



THE PAGB BY OUR PRESIDENT LEO RICH DPAGB APAGB EFIAP/g ARPS

This article is compiled from the same material provided by Leo for an extensive article in Photography News in January 2014

Although originally mooted by the Photographic Society of Great Britain (now the Royal Photographic Society) as far back as the 1890's it was not until 1930 that the embryo PAGB was formed. It comprised five regional Federations (which had already been established), the RPS and the Central Association of Photographic Societies (CAPS) which represented clubs all over the UK who did not have an organised body of their own.

CAPS gradually disappeared as more regional Federations were formed and evolved into the fifteen which now form the modern independent PAGB. Over time the RPS withdrew though each organisation does have a delegate attending each others meetings maintaining the traditional links

The concept of the PAGB is to service the fifteen Federations – just as the Federations provide service to their clubs but do not dictate how they run their own affairs.

It collates the Directories of judges and lecturers from each Federation into a Handbook so that there is a ready source of information on a Nationwide basis. The PAGB also maintains its own list of judges who have been approved by them to adjudicate at Inter-Federation, National and International Exhibitions and competitions.

Many clubs, especially those in more remote locations who are unable to afford speakers, benefit from the PAGB Recorded Lecture Service where, for a small

sum, they can hire CDs on a range of subjects for the entertainment or education of their members

A Patronage Service is provided to those Federations and Clubs running National Exhibitions or special events which includes the provision of Medals and Ribbons

To encourage Inter-Federation involvement, and to raise the standard of UK Club photography a number of competitions and exhibitions are organised by the PAGB either for Federations to enter directly or for clubs selected by them to act as their representatives. This often entails an internal Federation selection process which also stimulates the competition between photographers and clubs.

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GB CUP NATURE 2014 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



Best in Flight	Kestrel Hunting	Steve Shaw	Rolls Royce (Derby) PS
Best Bird Portrait	Dalmatian Pelican	Guy Edwardes	Dorchester CC
Best Mammal	Red Deer Stag Bellowing	Paul Matthews	North Cheshire PS

PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit Presentations at the N&EMPF Exhibition Opening by the N&EMPF President David J Severn DPAGB EFIAP



1 Sarah Middleton DPAGB, Derby City PC, 2 Stephen Shaw DPAGB, Rolls-Royce [Derby] PS,
3 Stuart Crump DPAGB, Beeston (Notts) CC & 4 Vincent Scothern CPAGB, Nottingham & NottsPS



A keystone service of the PAGB is the provision of competitive Public Liability and Trustees & Officers Liability Insurance schemes for clubs who might otherwise have difficulty purchasing them independently. In addition other covers are available via the Brokers (For example - All Risks cover on photographic equipment).

Many photographers willingly volunteer their time to Clubs, Federations and the PAGB itself and this dedication is recognised by the granting of an Award of the PAGB (APAGB) or, for Exceptional Service, the J S Lancaster Medal (HonPAGB).

In 1994 the PAGB introduced the Awards for Photographic Merit with three levels.

Credit level is the most important and the standard sought is "Good Club Photography" – which is far higher than many imagine as it does vary between Clubs and Federations. Following this is the Distinction (DPAGB) where the work needs to have a probability of gaining acceptances in National Exhibitions. Only having achieved this level can a photographer attempt the coveted Master (MPAGB) granted for the very highest standard - photographs likely to win Awards in National and International Exhibitions. These Awards can also be achieved with Audio Visual presentations.

The whole scheme has proven extremely popular and demand grows year on year to the extent that we have needed to hold two additional adjudications in the past three years

As part of the service culture of the PAGB we try and provide guidance to Federations and clubs by dealing with photographic issues which effect us all. Photography is always evolving. Take, as an example, the introduction of digital projection. Most clubs were concerned about what equipment was

necessary, what software and even what sizing of images were necessary. The PAGB was able to compile guidelines on these subjects by collating information from numerous sources. We did not seek to impose our conclusions onto Federations or Clubs but merely help them appreciate the issues we all faced.

Membership of the PAGB is restricted to the Federations only and clubs cannot affiliate directly although any concerns they may have, if backed by the Federation, can be brought by their Elected Member, to an Executive meeting. The Executive meet three times a year and I am always amazed at the enthusiasm, dedication and time given by all the Members.

