

## **To all WCPF Club Reps & Exec**

First of all, a big thank you to all club reps for all that you do on behalf of the WCPF. We rely heavily on you to keep your members informed about WCPF & PAGB news and we couldn't function without you!

A brief introduction: I am the new WCPF President and my husband Stephen has taken over as the new WCPF Secretary – for many reasons a double act works here. We are both members of Dorchester Camera Club and, before that, Weymouth. I was Dorchester Chair through the Covid years and Stephen and I have both been the Dorchester's External Competition Secretaries for several years. We are both Event Photographers covering many local events including trail running, parkrun, music, festivals and Agricultural Shows, mainly but not only, in Dorset. During Covid we took up Street Photography and have a continuing project 'documenting the ordinary'.

For those of you who were unable to attend the AGM, a number of important issues were raised.

### **DPIC/Print Competition.**

These will be combined this year and held in February. We appreciate that this is short notice, especially for clubs who have not been holding print competitions, but we were caught between a rock and a hard place. To be blunt, these competitions cost a fortune to organise; we recoup as much as we can through ticket sales and the raffle, but a stand-alone print competition is simply not financially viable. We have amalgamated them – which is the practice of a number of other Federations. Also, this year, we had to find a way of organising the competition so it could be switched to zoom if there was another Covid wave.

We are holding the competitions in February partly to avoid clashes with the Member's Exhibition and partly to comply with the PAGB timetable and the need to give the winning clubs a chance to prepare for the PAGB Championships (Warwick & Blackburn).

We know that many of you feel you cannot enter both competitions this year. Do remember that the only prints you can't enter into the Print Competition are those that went into our 2019 Print Competition. You can use prints of images that have been entered into DPIC or other WCPF competitions in the past. You can even enter the same prints and PDIs in both competitions this year – but we advise against it as they will be judged by the same judges on the same day!

Some of you asked why you should print if no-one will see the prints. We listened. We are looking at ways of getting print stands to the Corn Exchange so that we can display as many prints as possible, possibly in shifts with the prints being changed over in the lunch break. We are still working on the logistics. There will also be **no fee for entering the Print Competition.**

So – we know there are concerns this year. All we can ask you is to bear with us and try to support this year's event. Afterwards we will be happy to listen to constructive

criticism and practical suggestions as to how we proceed in future years. However I think it is unlikely that we will be able to stage a stand-alone print competition in the near future.

## **Club Membership**

I know some clubs are struggling to retain and or attract members and are in danger of closing. Sadly we lost Camborne & Redruth recently. If your club is struggling, please let me know and also if you think there are any particular reasons for this.

On the other side of the coin, some clubs tell me they are doing very well and attracting lots of new members. We have recently welcomed the return of Crediton, for example. Can you offer any advice to struggling clubs – is there anything you have tried that has attracted new members or encouraged your own members to stay? I know too, some small rural clubs have been joining with other small clubs in their area for competitions, speakers etc. whilst still retaining their individual identities.

Thank you to those who contributed to the discussion at the AGM or replied to my Facebook Post. I would still like to hear from those clubs not at the AGM or on Facebook.

## **Members Exhibition**

There have been a number of obstacles to overcome this year and Pedro has been working very hard to overcome them! We think all the problems are now resolved and information will be posted soon.

At the AGM it was agreed to simplify the categories. This year we will be having **Colour, Monochrome and Nature Digital** and **Colour, Monochrome and Nature Prints**. There will be special awards for certain genres within these categories.

## **New Exec Members**

We are delighted to welcome some new Exec members and some changes in roles for others. **Lorraine Robins** from St Austell has joined us as a Committee Member. **Sue O'Connell** and **Peter Brisley** from Bristol will be taking on the Publicity Officer role together from Ann Owens in January. Ann is becoming our PAGB Awards Rep. Sue Bishop, our former Secretary has taken on the role of Travelling Critique Secretary.

## **Knightshayes Trophy**

Don't forget that the Knightshayes Trophy will be prints this year. Please encourage your members to enter! The theme is **DECISIVE MOMENT**. Stephen and I will be judging this together and bouncing off each other as we look for different things and have different styles. We are open to any interpretation of the theme including creative and are excited to see what you produce!

## Coming Up November 22 – February 23

Some dates for your diaries:

**19th November 22:** Judging Workshop in Bristol. Contact John Tilsley – details already sent to clubs. A second workshop will be held in Exmouth in April 23

**1st December 22:** DPIC/Print Comp Entry Opens

**5th January TBC:** Members Exhibition entry opens. Please await further information.

**5th February 23:** DPIC & Inter Club Print Competition. Exeter Corn Exchange. Tickets coming soon. Knightshayes Trophy hand-in.

If you see me at an event, please come and introduce yourself and say hello. It will be nice to be able to put faces to the names and clubs! I intend to come to every event held under the WCPF banner.

Finally, don't forget the WCPF has an active Facebook page and we would love more members. Please join in.

Kind Regards

***Helen Jones ARPS DPAGB BPE1\****

President - Western Counties Photographic Federation

[www.thewcpf.com](http://www.thewcpf.com)