

The March meeting of the L&CPU Executive Committee

took place at Euxton, Chorley on Saturday 13th March commencing at the earlier time of 1.30pm.

The new President, Christine Widdall, welcomed the members to the meeting.

The **Minutes** were approved and under **Matters Arising** from the previous meeting it was decided that the next meeting on the 1st May, the 'Annual Competitions' print sorting day, would be held at Bebington and commence at 10am with the meeting proper being held at 1.30pm.

The **Judging** would take place on the 15th May at two venues – the Prints at Bebington, the Slides/PDI at Ainsdale. **Please note that these are NOT open judging events.**

The Lecturers and Judges Secretary, Bob Dennis, can have discretion to choose **Mentors for Applicants for PAGB Distinctions**. They should have the required knowledge and experience up to National and International standard.

Three clubs had kindly offered to host the PDI Knockout – so as to move the competition around the region the committee proposed to invite Kendal PS to host this year's event in November.

Two new Lecturers had indicated that they would go onto the list – Terry Hewitt from Stockport and Kathryn Scolah from Wigan 10.

The meeting then moved onto **Correspondence and Review of the AGM**

There were three letters that could have an impact on the Delegates Meeting.

The first letter was from **Reg Way of Davyhulme CC** suggesting:

- *that the reports at the AGM be published prior to the day and sent out with the Notice of the AGM – this would mean that everyone had chance to read them prior to the day and then would be able to question the author during the meeting.* - **Agreed with one abstention**
- *The recipients of Awards and Distinctions be informed that they were to be presented.*
In fact they were informed but unfortunately some did not turn up.
- *Clubs should be circulated requesting them to Nominate people to come onto the EC – they are as part of the AGM Notice, it is in the Rules and also it is mentioned in the L&CPU Directory.*

The above information to be sent to Davyhulme by the Secretary, Ken Ainscow.

The second was from **Frodsham PS** asking *if clubs could book Lecturers and Judges by email:*

- It was pointed out that all **our L&J worked to the PAGB rules** and that, whilst the PAGB were looking into this, the new PAGB Handbook would not be available until next year so it would be unlikely that the rules concerning this would be changed and published before then.

The Secretary, Ken Ainscow, is to write to Frodsham

The other was from **Ken Matthews of Sale PS** saying *the final insult to Slide workers was having to share a competition with the PDI's.*

- *Who had made the decision and why were the clubs not consulted?*
- *What is the true slide worker to do?*

He felt that PDI's should be separated from slides and also that slides should be separated from 'true slides originated in the camera'.

The decision to judge slides alongside DPI's was made by the Executive Committee following recommendations from the Competitions Sub Committee after they had reviewed last year's competitions. It was pointed out that trying to police the origination of a slide would be impossible, that despite us trying to encourage slides in last years competition, the numbers fell, and finally that any competition had to be viable.

Slides are not being dropped – last year they were in a separate section but then unfortunately we often saw the same images in each competition. This year they will be in the same competition so eliminating that problem.

The Competition Secretary, Henry Mullarkey, is to write to Ken.

Should any of the above have to be discussed at the Delegates meeting this would entail a much earlier start – it was suggested that if this was the case the **Delegates Meeting** would have to be from 1.30pm - 3.30pm with the Presentation of the Awards & Exhibition Opening from 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

There were two more letters:

Bill Chadband of North Cheshire PS sent one relating to the recent Print and DPI club challenge competitions asking:

- *why the the competitions could be run as one round with all the images included....*
No because they had to run the same as Warwick and Deeside so that clubs could experience the format and discover the tactics that were needed to be successful.
- *Could there be a refreshment break whilst the images were being gathered for the final round? Yes and this will be incorporated in future years.*
- *It was difficult to hear during the competitions and at the AGM. Could there be a PA system. Yes, a system will be provided in the future.*

Harry Emmett from Accrington CC asked:

- why there were such long delays between rounds. **The nature of the competition allows clubs after the first round to choose images for the second round and also for the final round. Loading these images takes time – hence acceptance the coffee break suggestion.**

A discussion followed on how the Inter-club PDI and Print competitions might be run in future years.

There were two suggested options:

- to run the AGM in the morning, the print competition in the afternoon and the PDI in the evening.
- to run both competitions on a separate day. This viability of this would obviously depend on a sufficient clubs committing to take part.

These matters will be discussed by the Competitions sub committee

Two nominations had been received to come and serve on the Executive Committee:

Bill Edwards from Altrincham and Hale PS and **Bob Robinson from Warrington PS.**

Both will be invited to be co-opted onto the Committee.

The **Treasurer** then presented the current Balance Sheet.

He pointed out that whilst the membership had gone up sadly at least one club – **Vauxhall & Ellesmere Port PS** – had closed and subsequently left the Union.