As membership of the PAGB itself is restricted we can only act in a promotional role on behalf of the Clubs and Federations. We do have a presence at events like the Photography Show and have been encouraged by the approaches we received, both from people considering joining a club and those club members who wished to meet the PAGB face to face.

We welcome feedback on any actions we propose to implement but prefer this to come via Federation representative rather than direct. As with all hobbies we have a number of individuals with their pet hobby horse, which is not even supported by their own club let alone Federation, but who need to "go to the top" and responding to them individually is very time consuming.

One of the major issues in club photography for many years has been communication. The PAGB can provide information to Federations who then pass it on to their clubs only for it, somewhere along the line, to fail to get through. Communication to Club members could be very slow and, sometimes, quite unreliable.

The PAGB used to publish a newsletter twice a year but this always reflected what had passed, not what was about to happen. To overcome this, and at the instigation of Rod Wheelans, Past President, an **e-news** letter was introduced and has proved amazingly popular. Anyone can subscribe so that a club member can now keep him or herself completely up to date with events photographic. Not only are the results of PAGB events available very quickly but interesting items, biopics, photographs, etc can be released in short order. **e-news** will continue to be our major organ for distributing information for the foreseeable future.

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We have close to one thousand Clubs and Societies within the PAGB of all different sizes, interests and all levels of ability. Some are more “social” than competitive and probably have little knowledge of their Federation let alone the PAGB. However the majority of clubs have an active membership whose aim is to improve their photography and who see the competitions and Exhibitions organised by their Club, their Federation and the PAGB as an ideal platform.

Virtually every College seems to have a Media Studies department nowadays and most of them still teach the traditional darkroom skills as part of their induction course. Speaking to students they welcome this as it teaches them not to rely solely on the processing engine built into their image capture equipment and to evaluate each picture and how it will finally appear. Some Colleges encourage their students to join local camera clubs but few seem to stay for long. Whether this is because the club scene is very different from their own projects or it just eats into their study time is arguable but I believe that more should be done to encourage them.

We have always taken a very active role in FIAP by co-ordinating applications for their Awards system. We had over 150 applicants in the last intake and all were successful. We enter FIAP Biennial Exhibitions and will be hosting the Colour Print Biennial ourselves in 2015 – another mammoth task, already started. Both the Scottish and Welsh Federations joined FIAP before the PAGB was born and have maintained their membership even though they are also members of the PAGB. They will join with the PAGB to make the 2015 event one of which we can all be proud.

I am very positive about the future of club photography in the UK. There are many more people discovering photography through modern communication facilities such as mobile telephones and iPads and a proportion of these will wish to expand their own photographic horizons. With the ability to manipulate images in software packages a whole new group of photographers is emerging and it is nice to see that many more ladies are flexing their creative minds and producing some wonderful images. It is up to the clubs to prepare themselves for the new generation, to give them the support they seek and to make potential members feel at home.

Leo Rich, PAGB President



On their way home by Leo Rich DPAGB APAGB EFIAP/g ARPS

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GB Cup Open 2014 – INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



Gabriel O'Shaughnessy Judge's Choice

Bent by Work

Rod Wheelans

Dumfries CC

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LONDON SALON
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THE LONDON SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY

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<http://www.britishphotographicexhibitions.org.uk/>

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GB CUP (SMALL CLUBS) 2014 INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

1 BEST OVERALL	TOUGH GUY	DUNCAN S.K. HILL	DONCASTER CC
2 Best Creative	Don't Look Down	Lynne Morris	Llandudno PS
3 Best Creative Portrait	Melissa	Gerry Gentry	Atherton & Dist APS
4 Best Sport	What Next	Ray Brammall	Doncaster CC



SUBSCRIPTION TO e-news is a "double opt-in" procedure which ensures that no-one is added to our list without their consent. Everyone is sent a confirmation e-mail and, only after replying to this do they become subscribers. Currently over 300 people have never confirmed and, therefore, do not receive the newsletter. The most likely reason is that they entered their e-mail address incorrectly and never saw the confirmation.

If you know of anyone in this position please ask them to try again at - www.pagbnews.co.uk

Best Landscape GB Cup Open	Approaching Storm	Robert Fulton	Paisley Colour PC
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2014

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We are happy to advertise exhibitions, Club events and Federation events in **e-news**, without charge, provided that they will be of interest beyond your own Federation. Nothing can be guaranteed as space is very limited but please e-mail the Editor in advance for information about size and format. We need as much notice as possible if you want publication in any particular month – around 6 weeks if possible.

