



THE YORKSHIRE
PHOTOGRAPHIC UNION

ANNUAL
REPORT
2017

President's Report for the 2017 Annual General Meeting

By the time you read this, I'll be coming to the end of my Presidency or may even be Immediate Past President. In many ways, the last two years have gone quickly since I stood at the front in the main spot for the first time and took over from Howard.

Have I accomplished anything? OK, it's not been two years of momentous change and upheaval but there have been some subtle changes in the background which may make life easier for clubs. Along with Stephen Dean and Richard Littlefair, I implemented the electronic entry and judging for the annual exhibition.

I had used Adrian Lines' software before for the PAGB Inter-Federation competitions for the last couple of years and had seen how it could improve the handing of pictures and data. It was tried last year at the YPU and this is our second year coming up. There have been teething troubles and we're working through a snagging / wish list. There's going to be a revamp of the software later in the year to take on new features which should help both the clubs and the Executive regarding the annual exhibition. I still think there's opportunities to use other features of the system for judges and lecturers, sending out targeted information, etc. It will need buy-in from clubs to provide contact information for some of their committee people, e.g. treasurer and competition secretary but this shouldn't be too onerous if they keep their club information page up to date.

Through discussions with a 'focus group' to use a modern term, I have expanded the categories in the annual exhibition to hopefully take on board some of the comments and criticisms over the last few years and give people more chances to express themselves in the subjects. It also aligns the YPU more closely with external Salons and national / international competitions to give people a better body of work for entering these events.

The Mentoring programme seems to have it's up and downs with heated discussions held at Executive level. Hopefully, a mentoring contract being finalised will help with expectations and commitments.

We held a successful Awards for Photographic Merit workshop a few weeks ago and received positive feedback from the attendees. There's obviously a desire for people to go for the awards and hopefully we'll have success at the following adjudication days and especially next November as we host the PAGB team in Yorkshire – it's on your doorstep so no excuses for not having a go...

We've chosen the clubs to represent us at the PGB Inter-Club Championships in Warwick for PDIs and Blackburn for prints. After the good comments we received last year with the new judging method rather than being picked by the Executive, I thought we'd have a decent entry this year but was a bit disappointed to see only three clubs enter the prints and ten clubs enter the projected images.

The Facebook page has had a constant stream of traffic – some individuals seem to live on it and some dip in and out sparingly. There has been some good information on it but there's also been some spats with keyboard warriors getting people's backs up and maybe saying things that they wouldn't say face to face. Please treat each other respectfully. You don't have to broadcast a problem / gripe to the world if a quick message to an Executive member would sort things out. People are there to help, even if they do things voluntarily.

I'd like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for the hard work they put in for your benefit.

When clubs ask "What has the YPU ever done for us?" to tweak a certain Monty Python line, I was surprised that the annual reports from the E.C. members came to eleven pages last year – not a small amount of work and commitment for you - all for the love of it...

I'll finish off by wishing my successor, Alan Stopher CPAGB all the best in the role for the next two years. Even though I'll be Immediate Past President, I can't slink off completely into the background and will still have the fun of being Print Secretary but at least I'll only have one job to worry about.

I hope that you go from strength to strength in your clubs and with your own personal photography goals – it is supposed to be a hobby enjoyed by all.

Andrew Pell CPAGB
YPU President
YPU Print Secretary

Exhibition Co-Ordinator

My induction to the role of Exhibition Coordinator has been well supported by my colleagues on the YPU Executive Committee and I am grateful for all their help and encouragement.

Wakefield Camera Club hosted last year's Exhibition and Assembly in their 125th Anniversary Year. I must say WCC put together an excellent hard working project team led by Malcom Dobson and I am indebted to them all for making this a successful event for everyone involved.

To steer other interested clubs through the process I have produced a set of guidance notes which outline and explain all the activities and resources needed from the early stages of finding a suitable venue until the final closing days when the Exhibition is taken down from the venue.

Already Sheffield Photographic Society are beginning to prepare for when they host the event in 2018 and have identified and booked suitable venues in the City.

