



Newsletter, October 2020

So here we are at the end of October, and despite all our hopes we are still as far away from normality as we were several months ago. All those tentative hopes of a return to real club meetings are still now just as far away in the distance, with the pandemic resurgence really setting everything back.

Yet we have much to look forward to, with the SCPF Leagues about to get underway in a matter of days, the annual Exhibition being judged in a couple of weeks, and most clubs thriving in the new online world of Zoom, some even managing print competitions. We are very fortunate that our hobby has been able to convert so well to online operation to keep us together until whenever the New Normal comes round.

Ian Platt FRPS MFIAP Hon PAGB Hon FIAP

We are sad to report the passing in early October of Ian Platt. For many years Ian has been a major contributor to UK photography, including being President and Life Vice-President of the PAGB, the UK FIAP representative, and a very active National and International judge, as well as having judged at club level in our own and adjacent Federations. He was also on the RPS Licenciate and FRPS Pictorial panels. Having moved home several times, he lived in the SCPF area twice, finally settling down in Hampshire with his wife Patti, our SCPF PAGB Executive member, with whom we share our condolences. There will be a fuller tribute to Ian in a forthcoming PAGB e-News.

PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit

An update from our PAGB Awards Officer Leo Rich:

Those of you who applied for the April 2020 Adjudication and have opted for the Closed Adjudication should now have made any changes you wished to your entry.

Those who are applying for what should have been the November 2020 Adjudication and have opted for the Closed Adjudication should now have completed your entry online.

We had hoped to hold the Closed Adjudication in November in the Smethwick Club Rooms but the news we are seeing every day is making that very unlikely. We are now seriously concerned that we may not be able to do it before the scheduled May 2021 Adjudication and even that Adjudication may be threatened. We remain fully committed to holding the Closed Adjudication at the earliest opportunity!

However, we are now urgently investigating a scheme for remote judging and this will include Print entries as well as PDI.

Club competitions and National and International Exhibitions do not judge to a specified standard, they simply pick the best of what is entered, in the case of Exhibitions usually aiming for around 20% - 30% of the entry to be Accepted. Various forms of online judging have been tried, mostly with a high degree of satisfaction. The Awards for Photographic Merit are completely different. They are judged to a specific standard at each level and we are proud of the consistency that has been achieved over decades. Judging to a standard presents many problems to overcome to ensure consistent viewing and accurate scoring, These are too numerous to list here but we need to be convinced that the system will be fair and reliable, and we intend to run a substantial trial before launching the initiative.

Our target is to complete the development of the system and conduct a live trial before Christmas, with a view to conducting the Closed Adjudication in January. These dates cannot yet be guaranteed but we are grateful for your patience and we will complete the project earlier if we can.

In the meantime you must complete your entry if you have not already done so. Please DO NOT SEND YOUR PRINTS yet. We don't even know where we will want them sent to, but we will give you full instructions and at least 4 weeks notice. Unfortunately, there will be no further opportunity to change your entry after the imminent closing date.

League Secretary's Report

Here's a copy of the latest instructions from Jean Brooks, our League Secretary, as issued to all competing clubs:

Hi everyone

This is official notification that the packs of images and scoresheets for the 2020-21 PDI League are now available from the website.

(NB. I know some of you have already downloaded files but depending on when you did so they may be incorrect. It would be safest to delete and download again to ensure you have the latest version.)

<https://entries.southerncountiespf.org.uk/public/login>

Using your keycode you will find the Scoresheets under Printables, and the images under Downloads.

Below are further instructions/guidelines on how to run the competitions this year. The process is a bit more involved this year with the need to send images in advance to the judge, to invite attendees and to coordinate the feedback and scoring process on the night.

I hope we have thought of everything but if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me with administrative queries or Jason Hyde, the Webmaster, with any technical issues.

Some of you are starting rounds early in November so will need to start the process this week. It might be a good idea to have a "dummy run" before the night of the competition to ensure everything works smoothly.

Best wishes

Jean Brooks
SCPF League Secretary

PDI LEAGUE 2020-2021 Information for Clubs on running the competitions using Zoom software:

Introduction Rounds will be conducted over Zoom with a live judging. Images will be assessed in advance with marks and commentary delivered live to a meeting.

