

SPA News

March 2020

PAGB GB Cup Competition 2020

SPA clubs were very successful in the PAGB's 2020 GB Cup competition, the results of which were announced on 31 January.

In the Open section Godalming were ranked 13th out of the 71 clubs which entered with 176 points, Woking 16th with 174 points and Richmond and Twickenham 19th with 173 points.

In the Nature section Godalming were ranked 3rd out of the 86 clubs which entered and Ann Healey of Richmond & Twickenham was ranked 18th in the list of the top Nature photographers.



Best Image

Congratulations to John Sherringham of Woking who received the overall best image award for his 'Mon Petit'.

With Great Sadness

Walter Benzie Hon FRPS

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of Walter Gray Benzie, a life member of Guildford Photographic Society, SPA Judge and Lecturer. Walter was the 63rd President of The Royal Photographic Society serving in this capacity 2015-2017. He started as a Trustee in 2009, holding the office of Treasurer for the first 4 years. He was also a member of the Licentiate distinctions panel.

Walter was a member of GPS for many years and, in his time, fulfilled many of the committee posts, including that of Chairman. He was a regular attendee at club meetings and contributor to our competitions. He was also on the SPA committee as Treasurer. When he moved to being firstly the Treasurer of the Royal Photographic Society and then its President, also moving his business and week-day home to Horsham, it became difficult for him to attend club meetings. Most of you probably know him from his few visits as a judge and lecturer.

His main home was in Chichester where he spent the weekends sailing his Chichester scow 'Cadenza', so called because he also had a great passion for Baroque music. He also had a great interest in the history of photography and worked on a few projects with one of our venerable departed members, Ven Dodge.

He leaves a wife and two daughters.

Roni Barrett
Guildford PS



Tom Davie ARPS APAGB DPAGB

Tom passed away peacefully on 24 February 2020 in Kingston Hospital at the age of 95. He had been admitted there for a chest infection which he had overcome, and was awaiting transfer to a care home. His health had deteriorated over the last two years and especially in the last few months, to the point where he had lost any mobility, and most of his eyesight. But he bore his condition with fortitude and rarely complained, but his frustration was evident.

He had been a member of Molesey PC for around 60 years, and had been its President for the last 20 years and Chairman for the previous 30 years. He was also a longstanding member of Kingston CC, but took great pleasure in reminding them when Molesey performed better in competitions! He managed to attend club meetings despite his walking and eyesight problems until a few months ago. Until late in 2018 he always came to external competitions to support Molesey.

He was a well-known and popular judge and a very entertaining speaker, and many clubs were sad when he had to retire from his commitments because of age. Years later, members from other clubs would catch up with him at SPA events, though he often couldn't remember who they were! He was never very good with names, but somehow always got away with it.

He gained his ARPS in 1968 and was given the award of APAGB in 2001 for his services to the federation as judge and speaker and to his clubs, a very well deserved honour. He was a dedicated darkroom worker until his 80s, when he went digital at the age of 85. He always thought wet process was "real" photography, but had to accept the digital age and he continued to produce work until his eyesight made that impossible.

His humour and storytelling were legendary. He used to give the best votes of thanks to judges and speakers that I have ever heard, full of dry humour and anecdotes, but always to the point. He was a natural speaker. And when he opened the Richmond & Twickenham PS Exhibition in 2017, his speech had people laughing so much that several had tears running down their cheeks. It was a masterly performance which those who were there will never forget. It is possible that some of his anecdotes may even have been true!

Apart from photography, his other great interest was motorcycles, owning them until he was 75, when he was forced to give up after an accident. He never missed a chance to talk to another enthusiast when he could.

On a personal level, he gave encouragement to members and was a delight to deal with, full of calm observations and advice. I know that all those who knew him well will miss him greatly. Our thoughts now are with his daughter Elizabeth and his family. I will pass on details of the funeral arrangements when they are known. I know there will be many who knew him and who would wish to attend.

John Hoskins
Molesey PC

Introducing Roger Mendham

SPA Vice President

From West Africa to Surrey – over 60 years of photographic development



Most SPA Club members will recognise Roger as one of the Federation's team of judges, but in 2019 he bravely volunteered to join the committee and was introduced at the AGM as our new Vice President. Here he tells us a little about his approach to photography.

When I was invited to join the SPA Committee and then write a piece for this newsletter I pondered on how my photography has evolved over all the years I have used a camera. It has been an interesting journey and there may be elements that you recognise in your own photographic history.

Can you still remember the first photograph you took? I can – it was on Christmas Day 1957. I was 10 years old and my family were living in Nigeria. My Christmas present was a Kodak Brownie 127 complete with a 12-exposure roll of film. Like a typical, excitable young boy I ripped off the wrapping paper, opened the box and following the instructions loaded the film, raised the camera to my eye and, oops, pressed the button. So, the first shot was of the wall of my bedroom – but my first proper photograph was taken later that day as we drove through Lagos. I got my father to stop by the side of the road and took a snap of the old, 1922 Lagos Railway station frontage. The building is still there at the end of Carter Bridge but thankfully my early photographs have been lost in the Recycle Bin of time.