2017 will be the year when Huddersfield Photo Imaging Club pick up the baton as hosts for the Exhibition and Assembly. Already we have had 2 planning meetings with their project team and following today's AGM (4th March) we will be rolling our sleeves up and getting the print boxes sorted in readiness for the judging weekend of April 1st/2nd.

The Exhibition will be on show at Huddersfield Art Gallery, where the prints will be wall mounted this time. The Assembly will take place at Huddersfield Town Hall on Saturday 13th May 2017. I'm pleased that the Art Gallery has agreed to let the Exhibition run for 16 weeks until 2nd September. The Exhibition will be opened by Bradford born award winning artist and photographer Ian Beesley. Ian's work has been exhibited national and internationally and he's a very entertaining speaker.

Other clubs are already expressing interest for subsequent years with Pontefract Camera Club earmarking 2020 as it's an Anniversary year for them.

It looks like I'm going to be kept quite busy over the next few years!

I look forward to seeing you all at the 2017 Assembly and Exhibition in Huddersfield.

Marilyn Roberts
Exhibition Coordinator.

Projected Digital Images Secretary

The 2016 Annual Assembly & Exhibition (117th) was staged by Wakefield Camera Club. It was thanks to the hard work of their members and the support of YPU Executive, that the event proved a great success.

For the first time entries were submitted on-line using the new club software programme written by Adrian Lines. The software performed well although a number of refinements are being developed to tailor the programme more to our needs.

The total number of PDI entries in 2016 was 1449 from 44 clubs, slightly down from 1551 entries from 43 clubs in 2015. There were 207 acceptances, 44 certificates, 5 awards and 60 images selected for the PAGB Annual Exhibition - 30 Open & 30 Nature. Stocksbridge PS did the double by winning the Society Awards in both the PDI General and PDI Applied sections.

The prestigious honour of 'Best in Show' - the Halifax Trophy, awarded to the most successful photographer, went to Christine Walker LRPS from Doncaster CC. She gained 1 award, 3 certificates and 5 acceptances with her 10 images she entered.

Thanks to Alan Porrett ARPS DPAGB EFIAP APAGB, Jane Black ARPS Hon PAGB FPSA and Sue Moore MPAGB for judging the 1449 PDIs

Thanks also go to the selectors of PDIs to represent the YPU at the 2016 PAGB Inter-Federation Exhibition and Competition. They were: Stephanie Cook LRPS DPAGB EFIAP, Erica Oram CPAGB AFIAP BPE2* and Colin Williams CPAGB EFIAP. In the Open PDI Competition the results were: out of an entry of 15 Federations, the YPU was 6th, up from 9th position in 2015 and only 4 marks behind the winning Federation. In the Nature PDI Competition we were 7th out of 14 Federations. Up again from last year when we were 9th out of 14 Federations. Congratulation go to Christine Walker LRPS for her image 'In Step with the Master' that was awarded a PAGB Ribbon, Duncan Hill EFIAP/s MPAGB with 5 accepted images Andrea Hargreaves EFIAP DPAGB BPE2 PSA4, Ray Brammall ARPS AFIAP DPAGB APAGB, Lindsay Campbell, Les Forester BA Hons. DPAGB ARPS AFIAP, Sally Sallett LRPS CPAGB BPE1, Phil Hargreaves AFIAP CPAGB PSA2, Tim Munsey ARPS John Bailey and John Gardner ARP with one acceptance each.

On the 29th Jan. the selection of the clubs to represent the YPU at this year's PAGB Inter-Federation competition was held. Ten clubs put in PDI entries (20 images each) and after a close battle, Cookridge Camera Club emerged as winners with 235 points; Doncaster CC were runners up with 233 points Thanks to the three selection judges – Marilyn Roberts, Gordon Jenkins and myself.

All YPU Clubs should now be aware that the entry categories for the 2017 Exhibition have been revamped. There are now nine PDI classes and the number of entries per individual author has been increased to a maximum of 10 PDI images and 10 print images.

Finally, the organisation of the showing of the PDIs at this year's Annual Exhibition at the Huddersfield Art Gallery is well advanced.

