

Noel Morgan AFIAP BPE2* PSA1*

I came into photography late in life and purely by accident. My wife and I had taken our dog for a walk in Worden Park in **Leyland** when it came on to rain. We decided to take shelter in the café and have a cup of coffee. Coincidentally **Chorley** Photographic Society was holding their Annual Exhibition in the same building and as it was still raining we decided to have a look at it to pass some time. I was impressed by the quality of the photographs and wondered why my holiday snaps taken on an old Kodak Instamatic didn't look the same. The CPS member who was on hand informed me that they met on a Monday night between September and June and invited me along to the first meeting of the next season in a couple of months' time. This was June 1993 and I was coming up to 54 years of age and beginning to think about what to do with myself when I retired some 11 years hence. Photography I thought may be something I could do to fill in some time. I decided to go to that meeting. I was hooked and life was never quite the same again.



I began by shooting just slides but later bought an enlarger at a club auction and began producing mono prints. I was a reluctant convert to Digital photography but eventually in 2004 I bowed to the inevitable. In 2006 I began entering BPE National competitions and in 2007 FIAP internationals. At that time FIAP had a 5 year qualification period before an application for AFIAP could be made. I was then 68 and 5 years seemed a long way away! I joined the PSA in order to go for PSA international awards which had no time requirement.

In 1994 I was elected on to the committee of CPS and apart from a two year gap when I had a problem with my vision I have been on it ever since. In 1997 I was elected President of CPS. During my presidency in 1998 I gave a talk at the very first L&CPU 'Big Day' in Lancaster on 'How Chorley PS Approaches External Competitions'. Unfortunately just before I came to my punch line the MC, who shall remain nameless, showed me the red card. The line is as true now as it was then: ***If you are not in it you can't win it!*** A few years later I became the Competition Secretary for CPS. During this period I was responsible for the changeover from slides to projected digital images. Thanks to discovering DiCentra this transition was achieved very smoothly and CPS led the way in the projection of digital images for competition. Many other clubs have followed where Chorley led. Whilst Competition secretary I decided to try to raise the profile of the club by entering the club into both National and International club competitions. This proved to be a very successful move, not so much from the club results, but the fact that club members were having their images seen worldwide and they were enjoying that experience and gaining confidence in their own work. We were also attracting new experienced members who wanted the opportunity to have their images shown to a wider audience. This was one of the factors that led to the increase in the membership of CPS to where it is today. The success I had in National and International competitions also led me to persuade members of CPS to enter these competitions in their own right, (if I can do it, anyone can do it) and CPS now has a sizeable group who regularly enter these competitions with significant success. This in turn is now helping CPS to have more success in external competitions.

In 2006 I was elected to the executive committee of the L&CPU and became a member of the competition team. I was initially responsible for prints but when the person in charge of slides resigned I took them on also as we were looking to introduce digital images into the projected image section. The experience gained at Chorley enabled this transformation to take place very smoothly and the eventual change to just PDI's was seamless. The PDI competitions were run using the same formats as those used for slides. In 2008 the PAGB decided that in 2009 the Interclub Slide Championship at Warwick should change to a PDI competition. I was asked if it was possible to devise a system whereby the PDI competition could use the same format as that of the slides. My initial reaction was yes...I then had to devise one. This I did and the Championship at Warwick in 2009 was run with PDI's with no change to the format, i.e. two rounds, the Plate and the Final. The same system has been used very successfully ever since with just slight modifications to improve the presentation.

In 2011, because of sight problems, I decided to leave the L&CPU executive and this I did at the AGM in 2012. I had thoroughly enjoyed my time on the executive and my only regret on leaving was, like everything else during my time in photography, that I had come to it too late in life.

The biggest surprise of my life was when I was asked if I would allow my name to go forward to be added to the Roll of Honour of the L&CPU. It was the last thing I expected. It was a great honour. It was the icing on the cake.

Noel Morgan

July 2012

(The photograph of Noel is a crop from a shot taken by Christine Widdall at the 2012 Club Challenges. Noel thought it appropriate since he "spent such a lot of time at the laptop screen". 22nd July 2012)