From that early start I continued to take plenty of shots and seem to have always had a camera.

Some of them were unusual, such as a Minox miniature camera bought in Steamer Point, Aden, which used an odd 9.3mm film. But I gradually migrated to SLRs, starting with a Pentax Spotmatic in the mid 1960s. That was followed by further Pentax models before I became an early adopter of digital cameras. I remained an enthusiastic 'snapper' and still have albums with prints going back 50 years.



My transition from someone who took lots of pictures to becoming a photographer started less than 10 years ago. As I was approaching retirement, and with much encouragement from my wife, I bought my first digital SLR and joined Bookham camera club in late 2010. Joining the club was quite a shock as I rapidly realised how much I didn't know about photography! I can clearly remember my first competition entry, which Tony Riley generously scored a 7, but what interested me were his comments both on my efforts and the other images under consideration.



Learning from listening to judges has been a really important part of my development, including a memorable score of 4 from an eminent SPA judge (which, with hindsight was well deserved). This interest in the objective analysis of images led to me becoming a SPA judge in the 2014/15 season. Visiting numerous clubs across the SPA has been really beneficial in my own development. It is a real privilege to see the range and quality of images submitted for competitions in other clubs, it takes you beyond the confines of your own club and I heartily recommend considering becoming a judge – it is good for your own development and is also great fun.

Over the years I have used many different cameras and after a long time with Canon I have done what many people do in retirement; I downsized. I now use an Olympus OMD EM1 Mk2, which is ideal for my style of photography. My interests are typically architectural subjects examining shapes, contours and colours and particularly the effect of light as it plays across surfaces. Each year I set myself a development project, and last year it was 'Fragments' photographing the small elements larger objects that convey the impression of the overall subject. This year the project is 'Still Life'.



Joining a camera club was a really important step and in the past nearly 10 years my photography has changed out of all recognition. Along the way I have gained LRPS and chaired Bookham Camera Club for 5 years. I continue to strive to 'take a better photograph' and hopefully my enthusiasm for this art form will help me during my time on the SPA Committee. We have great standards and I will strive to live up to them.

Roger Mendham
SPA Vice President

PAGB Masters of Print

Congratulations to David Lyon of Reigate who is one of the first SPA Club members to have a print accepted in the prestigious PAGB Masters of Print Competition. Dave received a Silver Medal for his print 'The Sentinels': a great achievement!



RPS Visual Art Group Exhibition

John Hoskins' (Molesey PC and SPA Treasurer) print Age Gap was Commended in the last RPS Visual Art print exhibition. Now the RPS want to use it on a banner for the exhibition which is next in Doncaster.



Nicely done, John! Apologies for the quality of the text: the image here is reduced from 22000+px to 1500!

PAGB Inter-Club Print Competition

Held in Blackburn at the end of October 2019, Godalming and Richmond and Twickenham represented the SPA.

Godalming won the Terry Chapman Plate and a Silver Medal while Richmond and Twickenham came third equal in the Plate competition with Lindsay Marr receiving a judges' award and a Silver Medal for her mono print 'Snowy Refuge'

It's no mean feat to achieve so highly in these competitions!
Well done, everyone involved.



Snowy Refuge by Lindsay Marr, Richmond & Twickenham
Silver Medal, Monochrome

One of the most difficult things about producing newsletters is being sure that successes are made known and good practice is shared. I am grateful particularly to David Smith and John Hoskins in this regard (and, no, it wasn't John who told me about his own success!).

It would be fantastic (and much easier to produce newsletters regularly) if each Club ensured that their own members' successes were passed to me through the newsletter@surreypa.org.uk email address.

Similarly, if there are events you would like to advertise. I will aim to produce the next newsletter after the PDI competition which is earlier this year, so please let me have information about your Summer activities so that we can publicise them.

And if you would like to send in an article or a reaction to something you've read, please do: I would love to see greater involvement.

Thanks for reading!

Kath Phillips
Editor

SPA Inter-Club Prints 2019



Congratulations to all those winning judges' awards in the Inter-Club competitions, as well as to the winning Clubs and runners-up.

