



Newsletter, April 2020

Coronavirus

The pandemic has continued to affect us all more and more with self-isolation and lockdown. The Council has had to review our activities again.

We can now confirm that the AGM and Finals day on 3rd May is being cancelled.

We do still plan to hold the AGM, but this will be done through the issue of papers and voting arrangements to all the clubs, so there will be no need for a physical meeting.

No final decisions have been made yet about the events which have been postponed. We will be keeping the situation under review. If possible we may still run both the Championships and Finals day later in the Summer watch this space. If that is not possible we're likely to just have to abandon these. Obviously we're all hoping that things will have improved sufficiently by September for us to be able to meet up again physically, but there's no guarantee of that. We'll all just have to be flexible with our programming. Cancelling the Championships was tough on all the people from Alton C.C and our IT team who had put so much effort in to prepare, including a very good rehearsal.

Also postponed is the collection and selection of prints for the PAGB Exhibition. We are all waiting to hear from PAGB about their main activities scheduled during the Summer. Already the APM Adjudications in April have been cancelled, a big disappointment for all the candidates, having come so close with their preparations.

It is really interesting to watch the developing use of video communications. Lots of clubs are finding ways to run virtual meetings and competitions, and this week the Council had it's first video-conferencing Council meeting via Zoom. Even at this stage it seems clear that all of this is going to lead to different ways of running our activities and businesses, potentially quite exciting, and it is heartening to see the new flurry of inventive online activities in many clubs.

The Council is not in a position to dictate what should happen in clubs; this is something for each club to decide based on their own circumstances. As to individual club members, no-one must feel under any pressure to be involved in any of our on-going activities. We must all make our own assessments and act in the best interests of our own and our families' health and well-being.

This is a fast-moving scenario, and the Council may well need to instigate further action at short notice, so please watch out for any updates on the situation. Any changes will be posted on the website and notified by e-mail to clubs.

We wish all our club photographers continuing good health during this time. Stay safe!

Note from the PAGB President

We regret that, as part of our battle against COVID 19, we are unable to proceed with the APM Adjudication scheduled in Bromsgrove on 25/26 April 2020. Every entrant has already been sent an e-mail but, if you have not received it, please contact the APM Secretary, Daphne Hanson. We deeply regret this cancellation and we are very grateful to everyone who has already contributed in so many ways to what would have been a great event. It is too early to say what other arrangements will be made but we will aim to hold the Adjudication as soon as we can -when it is safe to do so. Entrants will be kept informed as much as we are able and there will be further announcements in e-news. Entries to the next Adjudication are open as usual and we hope that this will go ahead on 29/29 November 2020.

Recent Government announcements and upcoming urgent legislation means that we now have no alternative but to postpone our AGM. While this is unconstitutional there is no alternative as no-one can possibly travel to the AGM without committing an offence. At the present moment I do not propose fixing a date for the postponed AGM as it would be presumptuous of me to set a date. However, should a window appear during the coming months then a date and venue will be organised to fit that window and conclude the business of the AGM. The ideal arrangement would be to coincide with the October Executive Committee Meeting currently arranged for the weekend of 3rd& 4th October 2020. Should events indicate that it would be prudent to call the AGM earlier then that will be arranged. Meanwhile we will still issue the 2019 Annual Accounts and Annual Review. I would also like to indicate that the Executive had decided to propose to the AGM that the Annual Subscription Rate for 2021 remain at the same rate as that imposed for 2020. Your Federation affected clubs and affected individuals will have or will be contacted separately concerning postponement/cancellation of other PAGB events, such as the Inter-Federation Exhibition and Competition, the Inter-Club PDI Competition and the Awards for Photographic Merit Adjudication. We are living in very difficult times with many of our friends in Federations and Clubs being in the group at risk of severe illness if they contract Coronavirus and have been advised by the Government to completely self-isolate and stay indoors at home for a period of 12 weeks. As far as I am aware all affiliated Camera Clubs and Societies have now suspended physical meetings. However, there is a great deal of innovation out there with the internet being used to hold meetings, competition judging, speaker presentations and more, a fantastic indication of the ingenuity and enthusiasm of the members of our organisations. I wish you well and hope all members of your Federation and Clubs come out of this unscathed.

Regards, Howard G Tate MA ARPS AFIAP APAGBPAGB President.

PAGB matters

We have the following from our PAGB Executive member Patti Platt:

PAGB REVISED NATURE DEFINITION

A revised Nature definition has been agreed for use in all PAGB competitions. The decision to introduce this definition has been made to enable PAGB Club photographers who produce images which look like nature, but do not conform to the FIAP/PSA definitions of nature, to enter PAGB competitions.

Formerly, nature images which have been manipulated were not eligible for entry in the Nature sections of competitions, and they cannot be entered in Open sections because images which 'look like nature' are not allowed. Therefore, Club members who produce this type of work could not show their work in competitions. The change has been made to ensure that all images are now eligible somewhere in all

PAGB competitions. A full account of the reasoning behind this change is available in e-news 250, and there is a link to it in e-news 251.

The PAGB competitions are listed on the Website, www.thepagb.org.uk and the new definition is shown in full in the Appendix to the Rules for each competition. However, in summary it simply means that the PAGB applies the criterion that “if it looks like nature it is nature”, and such images will count as a nature entry even if they are composite images.