Richard P. Littlefair LRPS CPAGB

YPU Print Secretary's Report

Between the November representatives meeting and the AGM can be a relatively quiet time for a Federation Print Secretary – the calm before the storm... The results of the Annual Exhibition are known I'd like to thank Wakefield CC again for their help in staging the event.

The results of the PAGB Inter-Federation competition have also been published – see the November Reps. Meeting report for those...

What do carry on are the discussions with the host club for the next Annual Assembly and Exhibition - Huddersfield PIC this time.

We also have meetings of the exhibition subcommittee where we discuss the post-mortem for the last year and work on improvements for the coming year. The subcommittee takes on suggestions from the host club who've just been through the process and ideas from the others on the Exec. involved with the event. One change is this year, we're unpacking the prints after this meeting to save time, expense and carrying the print boxes up to the storeroom and back more times than necessary.

We've continued to talk to Adrian Lines of the PAGB about the competition software – we found things that we'd like to change and are working through them. Some are 'low hanging fruit' and some will take some development as they're not things he's done before – Adrian is developing a revamp for the software but that's not due until later in the year.

We've had more practice running the software for the PAGB Club Championship competition and this has been bit of a baptism of fire for our newbie PDI Secretary Richard Littlefair. We didn't twig until the day of the competition that his chance to get some experience driving the software would fall through as he was a judge – you can't do both things at once so he left me to the fun of the keyboard.

Let's hope that you have a stress-free exhibition entry this year and we'll look forward to seeing the results – especially with the new categories – 'gotta be in it to win it...'

Andrew Pell CPAGB
YPU Print Secretary

Judge and Lecture List Secretary

The YPU continues to maintain a list of judges for club competitions and speakers for club syllabuses.

Regular notices are sent out to Club Secretaries with amendments to and updated versions of the current PAGB handbook. 2016 has seen a number of retirements amongst our judges with 4 stepping down.

Happily 3 of our newer judges have been promoted from the supplementary list to the main YPU list during the same period. Over the same period four lecturers have also retired, but although the schedule of talks offered has been refreshed by some of our speakers, there have been no new personnel added to the list. Sincere thanks go to those who have given many years of service to our clubs and we wish the new judges well as they develop their skills.

The Supplementary List of judges and lecturers continues to be maintained and circulated to clubs. As always any club member interested in becoming a judge or lecturer is encouraged to contact the Judge & Lecture List Secretary.

In October 2016 the YPU held its first Judges Day. The aim was to share experiences amongst judges across our Federation and help shape the future of judging in Yorkshire. Specific topics covered were the new Nature definition which replaces Natural History and how to assess Creative images. It was agreed that a new YPU form for booking judges should be developed in order to improve communications between clubs and judges and ensure that the requirements of judges are clarified. It is hoped that when this is issued and in use it will avoid future instances of poor communication.

As the year closed work started on collating the changes to be incorporated into the next edition of the PAGB Handbook. It was clear that this would bring about a number of further retirements amongst some of our senior judges and lecturers and plans will be made for a Judges Workshop to bring in those who are keen to get involved with providing a service to clubs.

The YPU is indebted to our judges and lecturers for their work in providing a service to clubs throughout the county and as always feedback on their visits is encouraged. A number of clubs regularly assist in providing feedback which is shared with judges and lecturers.

Alan Stopher

Advancing Photography 2017

Advancing Photography Day Trial

The YPU trialled an Advancing Photography Day in January 2016 to try to establish a workable format for critiquing images to be used towards Photographic Distinctions.

There was quite a large group of participants involved in the trial as we wanted a wide variety of images. Participants showed just 6 images each with all participants critiquing each others work. After the day they all completed a feedback sheet.

Results of this feedback showed everyone enjoyed the experience and thought the advice received was beneficial to them. Participants found the format of the day to be good and it was agreed that in small groups of participants of the same level it could work very well and should be repeated in the future. Other ideas were to have small regional groups and groups by subject matter.

Mentoring

Through trial and error the YPU had decided it needs to change the way we view the Mentoring System due to a few factors;

1. Members expecting mentors to be personal tutors – teaching photoshop and choosing images to be used in distinction submissions are just two of the many expectations.
2. Mentees are not respecting mentors privacy and are bombarding them with emails of improved images at all times of the day and night.

