

To all WCPF Clubs, the Exec and the LVPs;

Just a note to welcome you all back to the start of a new season. Sadly over the last year we have lost a few of our long-established clubs, which is a great pity. On a more positive note, I am hearing reports from around our region that many of you have heard from lots of new, prospective members and that you think the 23/24 season is looking a lot brighter.

Thank you for all the feedback on the AI guidance and advice. Many of you emailed to say that it was very helpful and that it arrived at just the right time for you to update your competition rules and advise your members. Thank you too, to those of you who took the time to contact us with amendments, tweaks and suggestions for clarification. We now know that one sentence is not quite accurate and there is one line which has led to a little confusion. AI is also moving on and it's no longer quite up-to-date. Our sub-committee is working hard to keep abreast of all the changes. We are now waiting for the PAGB to publish their guidelines which should be in October. We will then look at those in conjunction with your feedback and send out an update. However our original advice is still perfectly adequate for your use at club level so don't worry - no need to change anything yet!

A few little pleas and reminders:

When you contact judges and lecturers please make sure that both you and they are fully aware of all terms and conditions before you confirm. This means making sure that both sides know how much any fees or expenses will be; what the content of the talk will be; how long the talk will last; and if the judge or speaker has a cancellation policy. We are updating our WCPF Booking Forms but the onus is on clubs to ensure that everything is clear before they confirm in writing. This saves a lot of problems and later misunderstandings.

Following on from this, don't forget that all our clubs are autonomous and independent. You make your own rules and run your club in whatever way your committee and members agree. The WCPF can't and won't tell you what to do - though we do have some guidance on the website. The WCPF cannot get involved in any internal club disputes whatever the nature. Those really are down to you to sort out!

Don't forget to let Bill Aven (Directory Secretary) know of any change of Officer and email address. Our contact list is only as up-to-date as you make it and our Crystal Ball broke a long time ago! We rely on you to tell us. The same applies to the PAGB's Competition Entry System (CES) - you need to ensure that's up to date yourselves because your correspondence will go to whoever has registered themselves on the system.

Finally a request from one of our judges - please remember that a judge will give an emotional response and technical critique to whatever is put in front of them - but it is not their job to decide whether the photographs fit your set-subject competition definition, your nature definition, your monochrome definition or whether or not the work contains AI or any other banned techniques. That's down to the club competition secretary to decide beforehand. A judge is entitled to expect that every image you present to them is valid for that competition and they will assess every image that you present to them without judgement as to whether it fits your criteria.

Ok - that's the nagging over!

Now I must apologise. I promised you an August newsletter but you didn't get one. I promised you an August Zoom meeting but you didn't get one. The reason for this is our old friend COVID which Stephen and I both caught in August and it absolutely knocked us for six. We were so ill with it and are still not recovered. It's the third time we have had it but it's the worst and it's the first time we have encountered the extreme fatigue and the brain fog that you hear so much about. It's horrendous. I then broke two toes and Stephen sprained his foot. We are now going to take ourselves away to relax and hopefully recover, and disappear to the St Ives September Festival. We'll abandon the car and just immerse ourselves in art, poetry, literature and music. We have been going for years and we always come away with something that inspires our photography. I did a project with some of the artists last year and have just printed off my work to show them.

I hope I will see lots of you at our AGM at Bovey Tracey Golf Centre on Saturday 7th October. This will be followed by a wonderful afternoon talk by Sue O'Connell and Peter Brisley - not to be missed. If you don't fancy the morning's business, though I should be encouraging you to attend, there's a fantastic exhibition at Make Southwest, Bovey Tracey entitled "Responding to Light: the diversity of modern photography" It's curated by Susan Brown FRPS and includes work by Mandy Barker, Ray Spence, Marianthi Lainas, Joe Cornish, Charlie Waite and Vanda Ralevska. It sounds wonderful! You could visit that in the morning, then come over to the Golf Centre for lunch and the afternoon talk (though we would like some of you to attend the AGM as well!)

Don't forget to have your Kingswood Salver panels ready to hand in at the AGM and remind your members about the Knightshayes Trophy theme "Water in all its Forms".

If your club hasn't received the AGM pack that went out a few days ago, please let our Secretary, Stephen Jones, know as soon as possible, letting him know which club you are and confirming your contact details.

Have a wonderful start to the season and I'll be in touch again to remind you all about the AGM when I return from St Ives because I don't want any of you forgetting it :-). There's bound to be something I've forgotten to include in this letter too - blame the brain fog.

Kind Regards
Helen

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www.thewcpf.com