

## SPA President's Winter Newsletter 2023

The seasons turn and whilst I wrote the previous Newsletter in sunshine, the outlook today is damp and overcast. Different conditions, but plenty of new photographic opportunities as early morning frosts, mists and winter colours come into play.

2023 has been a year of transition and also one of increasing involvement by SPA member clubs in our various activities and competitions. We are back to traditional levels of participation but would like more clubs to come and compete. I have heard it said that some smaller clubs are reluctant to take part in the SPA competitions because 'it is the same clubs who always come out on top', or 'we are only a small club and it can be disheartening for our members to do poorly in a competition'.

My response is always the same; everyone aspires to creating a better photograph, and that's one of the reasons we belong to camera clubs. Seeing your work viewed and assessed against a wider range of images than in your own club will help you see how to lift your own standards.

If you look at the results of the Individual Print and PDI competition on 21 October, 9 different clubs were awarded either Best in Class or received Judges Choice Awards. 2 of our clubs achieved multiple awards; Horsham with 2 and Photocraft received 5 ! great achievements for smaller clubs. It can be done; have the courage to enter our competitions and you may be pleasantly surprised at the results.

### SPA Competitions

Here is a review of the results from our recent competitions.

For the Individual Print and PDI competition we traditionally use SPA judges and on 21 October they were:

- Sheena Rogers ARPS
- Marcus Scott-Taggart
- Tim Morland ARPS

In each of the categories there was a Best Image and three Judges Choices:

#### Open Class Prints

##### Best Print

Graham Wilcock, Horsham PS      'Homeward Bound'

##### Judges Awards:

Tim Morland;

David Stoneleigh, Photocraft CC      'Emergence'

Marcus Scott-Taggart;

Roger Hoyle, Windlesham & Camberley      'The Cloisters'

Sheena Rogers;

Mark Bulle, Photocraft CC      'The Big Blue'

#### Open Class PDIs

##### Best PDI

Ann Healey, Molesey PC      'Light and Dark on Boscombe Pier'

##### Judges Awards:

Tim Morland;

David Lyon, Reigate PS

‘A white knuckle ride’

Marcus Scott-Taggart;

David Stoneleigh, Photocraft CC

‘Moth Orchid’

Sheena Rogers;

Graham Wilcock, Horsham PS

‘Time and Motion’

### Nature Class Prints

#### Best Print

Marilyn Taylor, Windlesham & Camberley ‘Long tongued bat approaching banana flower’.

#### Judges Awards:

Tim Morland;

David Beard, Croydon CC

‘Cormorant’

Marcus Scott-Taggart;

Mandy Byatt, Photocraft CC ‘Grey squirrels kick-boxing’

Sheena Rogers;

Mandy Byatt, Photocraft CC ‘Starling confrontation’

### Nature Class PDIs

#### Best PDI

Bob Ede, Dorking CC

‘Inverted Marbled White Butterfly’

#### Judges Awards:

Tim Morland;

Mandy Byatt, Photocraft CC ‘Goldfinch descending from Smoke Bush’

Marcus Scott-Taggart;

Nicky Rochussen, Epsom CC ‘Two rhinos going for a walk down the road’

Sheena Rogers;

Mike Rowe, Godalming PC

‘Female Yellow Dung Fly’

Congratulation to everyone who took part in the competition and particularly those whose awards and images are highlighted above.

### **Inter Club Championships**

On 8 November 2023 we held the SPA Inter-Club Print Championship with a good entry from 21 clubs,

Our judges were:

- Caroline Colegate ARPS APAGB
- Ken Scott ARPS APAGB
- Ralph Duckett MPAGB EFIAP/p APAGB

In the Open Class there were 336 entries, and the results were:

| Club    | Score |                   |
|---------|-------|-------------------|
| Woking  | 186   | 1 <sup>st</sup>   |
| Epsom   | 185   | Runner Up         |
| Bookham | 182   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> = |
| Reigate | 182   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> = |

|          |     |                   |
|----------|-----|-------------------|
| Richmond | 182 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> = |
| Yateley  | 182 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> = |

#### Best Open Print

Sheena Rogers, Dorking CC 'Shape and Shadow'

#### Judges Awards:

Caroline Colegate;

Peter Stott, Epsom CC 'Two Birches'

Ken Scott;

Saman Gareeb, Reigate PS 'Jumping a puddle'

Ralph Duckett

Richard Sheldrake, Woking PS 'Icelandic Pony Snowstorm'