PAGB DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2015

Sun 18 January	Closing Date Great British Cup 2014	
Sat/Sun 31/1 Jan/Feb	Executive Meeting	London
7/8/9/ Feb	JUDGING Great British Cup	Scotland
Mon 31 March	Closing Date for FIAP Distinctions	
Sat/Sun 11/12 April TBC	AGM & Executive Meeting	London
Sat/Sun 25/26 April	Awards for Photographic Merit	Hosted by SCPF
Mon 1 June	Closing date for Inter Federation PDI and Print Competitions/Exhibitions	
Sun 7 June TBC	Judging Inter Federation PDI & Print Competition/Exhibition	Hosted by KCPA
Sat 11 July TBC	PDI Club Championship	Uni. of Warwick
Sat/Sun 3/4 October	Executive Meeting	London
Sat 24 October	Club Print Championship	Edge Hill Uni.
Sat/Sun 28/29 Nov	Awards for Photographic Merit	Hosted by WPF
Sun 13 December	Awards for Photographic Merit ("Closed")	Dumfries



**<< Cloudscape by David Giffin DPAGB
Bury St Edmunds**

from his successful entry to the Awards for
Photo. Merit adjudication, December 2013

For an exceptional Club evening contact David Keith Jones, FRPS, DPAGB

What a great evening we had when you were our guest speaker. The contents were full of exciting locations and wonderful images. All our members were full of praise for the delivery and your knowledge of the subject. Roy Hawthorne, Gen Sec Wolverhampton PS
Everyone who attended your presentations thoroughly enjoyed them and recognised your high standards of photography, professional presentation and delivery. George Lamb, Programme Secretary, Rugeley & Armitage CC

On behalf of the Mercia Group thank you for the fascinating talks you gave us on Northern Italy and Life beyond the Judges. Your pictures were absolutely superb. Many members have told me how much they enjoyed the evening.

Derek Watkins, Programme Secretary, Coventry CC

We were completely enthralled with your presentations. The whole evening was a complete joy.
Michael Williams, Steyning Camera Club programme secretary

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Salford Kids 1990

Coming to the PAGB Recorded Lecture Service – Photographs by Alan Millward 1941-2013

Some of the current most popular Recorded Lectures

PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit Volumes 1-3

How to Judge or not to Judge by John Wigmore FRPS, EFIAP, MPAGB, APAGB

Ideas about The Art of Photography by Sir George Pollock HonFRPS MPAGB EFIAP

Kaleidoscope 1 & 2 - Digital Audio Visuals by the East Midlands AV-Group

On & Off the Beaten Track in Indochina by Margaret Collis, ARPS DPAGB APAGB HonEFIAP

NEW Have I Got Nudes For You. Words and Pictures by Tim Pile - production by Robert Albright

<http://www.thepagb.org.uk/lectures.htm>

and Finally ...

The PAGB hope, by April, to produce some Regulations for their Awards for Photographic Merit in AV but I love this recent comment from Sir George Pollock. The picture is from his Starburst series.

"Developments in technology are overtaking us: the mere fact that still cameras can now capture moving pictures that software allows for panning, zooming, and a host of previously unavailable tricks requires the decision makers of Photographic Distinctions to rethink their regulations – if they don't, photographers will simply ignore these traditional organising bodies. An instance arises with interactive panoramas: have you seen what their enthusiasts can do?

Such as taking a panorama, and before your very eyes, wrapping it into a cylinder, converting this into a sphere, wandering round the sphere, going into it via a hole at the top and then viewing the scene from the inside? For me this sort of thing is extraordinarily beautiful as well as completely mind-blowing. And it is well within the abilities of advanced amateur photographers. But how are organisations like the RPS, the PAGB and FIAP going to cope with such things in their regulations and exhibitions? The fact is that digitisation has turned the art of photography into a multi-media activity, with computer programmes as important as taking photographs. Somehow traditional organising bodies must adapt to keep up with all this fast-moving technology. Quite unexpectedly, we find ourselves in the same position as the Red Queen in Alice in Wonderland – we have to run to stand still!"