Mentors can be allocated to those candidates who are at the final stages of commitment towards a photographic distinction and are already at the standard required for that distinction.

I have written a guidance document which will be posted on the website for those considering the photographic distinction trail, ideas on how to improve their photography by entering Salons and Exhibitions etc. The YPU are also writing a “Mentors Contract” which would give club members an idea as to what was involved.

It must be emphasised that the onus is on the Photographic Club/Society/Group to provide help and guidance to its members on photographic matters and provide an interesting and varied syllabus and where able, possibilities for learning photoshop / photographic technique.

Andrea Hargreaves
Advancing Photography

Yorkshire International Salon 2016

The closing date for entries was 5th December and judging was conducted over the weekend of 10th & 11th December. Report cards were despatched to entrants by email on the 13th and 14th December as were the spreadsheets required by FIAP and the PSA.

Awards were despatched to award winners before the end of January 2017 and the catalogues were posted out to entrants on 16th February.

Our thanks go to the judges Bob Moore, Sue Moore, Dianne Owen, Gordon Jenkins, Andrea Hargreaves (YPU) and Kevin Bedford (YPU). There were many successful entries from members of the YPU and where possible were included in the 80 page A4 catalogues.

All award winning and accepted entries can be viewed on the salon website at www.yorkshiresalon.co.uk. A tip for future entrants, all award winners are included in the catalogue. The catalogue is then populated by images that the organizers believe will produce a balanced catalogue covering all genres of photography possible. This selection takes considerable time and images that are accepted for the catalogue have their borders removed to ensure the catalogue looks harmonious.

If any images entered have a border and are borderline for placing in the catalogue it is unlikely that the image will make it into the catalogue as removing the borders takes some considerable time if there are many borders to be removed. In essence, if you want your image to make the catalogue avoid using a border in your submitted PDI's.

Statistics for the salon were:

Section	Entrants	Images Entered	Images Accepted
Open Colour Print	199	786	199
Mono Prints	181	709	178
Landscape Prints	119	470	118
Open PDI's	349	1382	348
Nature PDI's	244	948	237
Travel PDI's	217	861	216
Totals	516	5156	1296

All YPU clubs will receive a copy of the catalogue at the AGM and a CD of all selected images will also be despatched to all clubs on the same CD as the images from the YPU Annual Exhibition. I would like to point out that for the past two years this CD has been sent to every club secretary within the YPU but many clubs have indicated that they have not received the CD. Each envelope has my return address included and the Post Office have not once returned an envelope as undelivered.

As you will understand this is most frustrating for me as many clubs seem to have a lack of communication within the club and I seem to get the blame when no-one in a club can lay their hands on a CD that I am confident they have received.

Financially I am unsure what surplus was achieved in the 2016 Salon but I think it may be around £1,200. I am sure the final figures will be provided by the Honorary Treasurer.

Howard Tate MA ARPS AFIAP
Secretary – Yorkshire International Salon

Keighley Day 2016

The Keighley Day was held in Pontefract on Saturday 26th November 2016 and was attended by some 80 members of the YPU. The morning speaker was Terry Donnelly FRPS MPAGB EFIAP who has achieved the accolade of Best Author in each of the three years that we have been running the Yorkshire International Salon.

Terry put on a superb presentation for the audience and there was a great deal of interaction with everyone there. I am sure that everyone there gained some valuable knowledge about how to achieve success in national and international salons

The afternoon session involved a presentation by Fotospeed on how to achieve the best results from your printers, inks and papers. Most in attendance picked up at least a few tips on printing and colour calibration of equipment.

