



THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION NEWSLETTER - MAY 2024 AGM and FINALS DAY SPECIAL

Hurrah for May, we've actually seen some sun - finally! I don't know about you, but I'm sure I was starting to develop webbed feet. And one gloriously sunny Sunday in May we held our annual AGM and Finals day. Here are some pictures, I know you've been dying to see. We were joined for the day by the lovely Les Loosemore ARPS AWPf DPAGB, who had the difficult task of selecting the winning images and in the afternoon talked us through a number of his print panels which clearly demonstrated his passion for printing. Thank you, as always, to Steve Kirkby for all the images.





And now on to the individual winning iamges, and as in all good presentations in reverse order, they are:

Individual Awards, PDIs

Highly Commended (in no particular order)



Starling Squabble by Julia Wainwright FRPS MPAGB AFIAP, Chichester Camera Club



Time Passes by Reg Clark LRPS, Boscombe Camera Club



Dustbath by Mark Lanigan LRPS, Lymington Camera Club



Free Spirit by Sharon Bolt, Newbury Photography Club



Sand Martin trio by Tim Bayliss, New Forest Camera Club



Fruit of Passion by Tracey Winnall, Niton & District Camera Club

Individual Awards, PDIs

Third Place



Copper on Blue by Julie Pigula, Disabled Photographers' Society

Second Place



Harvest Gold by Jeremy Court, Salisbury Photography Club

First Place



Hare Portrait by George Reekie, Storrington Camera Club

Individual Awards, Prints

Highly Commended (in no particular order)



Thrust and Power by David White ABPE, Wimborne Camera Club



Look at Me by David Watkins, Bracknell Camera Club



Shades of morning by Lin Collins, Horndean Camera Club



Chasing Shadows by Ron D'eath, Havant Camera Club



Waterrail-carefully stepping forward by Richard Sheldrake DPAGB, Southampton Camera Club



Storm Noa at Newhaven by Jim Munday DPAGB EFIAP-g, Chichester Camera Club

Individual Awards, Prints (continued)

Third Place



Milky Way over Kimmeridge Bay by Tony Cowburn, Winchester Photographic Society

Second Place



Olive by Gemma Burden LRPS, Fordingbridge Camera Club

First Place



Exmoor Wood by Barry Senior HonFRPS APAGB, Fordingbridge Camera Club

From one old president to another: -

Finally, just for a bit of fun this month, seeing as I am now one of them, and because the last three years have been challenging for many reasons, not least COVID, the widespread adoption of Zoom for both speakers and judging, and the growing awareness of AI, I thought I'd ask old SCPF presidents (as in previous not aged!) what challenges they'd faced during their time in office. Between us we cover at least the last thirty five years and photography has changed a great deal since then.

It was while listening to David Barton that the idea for this article came to me. David was president in 1987, back in the day when we were still called the Southern Photographic Federation. David said, "Then came Ciba Chrome - wow. At last real colour printing was available to the amateur and the source was slides. But all at a price. In my case that meant having to replace chrome fittings in the bathroom because I had failed to use the correct amount of chemistry neutraliser. Ironically, the move to colour brought with it another unexpected complication. In those days, the majority of club members were men, and an even greater majority of our judges were men. Unfortunately, approximately 15% of men are colour blind - to some extent. Needless to say, it took a while for some to accept that sometimes it was safer to stick with B&W".

Interestingly it was as a council member, in the summer of 1985 that David and Janet took a short holiday in Gibraltar and whilst there visited the Gibraltar Photographic Society where they discovered the problems the dampness of the famous Levante created when mounting prints. At the time, the border into Spain had been closed for 13 years and that limited the opportunity to import adhesive sprays. It appeared one popular solution was to use Blu-Tack stretched out until it was almost transparent. David reminisces that, "It was a very sociable event and soon we found ourselves extolling the virtues of the SPF. Because I was a council member who had been involved in the boundary agreement with the PAGB, I realised the SPF had no defined southern limit. A few months later Gibraltar joined the SPF and we were rewarded with a remarkable entry of slides in the SPF league and exhibition."

Peter Rocchiccioli during his time as president had further discussions with the PAGB defending Gibraltar's right to remain a Southern Counties Photographic Federation club and we were all very glad they agreed. Gibraltar, Jersey and all three Guernsey clubs remain solid members of our federation and through us affiliated members of the PAGB, so we get to enjoy all of their images.

The Southern Photographic Federation became the Southern Counties Photographic Federation, following debate with the PAGB during Leo's time, but finally changed its name during Glyn Edmund's presidency, predominantly to avoid confusion with the Scottish Photographic Federation who were also known as the SPF.

Many of the changes or developments in photography didn't just affect us. A past president from another federation mentioned at one of our recent events that they remembered one of our current council members actually changed clubs because back in the days before the smoking ban, the room used to be so thick with smoke by the interval it was impossible to see images on either the print stand or projected slides by the second half of the evening.

Lynn Lambeth was SCPF president 2008/10, she took over from Ian Bigg who she says, was a great president and hard act to follow. Her term of office was definitely a time of change; clubs were starting to embrace the digital image into their competitions and to support the clubs it meant the Federation had to move forward with this as well. Council also decided to take the opportunity to overhaul the league competition and introduce the current format. Clubs' anxieties and fear of these changes led to some very lively and lengthy club reps meetings. But by the end of Lynn's term of office, PDI competitions were well under way and changes to the league were working

well.

In the last fifteen years alone, digital cameras and camera phones have certainly come into their own and the manufacturer's race for megapixels and more and more features carries on. These days there are hundreds of apps you can use as well. I know that one of our ex presidents Glyn Edmunds has now given up all other cameras in favour of his mobile.

I Googled what a collective name for a number of presidents should be and found a post which suggested suitable nouns might be and discovered someone had already done this and come up with 'a succession', 'a conference' or even 'an incompetence'. I then asked my new best friend ChatGpt what it thought and it came back with the reply "The collective name for a group of presidents is "a cabinet of presidents." This term is not commonly used, as presidents typically do not gather in groups".

So . . . I give you the photo below to show AI is not always right - personally I don't think it will ever catch on, although I said the same about computers!



From left: Tony Oliver, Peter Rocchiccioli, David Barton, Anne Eckersley, Lynn Lambeth, Glyn Edmunds, Leo Rich and new SCPF president Stewart Lacey.

Going forward Stewart you will have many interesting times ahead. There will no doubt be more interesting developments, but one thing that has remained consistently during all our times is the talent of our photographers and the passion we all share for this amazing hobby.