Due to the distinct possibility of a couple of contentious issues, it was felt that all five of our delegates should attend the **PAGB AGM in London on the 17th April.**

Under Priority Items

- discussions took place on the format of the **Judging Seminars**, one of which we hope to hold in October. A small group who have previously been involved with the Seminars will get together to discuss this and bring their recommendations to a future meeting.
- Jon Allanson, the **Folios** Secretary, brought to the committee's attention the make up of the Documentary Folio. It was pointed out the difficulties that our selectors had in trying to pick folios that contained a balance of the best images, had variety, at least one image from all the clubs who had entered and importantly prints that would make an interesting Exhibition.
- A sub Committee had met earlier in the day to discuss the organisation of a **'Big Day'** and gave the full EC a report on their discussions. The proposed event might be held in March and they suggested various themes for the day and a few venues that might be suitable.

If clubs can suggest suitable venues in their area they are asked to make initial enquiries using the following criteria and then let the EC know the details and importantly, the cost.

We need:

A hall that will hold up to 300 people preferably with tiered seating.

Technical support or training so our own people can use the equipment.

Catering on the premises or the ability and agreement to bring in outside caterers.

Be able to provide tea and coffee during the day or allow us to provide it.

Sufficient car parking space.

Space for trade stands.

- **Archive.** We now have a flatbed scanner and lights to enable the archive prints to be copied and subsequently put onto the website. Garth is keen to add items to the archive and the methods for doing this were discussed. Also methods of storing digital images safely.
- **Website.** The website has been changed over to a different larger server on a test basis to see if it was reliable – the old server being there for backup.
The addition of the Centenary Booklet to the site has been time consuming but thankfully has almost been completed
- **Communications.** The Treasurer will soon be sending out the Annual Returns to clubs.

He needs the clubs to:

- **give two email contact addresses**
- **to read and more importantly correct, if necessary, the details that are already printed on the sheet.**
- **to ensure that the published 'meeting start times' are correct and not just the 'arrival' time. Also required is the usual finish time.**
- **three different telephone numbers – two officials and either the phone number of the clubrooms or the number of a mobile that will be taken to the venue on the night.**

In future it is hoped that the Annual Return will be able to be collected electronically.

- **Competitions** were the final item on the priority list. Information is to be put onto the website regarding the drop off points, templates for the print labels / entry forms and the names of this year's judges.

Under **Any Other Business** the following items were discussed:

Exhibitions – there is a possibility that we might be able to show the PAGB Print Exhibition twice if we can find a venue in another part of the region.

Accrington Arrest – a photographer was stopped and held for 8 hours under anti – terrorism legislation for taking pictures at the Christmas Celebrations.

Both the PAGB and the RPS have expressed their concern at this and it was decided that Gordon Jenkins as our PAGB Representative and Christine Widdall as L&CPU President should write to all the five Chief Constables in our region to ask for their definitive views on photography in public places.

AV Licences – A recent copy of the PAGB Newsletter wrongly advised readers that by purchasing the two IAC sound licences that are currently available to members of the PAGB and RPS, authors are covered to enter competitions and to show their work around the clubs. This is in fact not the case as a **Phonographic Performance Licence** is required to show work in **Public** and the supply of this is presently restricted to members of the IAC.

This wrong advise has been pointed out and it was suggested that Gordon Jenkins on behalf of the PAGB contact the PPL people to discuss this.

Digital Economy Bill. The Government is planning to rush the Digital Economy Bill into law without a full Parliamentary debate. The law is somewhat controversial - Clause 43 will, for example, allow the Secretary of State to issue regulations that will see licensing bodies

gain the power to grant licences for the use of orphan works – creative works for which the author cannot be found. This measure could seriously affect photographers' right of control over their images.

Furthermore, while the Secretary of State has assured organisations that regulations will only be issued after wide ranging consultations, the parameters have remained obscure with the Intellectual Property Office admitting that these details will only be settled after the Digital Economy Bill is passed.

The RPS and the PAGB are currently involved in these consultations but in the meantime L&C members are advised to write their copyright into the meta data of all their images and, as a general rule, to ensure that they read all the terms and conditions of any competition they enter and any submission they might make – for example sending images to the BBC.

Changes of Directory contact details – in the past any changes that took place during the year would have been published in Focal Points. It has been decided to create a password protected test area on the website so that we can ensure that if this information was put on, it would remain secure. The PAGB may in the future look to distributing its Directory by this method as it costs around £4,000 to publish the handbook every two years.

It was also pointed out that we might in the near future be able to set up an email address for every club in the Union.

Well that was about it – the meeting closed at 6pm with the next EC meeting scheduled to take place in Bebington on the 1st May