Howard Tate MA ARPS AFIAP
Organiser Keighley Day 2016

Report to the YPU AGM 2016 for the PAGB

1. Regular updates of the PAGB business and events are published in e-news to which over 10,000 club members subscribe. Back issues are available on the PAGB website and Rod Wheelans the editor, is keen that individual members subscribe rather than club officials circulate their members on a 'blanket' basis. Provided the editor has sufficient notice Federations and Clubs can advertise events in this digital magazine.
2. The PAGB have bought two new Canon projectors which will require image sizes to be 1600 x 1200 (although the usual 1400 x 1050 will still project but will show smaller on screen). The first outing for the new projector will be at Warwick in July 2017 for the Inter Club PDI competition. This will have implications for both of those Clubs representing the YPU at Warwick.
3. The judging of the Inter Federation Print and PDI competitions took place in Belfast in June. The winner of the Monochrome print competition was Northern Ireland with a mark of 142 and the YPU came 6th with a total of 126. The colour print was won by Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union with 134 points with the YPU coming 5th with 129. The Inter Federation PDI competition was won by Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union with 134 marks with the YPU coming 6th with 130. Christine Walker, a member of Doncaster CC gained a PAGB ribbon in this section with her image 'In step with the Master'. The Nature competition was won by the Scottish Federation with 139 points and the YPU came 7th with 130. These results are a significant improvement for the YPU from the previous year.
4. The GB trophy (prints) judging was held in Pontefract in November and the Open Section was won by Smethwick PS with 167 points, followed by Chorley PS and Dumfries CC. The nature section was won by Dumfries CC, 2nd Chorley PS and 3rd Keswick PS.
5. Unsurprisingly, Wigan 10 won again at the Inter Club competition held at Warwick University. Congratulations to Doncaster who won the Plate competition.
6. The Inter Club print championship was won by Dumfries CC. Doncaster who represented the YPU together with Sheffield PS came 7th in the Plate competition with 63 points and Sheffield were not too far behind with 58 points.
7. Anyone entering for the FIAP distinctions of AFIAP and EFIAP should have registered with the FIAP liaison officer Dave Coates as entries have to be finalised by the 31st March. The results are not likely to be available till June. It is anticipated that there will be no further rule changes for a while.
8. England won the FIAP Monochrome World Biennial this year and won a gold medal in the FIAP Nature Biennial as well. Three members from our region had images in the nature Biennial; Duncan Hill had two images as did Tim Munsey, and David Robinson also had one chosen.
9. Avid readers of e-news will have noticed that one of our Yorkshire photographers appeared. Congratulations to Les Forrester being featured and having his photographs published; all good publicity.

Stephanie Cook LRPS DPAGB EFIAP
Representative for the YPU on PAGB

Annual Review for the PAGB Awards 2016

Since last April there have been five passes at CPAGB. Unfortunately, there have not been as many successful applications as in previous years, or as I would like. Our congratulations go to the following successful members who gained the CPAGB: Pat Barbour from Doncaster CC; Ted Clements (Leeds PS), Kenneth Senior (Wakefield CC), Paul Campbell and Lisa Buck (Huddersfield PIC).

For future applicants there is now a Central Entry System which means that most candidates entry can be uploaded on line. Leo Rich, who has been doing the job of receiving applications for many years is now retiring and Daphne Hanson is taking over his post. The official handover was not to be till November 2017 but it has now been found that it is expedient for this to be brought forward to take immediate effect. This means that anyone applying from now on will receive their application documents from Daphne. Potential applicants need to request the YPU form which needs completing by a club official to say that you the applicant have been a club member for the requisite number of years. Additionally, applicants require the official PAGB form to complete which is also signed by the Awards Officer. These forms can be obtained from myself by e mail.

The next adjudication is to be held in Croydon in late April 2017 and the YPU Awards Officer will be attending to ascertain the arrangements and procedures for adjudications prior to the YPU hosting the event in November 2018. There are still places available for the adjudication in Colchester in November 2017. The adjudication for the APM/AV was held near Oxford in May and of the 14 applicants 8 were successful at CPAGB level, one or two with 'photo harmony' sequences. There were no successful DPAGB/AV sequences. No adjudication is planned for 2017 due to lack of interest.

Congratulations go to Don Whitley who received his APAGB in June. He is particularly well known for his work with the Yorkshire Monochrome Group of which he was co-founder.

Very few Yorkshire clubs have requested the Awards recorded lecture in the past year.

Stephanie Cook, LRPS DPAGB EFIAP
Awards Officer 2016