The winning Club in the Open Section was Godalming with Bookham runners-up and Windlesham taking third place while in Nature Molesey won with Ludshott and Mid-Sussex tying for second place

Following this competition, SPA President David Smith wrote:

"At the Inter-Club Print Championship on 23 November there were two entries which were smaller than the mandatory mount size. A number of entries had nothing at all on the reverse of the mount so we were unable to identify the title, photographer or club. Many more entries did not have the club name on the reverse of the mount which is needed so that the prints can quickly be returned to the relevant clubs. A number of entries fell apart during the judging process because the photographs were inadequately secured to the mount, usually by cheap decorators masking tape. One entry had Velcro on the reverse of the mount which could easily have damaged other prints and some prints were damaged by incorrect mounts. Two clubs submitted their entries in the wrong order. The competition started late because there was a need to resort a substantial number of prints, a process made considerably more difficult because of the information missing from the reverse of the mounts. At the forthcoming Biennial Exhibition selection process and at the 2020 Print Championship, any under-sized mounts; any prints which come apart or are otherwise incorrectly mounted; and any prints which do not have the title, name of photographer, and club name on the reverse of the mounts will be disqualified. "



Full results for the Open Section can be found at:

<https://surreypa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-Open-Print-Results.pdf>

and for Nature at

<https://surreypa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-Nature-Print-Results.pdf>

SPA Individual Entry 2019

Held in October each year, this competition is always a great way of getting members to attend the (usually very short) AGM and enjoy some very high standards of photography at the same time.



Following the completion of the competition it became apparent that the judges had misapplied the rules for the Open competition. The rules for the Individual Entry Competition require the judges to award the best print to the highest scoring image (or one of the highest scoring images if there is more than one). This should have been awarded to Dave Lyon who had the highest scoring image, who instead had received a Judges Award. Given that the awards had been made and the judges, albeit erroneously, had acted in good faith, the SPA Committee decided that the original decisions of the judges should stand. Sincere apologies have been made to Dave Lyon.

SPA Biennial Exhibition

The weekend of 14th February was a very busy one for a number of SPA members as they worked at the sorting and presenting of your images for the selection process for this year's Biennial Exhibition.

Masterminded by Ann Healey and David Chiverton the selection was in the capable hands of :

Paul Keene FRPS MPAGB EFIAP/p MFIAP

Gwen Charnock FRPS MFIAP

Phil Charnock FRPS MFIAP

who seemed to really get pleasure from their task and who were very much 'of a mind' in their scoring.



SPA Biennial Exhibition 2020

Award Winners

Trophy Winners

Best Colour Print	Brian Collins ARPS AFIAP	Kingston
Best Monochrome Print	Ken Underhay	Cheam
Best Nature Print	David Hughes ARPS CPAGB BPE1*	Godalming
Best Open PDI	Clare Collins ARPS CPAGB	Kingston
Best Nature PDI	Ann Healey ARPS DPAGB EFIAP BPE3*	Richmond

Selectors' Awards

Colour Prints	Bryan Roberts ARPS David Carine LRPS Andrew Turner	MidSussex Godalming Woking
Mono Prints	Brian Houghton ARPS Anna Levine LRPS Deborah Highton LRPS	Godalming Godalming Richmond
Nature Prints	Kirsten Asmussen LRPS David Carine LRPS Mike Young ARPS	Bookham Godalming Ludshott
Open PDIs	Martina Bennelick ARPS DPAGB David Wilkinson ARPS Martin Faiers	Bookham Cheam Photocraft
Nature PDIs	Mike Rowe FRPS DPAGB BPE5* Phil Kirk Martina Bennelick ARPS DPAGB	Godalming Malden Bookham

Sorting and selection done, results announced, there are a number of other dates you might want to note:

The official Opening of the exhibition will take place on Friday 3rd April at midday, with public viewing from Saturday 4th April.

As in 2018 the Exhibition will be in two stages with the second set of images being hung from 15th April

On 16th April Ann Healey will give a talk at midday "Wildlife of Costa Rica"

The Exhibition closes on 25th April and prints will be returned at the Inter-Club PDI Championship on 2nd May.

The 2020 Awards Dinner will be held on Friday 3rd April at the Reigate Manor Hotel. The cost is £29 per person. Ann has recently sent an email with full details to Clubs. The presentation of awards will be made at the dinner.

SURREY PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION
BIENNIAL EXHIBITION 2020

Saturday 04 April - Saturday 25 April 2020

10.00-16.45 daily except Sunday

Admission Free
at
GUILDFORD HOUSE GALLERY
155, HIGH STREET,
GUILDFORD GU1 3AJ
Tel. 01483 444751
<http://www.guildford.gov.uk/guildfordhouse>

SPA

SURREY PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

www.surreypa.org.uk

BIENNIAL EXHIBITION 2020

An Exhibition of colour & monochrome prints and digital images by members of the
48 Clubs that make up the Association

Saturday 04 April - Saturday 25 April 2020

10.00-16.45 Monday to Saturday

(Good Friday and Easter Monday: 11.00-16.00 Easter Sunday: Closed)

Admission Free

at

GUILDFORD HOUSE GALLERY

155, HIGH STREET,

GUILDFORD GU1 3AJ

Tel. 01483 444751

<http://www.guildford.gov.uk/guildfordhouse>

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