In the Nature Class there were 60 entries, and the results were:

| CLUB      | SCORE |                   |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|
| Bookham   | 96    | 1 <sup>st</sup>   |
| Epsom     | 93    | 2 <sup>nd</sup>   |
| Godalming | 92    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> = |
| Woking    | 92    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> = |

#### Best Nature Print

Brian Howe, Yateley CC 'Polar Bear following the Scent'

#### Judges Awards:

Caroline Colegate;

Fiona Humphrey, Dorking CC 'The Red Stag'

Ken Scott;

Roy Twyman, Epsom CC 'Coyote braving a Winter Storm'

Ralph Duckett;

Mike Rowe, Godalming PC 'Female Yellow Dung Fly'

Congratulation to the winning clubs and the individuals who received Judges Awards. Woking and Epsom will now represent the SPA at the PAGB Inter-Club Championships in October 2024.

This leads me logically into the next subject:

#### SPA and the PAGB

From my discussions with members of various clubs as I visit them for talks and competitions, there appears to be a lack of knowledge about the PAGB and our relationship to it, so I thought a short briefing would be useful.

There are two major national photographic organisations in the UK; The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) and The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). They are focussed on different aspects of photography, and in general terms the RPS concentrates on individual photographers and the PAGB is focussed on co-ordinating activities and providing services such

as insurance for photographic Clubs. Whilst they are separate organisations there are strong links between them to ensure consistency, particularly for technical issues.

The SPA is one of 15 geographical Federations within the PAGB across the UK.

The PAGB organises events for its Federations and Clubs. It offers services such as Recorded Lectures and its own photographic Distinctions, known as Awards for Photographic Merit.

The Awards for Photographic Merit (APM) are available to members of Clubs affiliated to the PAGB through their Federations and there are five levels:

- Badge (BPAGB) for prints only (new in 2023)
- Credit (CPAGB)
- Distinction (DPAGB)
- Excellence (EPAGB) for prints only (new in 2023)
- Master (MPAGB)

The standard for CPAGB is described as “good club photography” which should be an achievable aim for many SPA club photographers. The format for PAGB adjudications is similar to club competitions where each image is assessed separately and spaced apart unlike RPS assessments where images are considered as part of a panel of images.

The Awards for Photographic Merit adjudications (described in detail on the PAGB website - <http://www.thepagb.org.uk/awards/apm-awards/>) are held twice a year and are hosted by the different federations in turn. The April 2024 adjudication will be held in Basingstoke so quite near for many SPA club members and the November 2025 adjudication will be hosted by the SPA.

There is currently space at all levels of award for the April 2024 adjudication and quite a few SPA club members have already applied for this.

The awards are held for life without any annual fee and holders are entitled to use the designated letters after their name.

The PAGB also has an Award for Meritorious Service recognise individual Club members who have given service over many years within the PAGB community of member Federations and affiliated Clubs. Award holders may use the designation ‘APAGB’ and you may remember that Jay Charnock received this prestigious award earlier this season.

The area of PAGB activity that is probably most familiar to you is their competitions. There are five competitions each year and our Inter-club Print and PDI Championship competitions are used to select the clubs to represent the SPA in the Championship events.

The Inter-Club Projected Digital Image Championship is held each July. This is usually held in Warwick and there is a single, Open category, with Trophies and PAGB medals being awarded to the winning Clubs. Medals are also awarded to individual images. Federations each nominate two Clubs to take part alongside the Finalists from the previous year and the SPA clubs are selected from the Interclub PDI competition in May.

The Inter-Club Print Championship is held each October. This is usually held in Blackburn and follows the same format as the PDI Championship, with our clubs selected from the Interclub Print competition in the previous year.

In January each year there is the GB Cup (for PDIs) and the GB Trophy (for prints). These competitions are open to all clubs and they do not need to pre-qualify. There's a small charge to enter the GB Cup and the GB Trophy is free to enter. Quite a few SPA clubs enter these competitions each year because it gives them a good opportunity to see how they perform at a national level.

The PAGB also organises each year the Masters of Print competition. This is open to all club members across the UK and is the premiere amateur print competition in the UK. SPA club members have had some success in this competition which becomes an exhibition displayed at various venues throughout the year including at The Photography Show at the NEC.

The final event is the Inter-Federation Competition is held each June. Federations submit entries from the members of their affiliated Clubs in three Categories – Monochrome Prints, Colour Prints and Nature Prints. We select our entry from the highest scoring prints in the preceding SPA competitions. Trophies are awarded to the winning Federations. PAGB medals and ribbons are awarded to individual images in each Category.