This definition does not apply to exhibitions or competitions held outside the PAGB, even if such events have PAGB patronage.

COVID-19 VIRUS SITUATION

As we are all aware, because of the danger of spreading contamination it is unlikely that any PAGB events which were due to be held in the near future will take place, and at the moment it is impossible to say when it will be safe for events to be resumed. The decision as to whether, or when, events will be held is in the hands of the Chair of the Sub-committee for each event. The list of Sub-committees is shown on Page 3 of the current PAGB handbook: please contact the relevant person for further information on any event, if required.

PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit

I have been waiting for the final decision by the PAGB over the fate of the April Adjudication. We have a large number of entrants from our Federation in this event and, besides the PAGB staying in touch with them I have also endeavoured to keep everyone of them aware of the efforts being made by the Awards team to ensure the event went ahead but, even they had to make the difficult decision to postpone as per the attached note above which some of you may have seen already.

Adjudication November 2020 - WCPF

Despite what happens to the above event the Awards Team are pressing ahead with this one and there are just a few spaces left - particularly at Distinction level (which is starting to become even more popular) With more photographers self isolating and looking for things to do putting together an entry seems to be a good, time filling, task so we may see an even greater entry in the near future .

PAGB “funded workshop”

The most convenient date for them to visit us is the 14th March 2021 and this has now been fixed with them as demands on their time, because of our present virus problems, are escalating. We have made a booking for the Littleton Millennium Hall for that date as, I felt, we could not risk the possibility of having nowhere to hold the Workshop if we left it too late.

Awards adjudication in Audio Visual

The PAGB are making great efforts to run this event on the 15th August at a venue near Exeter. They need a minimum of six entrants and I am delighted that our Federation has already provided one of them! They cannot hold the event open indefinitely so now is the time for anyone interested to get in touch with me for an Application form. As advised previously there is a new form for 2020 and the old one will no longer be accepted. Many thanks Leo Rich 29/03/2020

Judging Updates

A guide note has gone out to all judges re judging remotely. A number of clubs are instigating judging sessions 'as live' by using online meeting facilities such as Zoom. It is likely that this will become a new norm, not to replace visits entirely, but it will become commonplace.

As such, there is no expense incurred and no precedent for what approach should be adopted to thanking judges for their time, which is invariably more than the two hours plus travel spent at a real meeting.

A proposal, as suggested by Winchester PS, that clubs offer and judges accept a token up to £20 as a standard for the time being, until we can debate the principles in more depth, or get more guidance from the PAGB, was agreed by Council.

It would of course be completely voluntary, but the feeling is that this is something which clubs would probably wish to do; judges of course have never charged for their time, but this would go some way to show appreciation for their additional efforts with remote judging.

AGM

As noted above, we will be going ahead with the AGM, but not as a physical meeting.

Please watch out for the papers which will be issued shortly, and if there are any resolutions which anyone wishes to put to the AGM, please send these to the SCPF Secretary as soon as possible.

Once again, we urge club members to consider joining the Council. We really do need another couple of members to share the activities of the Council and as part of succession planning. Anyone interested can speak to or email me or any of the other Council members to learn more about how we work.

Leagues

Report from Jean Brooks, League Secretary:

There were only five PDI rounds to go after Covid-19 shut down all camera club activity and these were judged remotely. All rounds have therefore been completed, all clubs informed of the final results for the season and the website updated.

Finals Day scheduled for 3rd May has had to be postponed. The Council will decide at a later date whether to hold this event in the autumn or to cancel it altogether.

Looking ahead to next season Clubs are asked to let the League Secretary know as soon as possible if they wish to either join the League or to withdraw. Otherwise, the assumption will be made that existing participating clubs will continue.

We realise that no club will be in a position to make a selection for the League until camera clubs are up and running again, and this may affect timings. There are already many bookings for League rounds in early November and it is hoped that we will be ready to allow these to go ahead.

In the meantime, please continue to keep the League Secretary informed of any new bookings for the League rounds 2020-21.

FIAP Selection

Congratulations to two of our New Forest C.C. members who have had images selected by the PAGB for the FIAP Biennial Nature competition.

The images, below, are Purple Heron by Mick Parmenter and Royal Tern Mating Ritual by Ferg Cowhig.



Hello from Bonny Scotland

I'm delighted to share with you this message received this week from our former colleagues Chris and Terri Neil-Griffin who moved to Scotland a couple of years ago; Terri is a former President of the SCPF and Chris was a very popular judge on our club circuit.

Dear John, SCPF executive members, and SCPF clubs,

Mum and I just wanted to send you all our best wishes from the Isle of Lewis, we miss the SCPF clubs, and think of the wonderful members often.

In these concerning times, our thoughts come to the friends we left down south even moreso.

So as much happiness and health as we can send virtually, we share with you all. I'd include a photo of a rogue sheep in the back garden, but it wasn't worthy of being held back, so you can each imagine an average sheep pic that another judge would move on from quickly. :)

Take care friends, and hopefully soon we'll be back to normal club meetings and out and about photographing happily. Please do share our best wishes with all those members who would remember us.

All the best, Chris and Terri

Editor: John Hodge