by Darwen with 55.
- A letter had also been received from San Francisco. (It is entirely likely that this was from Charles Mackechnie who was in San Francisco at that time)
- October 1916** At the AGM the Secretary noted that there had been insufficient consideration given to models and persons organising rambles – they could have received more prints. There were also complaints that members could improve attendance and punctuality at lectures.
- It was also stated that in the coming winter “we should rely on members more for photographic education of beginners”.
- October 1916** The Club was in debt at this date, but a proposed ‘whip round’ at the AGM was rejected by the membership.
- November 1916** The Club’s rooms were hired out to the Workers’ Education Society for a lantern lecture for the sum of 15/-. Subsequently the WEA asked for a regular arrangement, which was agreed at £5 for the use of the rooms on six occasions, including a lantern operator.

The Council decided to insure the piano for £25 and “that the Camera Club assets be further insured against aircraft”.

Subscriptions were received from 23 members.

November 1916 The Club President, Mr Wylde, was elected President of the Blackburn Inter Club Alliance for that year.

December 1916 Mr J Midgley (Chairman of the Camera Club Committee) was elected Vice-President of the L&CPU. Patron of the Club, Alderman Knowles Edge, was elected Mayor of Bolton for the ensuing Municipal Year.

April 1917 A proposed joint ramble with the Horwich Institute Amateur Photographic Society was called off since the Horwich members were mostly working on Saturdays and, on account of the waterworks, photography in Rivington was practically prohibited.

The patrons of the Bolton Camera Club were as follows:-

Ald. Knowles Edge, JP, Mayor of Bolton

Ald. Dr J Young, JP

Ald. J P Haslam, JP

Ald. W H Brown, JP

Sir Wm Lever, Bart

Ald. J Seddon, JP

E Blackburn Esq, JP

A Clayton Esq.

T Lee Syms Esq.

June 1917 The Council was becoming concerned that members were failing to pay their subscriptions. Meanwhile, the payment of some accounts was deferred.

August 1917 The Club’s financial position was assessed. It was regretted that some members were still in arrears, but the Treasurer reported that “thanks to the success of the various social functions etc of last year and in the expectation that all members will honour their liability, it is anticipated that in spite of the difficulty of working a Photographic Society in wartime the financial year will close with an improvement on previous years”.

December 1917 The Bolton Field Naturalists were hired the Club rooms for a lecture for 5/- (and the hire of the lantern for 1/-).

At a Council meeting it was determined that all monies received by Club officers should be paid into the Club Account at the County Bank and that no official should retain cash exceeding 10/- for more than seven days. In addition all accounts over 10/- were to be paid by cheque signed by two

officials. The Bank Pass Book, cheque book and receipt books were to be submitted at each monthly meeting of the Council. (It sounds as if there had been some difficulties in this regard.)

January 1918 Arrangements were made for the forthcoming exhibition. These included tickets to cost 6d. including tax; a whist drive to be held on the Friday (an extra 1/- for this); and a concert to be held on the Saturday. The expectation was that the exhibition would be opened on the Wednesday by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and that there would be a lecture. Advertisements were to be solicited for the printed catalogue.

April 1918 Lord Leverhulme was a patron of the Club, and Mayor of Bolton.

August 1918 The Council asked the piano subscribers to hold a meeting with a view to disposing of the instrument.

There was obvious concern about the finances of the Club – a list of members was to be put on the notice board and names marked off as subscriptions paid. Members were to be chased for overdue subscriptions and the President was deputed to “obtain the Mayor’s hon. subscription to date”. (The latter point must have been a tricky task to undertake)

September 1918 The piano had been sold for £42, and the profit given to the Club. Meanwhile the Field Naturalists had decided to meet in the King’s Hall in future since some of their senior members complained that they had received chills and declined to run the risks of serious illness under the conditions in the Camera Club rooms. The Camera Club Secretary pointed to the inconvenience to the Club members caused by hosting the Naturalists, to the service given in operating the lantern, to the fusing of the light switches during their occupation (which cost 6/11 to fix) and to the fact that they had only found out about the change by telephoning the Naturalists about their planned programme. Expressing dissatisfaction, the Camera Club Council pointed out that if a meeting had been held with the Naturalists as requested many times, an agreement would have been reached which would have prevented them leaving without notice. They requested rent and damages from the Naturalists. When there was no response from the Naturalists, a further copy of the demand was sent the next month. The outcome is unknown.

December 1918 A programme for the coming year was determined and a Publicity Committee was considered as a way of obtaining new members. The post-war period had commenced.