

To all in the WCPF

Apologies if you receive this more than once - some of you appear on more than one of my contact lists and I don't want to break the system by trying to remove the duplicates as I am perfectly capable of completely wrecking Gmail.

I meant to send out a newsletter straight after the Council Meeting - but I ran out of time as Stephen and I decided to take a last-minute short break to Devon ... but, sorry, it was jam first!



Now, having alienated all the Devon clubs, I will move on quickly!

Council Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the Council Meeting. We tried to make it a relaxed and friendly day and I hope those of you who came enjoyed it. I enjoyed meeting so many of you. Tim from Fotospeed gave us a very useful talk in the afternoon which was well-received. All the reports are on the website should you wish to read them.

A few points of interest:

1. I will be setting up some **open-house zoom meetings** over the summer to which you are all invited. You can ask questions about the WCPF, or about any issue that your club wishes to discuss. We can bounce ideas off each other. It's up to you. I am aware that we are a very large Federation and it's not easy for many clubs to send representatives to attend our meetings at Bovey Tracey. This is one way you can still get your voice heard, share ideas, ask for help. Don't ask me for details yet – I need some time to work out how best to do this.
2. **Insurance** – watch this space. The deals on offer from Hive should be far more competitive and suited to your needs next year.
3. **Website** – Nick wants to change the photos on the front page of the website on a monthly basis and represent as many clubs as possible. Originally he said just small clubs but he tells me is now happy to receive something from every club to be truly representative. He needs about 20 images sized to 1000px on the longest side (landscape) and 800px on the longest side (portrait) plus a brief write-up about your club. Contact Nick at webmaster.wcpf@gmail.com

4. Sue reminded everyone to sign up for the **Travelling Exhibition** – she has since circulated an email to all clubs.
5. Stephen has updated the **New Club Information Document** on the website. This includes essential information about the WCPF and PAGB and what membership offers your club and your members.
6. **DPIC and Print Competition.** Expect some changes and a rebranding. We particularly want to make these competitions easier for small clubs to enter and also find a catchier name! We now have a team set up to organise the event and we will be meeting soon.
7. We are trying to find ways that we can make the WCPF more inclusive, more open and more encouraging to all clubs. Ideas welcome – see point 1!
8. **Facebook** – our WCPF Facebook page, run by Eddy, is going from strength to strength with far more interaction. Please encourage your members to join.
9. Our **Treasurer, Christopher Marsham**, announced that he would be standing down at the AGM after several years of excellent service. We will, of course, be thanking Chris properly at the AGM. I am very pleased to tell you that we have a volunteer to take on the post of Treasurer so we won't be sending the press-gang round the clubs.
10. We still need a Publicity Officer, but **Dennis Knowles** has kindly offered to take on the role of official photographer at all our events.

Knightshayes Trophy

Stephen and I loved judging this! So many great, imaginative photos. We decided not to go for the traditional critique approach but rather make it very positive and concentrate on what we enjoyed about each photograph – our emotional response. We chose our awarded photos, anonymously, 3 weeks in advance then we put everything back in the boxes and didn't look at them again until the event so we came to them fresh– then we just wandered round picking out other photos that appealed to us on the day. It was all very spontaneous.

Congratulations to our winner, **Rod Taylor** from Tavistock.

For those of you who thought this year's subject was too narrow, next year we go to the opposite extreme – something very wide! **Water in all it's forms.** Use your imagination. Three things to bear in mind:

1. We will be looking for original, imaginative, exciting photos that we haven't seen before - we want to see work you have really thought about
2. We don't want anything re-entered from this year's Knightshayes – we have good memories!
3. Water (or snow, ice, fog etc) should be the main subject of your photo – but it can include people, fish, animals, birds, boats or anything else that gets wet!

Thank you to **Pam** and **Eddy Lane** for organising this competition once again.

Members' Exhibition

You should all have received your results now! Huge congratulations to those who had work accepted; commiserations to those, like me, who didn't do so well! Don't give – try again next year. It's a game and you win some and you lose some.

I am very much looking forward to presenting the awards at Bovey Tracey at 2pm on 30th April – but just a warning, I am autistic and dyspraxic so shaking hands ties me in knots and I can't tell my left from my right! You have been warned.

Some Members' Exhibition thank yous ...

Christopher Marsham for his superb hospitality, giving us the run of his fabulous house, hosting the judges, and feeding us – saving the WCPF a lot of money! He also has an adorable spaniel and a garden full of birds, so we were kept entertained.

Pedro Landers for organising both the selection and the exhibition – a huge amount of work – and he got the results out so fast this year!

Di Tilsley on vocals – she read out several thousand titles over the course of the weekend in her own inimitable way and must be hoarse! Her Welsh pronunciation is improving thanks to tuition from **Stephen Jones**, but she could do with some help with her Gaelic! We all love Di's humour when she reads out our titles!

All the helpers over the weekend in no particular order – **Ann Owens, Sheila Haycox, Pam Sherren, Sandie Cox, Eddy and Pam Lane, Brian Galbraith, Ralph Snook, Bill Aven, Stephen Jones**, and **John Tilsley**.

Our three judges: **Jenny Hibbert, Martin Patten**, and **Roy Lambeth** – plus **Mrs Lambeth** who looked after us all weekend making teas and coffees !

Finally – but certainly not least – our wonderful **AES Team** who we really couldn't manage without. They gather in all the prints, sort them, label them, bring them to the selection and return them all to you afterwards. They are also our eyes and ears in the regions and often your first port of call if you want to ask anything about the WCPF or want issues passed on to the Exec. Thank you to: **Brian Galbraith, Ann Owens, Peter Fry, Pam Sherren, Sheila Haycox, Tim Grimes, John Tilsley, Bill Aven, Pam and Eddy Lane, Ralph Snook** and **Sandie Cox**.

Competition Rules

We will be reviewing our competition rules and making sure that they are both up to date and consistent across the board. We also have to discuss problematic issues like the use of AI which has suddenly become a big and controversial problem. To be quite honest when it comes to AI, replacement skies, textures from the internet, remote shooting and the like, we can no, we don't allow them, but we can't police the rule. At the end of the day it's a matter of trust. We have to trust you not to break the rules. The PAGB are coming to a similar conclusion. We will clarify our rules and tell you what we expect then it's over to you.

Finally...

I think that's it. The WCPF has a busy April with the Judging Seminar on 22nd, the AV Competition on 29th and the Members' Exhibition Presentation and Opening on 30th! The Exhibition runs until May 14th. Then it all goes quiet for a while though behind the scenes we will be working on next year's activities and planning those zoom sessions. Stephen and I will be out on the road over the summer photographing events all over Dorset plus the Devon County Show, and preparing a new Event Photography talk for 2024 - so we will be busy!

I hope to see you on 30th April.

All the best
Helen

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www.thewcpf.com