Competition at the PAGB level is very demanding and whilst we find it difficult to challenge some of the specialist clubs, we regularly achieve PAGB awards and ribbons.

### **Achievements**

We have many great photographers in the SPA family and I would like to share with you the achievements of **Bevil Templeton-Smith**, from Molesey PC.

Bevil recently won the 2023 International Photography Award's Non Professional Fine Art Photographer of the Year category. This is a great achievement. There were 14,000 photographers entering the competition as a whole, with 260,000 images entered across 22 categories, from 120 countries, judged by 80 jurors across the world. Bevil submitted the required 10 images, and one of them, Columna, was chosen as part of the Best in Show category winners, which is currently being exhibited in Shenzhen China, at the beginning of a world tour.

He was invited to receive his award in New York at the end of October where he was given a splendid trophy, and all of his images were shown the next day at Carnegie Hall where he was in the running for the Lucie Award for Discovery of the Year.

His work is in microscopy, an interest he has had for some years, and has developed a technique of preparing images of crystals of a variety of substances which he mixes and photographs in polarised light. He had an exhibition of large prints made on metal at a gallery in Notting Hill in March, and was successful in selling a good number of them.

He is also a member of the Quekett Microscopical Club where he is giving a talk soon, but the difference between the work of the other members is that Bevil's is less straight scientific and deliberately creative, and clearly falls into the category of Fine Art.

His work has appeared in several prestigious art magazines, with a new version of Columna featuring in the current Artist Talk Magazine. He has been awarded an Honourable Mention in The Artist Gallery awards (one of only 22) and is also currently on the Close-up Photographer of the Year (CUPOTY) shortlist, to mention but a few of his achievements. He was also shortlisted for the RPS IPE 165, and one of his images has been chosen for a wall calendar for Evident Scientific, the microscopy division of Olympus.

I'm sure members will wish Bevil all the best for his future success.

Distinctions with the RPS:

Peter Stott and Martin Houghton from Epsom CC have both recently achieved ARPS;

- Peter was awarded ARPS in the Contemporary Category, and
- Martin was awarded ARPS in the Visual Art category.

Max Dobres from Bookham Camera Club has also been awarded ARPS for his photo book 'Deep Sky Wonders – images from beyond from the solar system'.

Max's achievement is worthy of some additional comment. He takes images of distant galaxies and objects in the night sky, and they are remarkable. If you have seen the Hubble Space Telescope or James Webb Space Telescope images you will know how their images have energised a whole new generation of people interested in the space sciences. Max's images are equally fascinating and having heard him deliver a camera club talk, the technology is really clever in both aligning with specific objects, planets, constellations etc and then tracking them as the Earth rotates. Max's studio is his garden shed – which has a sliding roof to open up his technology to the night sky. Well done Max.

Also worthy of recognition is Kingston Camera Club who had a double spread in Amateur Photographer issue of 31 October this year.

### Judging

I regularly comment about the need for members to come forward for training as SPA accredited judges and was delighted to hear from the Judges and Lecturers Committee that 5 new judges were appointed in November:

- Sarah Bedwell LRPS (Tandridge)
- Simon Bedwell LRPS (Tandridge)
- Justin Cliff ARPS (Woking)
- Simon Street FRPS (Kingston and RTPS)
- Paul Waller ARPS (Kingston)

Rosemary Wilman and the team on the Judges Sub-committee do a great job in selecting and training the new judges and I am confident these will be valuable additions to the judges' pool.

### **The Biennial Exhibition 2024**

A reminder that we are returning to Guildford for our 2024 Biennial Exhibition. The Guildford House Gallery has been booked and the key dates for your diaries are:

\*\*\* 31 January – Closing Date for on-line entries

\*\*\* 9 February – Cut off Date for Print deliveries.

(15-17 Feb 2024 – Exhibition entry selection)

5 April - Exhibition opens

5 April - Awards Dinner (in the Reigate Manor Hotel)

17 April - Changeover of images

27 April – Exhibition closes

Ann Healey's email of 13 November is really important as it includes all the key information and dates. If you need further guidance I suggest you contact her directly.

This is the opportunity to 'show-off' the range and depth of excellence in photography we have in the SPA. There are lots of further details that will be coming in the months ahead, and I hope you have all included the Biennial Exhibition in you clubs plan and programmes.

And finally, keep enjoying your photography and I look forward to seeing you at the Biennial Exhibition and on Saturday 11 May 2024 for the SPA Inter-Club PDI Championships,

Best wishes and seasons greetings to you, your families and friends,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Mendham', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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