

Ophthalmic Antiques International Collectors' Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 17th May 2026 The College of Optometrists, London

MINUTES

Present: Chairman, Roy Midwinter

Club members: John Dixon Salt, Neil Handley, Jayshree Vasani, Piet Meininger, Richard Keeler, Victor Burness, Janet Plater, David Dick, Wendy Dick, Valerie Mellor. Keith Adamson was present via the internet.

A welcome address was given by The Chairman.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Jean Marie Devriendt, Keith Adamson, Jan Van Ommeslaeghe and Graeme Holland. Graeme arrived during the meeting after an arduous journey.
2. a) **In Memoriam**: Marieke de Jong (Netherlands) and George Foster (USA)
b) **Overseas** members attending: Piet Meininger (Netherlands)
c) **New** Members and Guests: none
3. The **Minutes** of the AGM 2025 were signed
4. **Matters arising** from the AGM 2025 not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda: none.
5. **Correspondence**: none
6. **Chairman's Report and Remarks**: Roy reminded the meeting that he was a Temporary Chairman and would not be standing for election for a further year. He announced the 100th anniversary of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians of which our Founder, Derek Davidson, had been a member.
(<https://www.abdo.org.uk/100-years/>)
He stressed the importance of the OAICC – people sharing knowledge and saving knowledge for the future.
7. **Membership Secretary's Report**: As last year, there was no formal report from the Membership Secretary. The Chairman gave membership figures - EU 22; UK 53; USA 29; Australia 6; Rest of the World 5. Total: 115.
8. **Treasurer's Report**: A Balance Sheet and a Profit & Loss statement were provided. The Club's costs for printing, postage, data protection were increasing. An increase in membership fees was proposed, for the UK from £20 to £25, for the EU from 35 euros to 40 euros, for the USA from \$40 to \$45, to take effect from 2027.
9. **Excursions Officer's Report**: Werner and Ingrid Weismuller were thanked for their organisation of the visit to Berlin in 2025. A visit to Oxford was being planned for September 2026 and to France in 2027.
10. **Publicity Officer's Report**: Jayshree Vasani reported that the Club's website, www.oaicc.com, was an important meeting point for Club members and visits

to the site were encouraged. Thanks to John Dixon Salt, the site looked inviting and topical.

OA, the Club's quarterly magazine, encouraged members to share information and photos, contribute articles of optical interest, participate in meetings and Club activities, and promote the OAICC within their professional and collecting communities. A challenge was put to Club members: write an article for OA.

The Club WhatsApp group had 20 members and there had been 125 interactions from May 2025 to May 2026. There had been some notable posts (a) John Dixon Salt receiving a life fellowship of the College of Optometrists
(b) Roy Midwinter had done a podcast on 2 December on Optical History.
(c) The Victoria & Albert Museum East Storehouse had opened in Stratford, London in April 2026.

Publicity efforts had focused on increasing awareness of the OAICC and preserving ophthalmic history. Areas of interest had been

- Medical and ophthalmic history
- Antique optical instruments
- Historical preservation
- Collecting and research

The OAICC Facebook Group had been active, with approximately 90 posts and interactions over the past year. An idea proposed was to have a Social Media engagement calendar of special optical/scientific related posts across the year.

Face-to-Face Events:

- (a) John Dixon Salt and Roy Midwinter had attended the Re-opening ceremony of the British Optical Association Museum on 4 September 2025, following extensive refurbishment.
- (b) Roy Midwinter and John Salt had attended the Association of Independent Optometrists and Dispensing Optician Annual Conference on 11/12 October 2025.

11. **Website Report:** John Dixon Salt reported that the website, having been secured following two episodes of hacking, was now resistant to hacking.

Six new members had joined the Club via the website since the last AGM.

Requests received included advice, identification, information and valuation.

John hoped that while he would continue to update the content, a Club member with experience would take over the position of webmaster. John would

welcome feedback about the website: what works or doesn't work, how to make it more appealing.

12. Election of Officers and Committee 2026-20267

Chairman: vacancy

Vice-Chairman: vacancy

Treasurer: Roy Midwinter

Membership Secretary: vacancy

Minutes Secretaries: Roy Midwinter (Committee), Valerie Mellor (AGM)

Publicity: Jayshree Vasani

Excursions Co-ordinator: Roy Midwinter

Editor of OA: Tony Chahine

Auctioneer: Piet Meininger

Committee: The above plus Neil Handley, John Dixon Salt, Graeme Holland, Christian French, Gary Kousoulou.

13. Activities for 2026 and Onwards

22 July 2026: Online auction by Leonard Joel of a private collection of antique eyewear 'Optics of Time'.

13 September 2026 – London Open House

22-26 September 2026 – visit to Oxford

23rd May 2027 - OAICC AGM

2027 – visit to Morez, France

2027 - OHS meeting, dates to be announced

2028 – visit to Zeiss Museum, Germany

14. Any Other Business

(a) Victor Burness recommended the Scientific Instruments Society's online 'Fireside Chats.' On Saturdays at 5pm, members talk about their collection for 30-45 minutes. Member-protected and lectures are recorded. It was proposed that John Dixon Salt, Roy Midwinter and Neil Handley should investigate the possibility of 10-minute talks for members of the OAICC, perhaps including talks on restoration of optical items.

(b) 'The Atlas of Ophthalmoscopes', a new book by Richard Keeler and Ian L. McAllister was presented to the College Library.

(c) Neil Handley confirmed that Club members were entitled to use the College library.

The AGM was followed by Lunch at 1pm.

Valerie Mellor
21 May 2026