Downloads There are 3 packs available: 1600, 1400 and an Appraiser pack (for the judge). Jason has given me the following information for you. The Appraiser pack is only there to provide the files IF the Club Competition Secretaries cannot manage to export files from their own software. They link the files through the filenames. e.g. Club File: 411_AUTHOR_TITLE_SEQNUMBER.jpg Appraiser file: SEQNUMBER_TITLE.jpg So, the club needs to set their software (whatever it is) to use the SEQNUMBER to order the images for projection. Since all images are unique in their SEQNUMBER across the leagues, there are gaps in the numbers but it is possible for the softwares to sort them. For clubs using commercial software to run the competitions there should be no need to use the appraiser images. For example in DiCentra.... The competition is setup as a multi-club competition as normal. The image number is used as the author information. In the example above 411 is set to the author. The real authors name is not required for projection, and is never shown anyway. In DiCentra, if you press \ or #, then the information for the Author and Club is shown underneath the title. So it would show "411 - Overton". That is how the audience sees the club number information, as per the rules. Other software should have a similar process. **If you have any queries on this, please contact Jason at webmaster@southerncountiespf.org.uk** Judging

The Host Club should send all images to the Judge at least one week in advance of the competition so they have enough time to consider (and mark) them. WeTransfer is recommended as it is free and easy to use. But you are welcome to use another method if you prefer. Sending the files to an Appraiser in the projection order - in advance, using DiCentra is also easy. The competition is set-up as per normal. From the software an export of the images is made, and during that export dialog, you can specify image number_title. Those images can be sent by the clubs to the Appraiser in advance, along with a 'judges scoresheet' which lists the image number and title on projection order as a word document. Jason Hyde, the Webmaster, has said he is happy to help clubs if there is an issue in using the files. This will only become apparent when/if Appraisers start to regularly ask for the files in projection order in advance of the competition. Some may be happy to see the files in a random order but at full resolution, in which case the Appraiser pack can be provided as is. Judges should also be sent the following link to the "SCPF Remote Judging Guidelines for Judges 1.2" on the website. <https://southerncountiespf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SCPF-Remote-Judging-Guidelines-v1.2.pdf>

Attendees We are suggesting that about 10 days before the competition night the Host Club sends an email to the other clubs in their division* inviting them to nominate up to 3 people (names and email addresses) from their club to attend the meeting. You should then issue those people with the Zoom link to your meeting. **NB. At least one other club (preferably more) must attend and keep a record of the scores so that the results can be verified on the night.** *The email addresses for the other clubs in your division are at the top of my email.

On the Night The Host Club should firstly check which representative(s) of the guest club(s) is also keeping score (see above). The competition should not be recorded. The person completing the Host Scoresheet on the night should sign it as Competition Secretary. And also write in an appropriate space the name(s) of the person(s) and club(s) who verified the scores. There is no need this year for a Judge's signature. The scoresheet should then be scanned and sent to the League Secretary in the normal way. When writing your thank you note to the Judge it would be an appropriate time to remind him/her of the need to delete all the images from their computer. JB/21/10/2020

SCPF Exhibition 2021

Exhibition entries have now closed, with a total of 34 clubs entered for the PDI-only event.

The Exhibition will be judged by Clive Tanner FRPS MPAGB APAGB on Sunday 15th November. We hope to publish the results in our November Newsletter soon after the judging.

Anne Eckersley and Peter Rocchiccioli are already well ahead with the production of the Exhibition Catalogue, which this year will be digital only. Meanwhile arrangements are being made with Salisbury Library to host the Exhibition in January on their online gallery; more details to follow on this.

SCPF Championships 2021

It has now been agreed that the 2021 Championships will be PDI only, and will be held online. The Championships IT team led by Steve Kirkby are now up and running to prepare for our first online competition. More details to follow, but clubs can start thinking about their potential entries. Uploading is likely to be during February 2021, with the Championships being held on Sunday 21st March at 2pm on Zoom.

PAGB Interfed PDI Championships 2021

The PDI Championships will be held on 17th July 2021 in the afternoon, via Zoom.

SCPF Club Reps' meeting

The next meeting will be on Friday 13th November at 7.30, on Zoom.

John Hodge, Editor