

CONTENTS

Introduction
Forthcoming Events
Change of Details
Discussion Points
 Article on Marking
 Modifying Digital Images
Judges and Lecturers Forum

Introduction

Happy New Year to everybody, I thought as we are into a new year I would experiment with something new for us Judges and Lecturers. Some of you will have noticed that there is a Judges and Lecturers page on the N&EMPF website, which includes an online Forum.

As I stated in my report in the current N&EMPF Newsletter it is my intention to try guidelines, articles and other support to existing and potential judges and lecturers in the Federation.

The Federation has agreed to introduce Assessment Forms for Judges and Lecturers. The objective of these forms is to provide feedback (positive and negative) so that the Federation can structure future seminars more effectively. Electronic copies can be downloaded which should be returned to me. It is also possible to complete the Assessment Forms online which when submitted will send the results to me.

Supplementary Judges are encouraged to get the forms completed as this will help considerably in assessing suitability to move to the senior list. An Assessment Form will shortly be issued for us judges and lecturers to comment on the Clubs. That might make interesting reading.

Why have an e-news? This is an experiment, it provides the chance to keep you informed, especially if you don't read the website or Newsletter. It may also provoke items for discussion via the Forum. I take no credit for designing the idea, Rod Wheelans has published an e-news on behalf of the PAGB for some considerable time and I have just used the concept specifically for us Judges and Lecturers.

I accept that not everyone is afflicted with e-mail (unfortunately it comes with my job) but I use this and other electronic communications considerably. It provides a fast and often more interactive way of sharing ideas. If only some of us shared ideas I would hope that we would feel part of a team.

From a judging perspective it can be very daunting standing up in front of an audience and commenting on work. The task becomes even greater when faced with images you don't normally take. To that end I will be inviting articles from judges who have specific insight to such topics as natural history, portraits, etc.

Just as important for a Club entertainment perspective is the presentation of evening shows. To this end I have scheduled our first Lecturers Seminar on 21st February, see details below. Howard Fisher has kindly agreed to be our guest speaker.

Forthcoming Events

LECTURERS SEMINAR

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2010

9.30am to 1:00pm

**Long Eaton Camera Club Clubroom, Women's Institute,
Sawley**

All existing Presenters and potential presenters are encouraged to attend. Invitation forms have been issued via the current N&EMPF Newsletter mailing. An online form will be available via the website this week and I will also accept email responses.

Timetable:

9.30	Welcome Introduction and Objectives	David Gibbins ARPS AFIAP APAGB
9.45	How to Produce Digital Presentations	Howard Fisher LRPS CPAGB
10.45	Views from the Alliance	Peter Cheetham APAGB
11.00	Comfort Break/Coffee	
11.30	General Presentation Techniques	David and Peter
11.31		
12.15	Questions and Answers	
12.45	Conclusion and What Next?	David Gibbins
1.00	Finish	

This is the first time we have held a Lecturers Seminar please try and support it. If there are budding members within your clubs who may be interested in putting a show together they are also very welcome. Don't forget it is FREE.

The next event is likely to be February (2011) which will be a Judges Seminar.

Change of details

Congratulations - to Ashley Franklin who has been awarded his **APAGB**

New Lectures

Ashley Franklin has a new lecture:

“Under A Tuscan Sky – Visits to Val D’Orcia”

This digital talk illustrates three trips made by Ashley to the D’Orcia Valley, a Mecca for photographers wishing to capture the essence of Tuscany. His last visit in the spring of 2009 resulted in his first art gallery exhibition.

Nigel Ward has *deleted* his previous lectures and has a *brand new lecture*:

“Street Photography from here to Hiroshima”

Jim Hartje has a new lecture:

“My Photography – Fine Art or Creative Expression”

Photography has struggled since its inception to be recognised as a fine art. This Digital presentation will attempt to qualify that statement – showing you past, present and future images before and after – they have been run through a variety of processes on a computer

David Gibbins has a new lecture:

“Photographs and Memories”

This has been radically changed since my initial pilot runs earlier in the year. It is in two parts, the first part is a collection of AV’s of the type of work I like to take. The second part I talk through some specific images explaining why I took them and there is a before and after sequence of some of the images.

As Judges and Lecturers Secretary I am always on the lookout for new speakers. Perhaps there are people in your Club who may be willing to put on a joint evening.

Please ensure that your Programme Secretary is aware of these changes.

happened when images are sent on a disk in advance for judges to write/submit comments.

Whilst it can be very helpful to demonstrate simple improvements in this way there is also potential to cause offence and judges are strongly advised to avoid it – unless, of course, the Club has requested the procedure and/or agreed it in advance.”

The following article was published in the Glasgow and District Photographic Union (GDPU) Newsletter.

Should digital projected images be modified on the night by a judge to explain their views about the image or give pointers on potential improvements? This topic appears to be evoking some debate within photographic circles to the point that a photographic body, the PAGB, has come down in favour of recommending that judges should rely on traditional verbal comments to explain their views and not modify the image by cropping or adjusting. This is an interesting recommendation and why not? Clearly, why should a judge adjust someone else's image? Why indeed?

Before we go down the road of agreeing to such thoughts, should we not consider what this means for the club photographer and the remit of the club judge? Does the club photographer not want feedback and guidance on potential improvements to the images? Should a judge not be expected to provide such input and show by demonstration how to improve an image?

Also, why single out digital projected images? If this is good and forward thinking advice for digital projected images, then why should it not apply to prints and slides? Why should it not apply to prints and slides? Why should a judge use hands, light pens, paper or even card cut outs to explain their suggestions when simple digital tools are to be precluded. Are these traditional methods any more acceptable or is it simply because these were the only technology available to comment in the past?

Feedback is a gift and the most powerful means to achieve this is to demonstrate by example. Let us bear in mind that many club members enter the competitions to get constructive critique of their images, so before discounting new methods we should consider the benefits to clubs and their members when it comes to using newer technology. Almost without exception, any club that the author (of this article from GDPU) has visited where the judge carried out real time cropping, colour adjusting and sharpening, and showed what the rules of thirds meant, was welcomed. Most if not all clearly understood what could be done to improve an image and went away that night having learned and enjoyed the interaction. Is that not the true function of club judging, and something that the competition judge should be part of? To teach, to promote discussion and to ensure that those that are present enjoy the judging proceedings?

We are not talking about judges “photoshopping” an image, but the judicious use of simple real time adjustment via viewer software on the night such as FastStone or similar products without causing offence or upset. Perhaps the solution is for the club to give clear instructions to judges on what is accepted or not accepted by that club. So rather than organisations making restrictive recommendations that in the long term may not be to the benefit of clubs or their members, perhaps the organisations should ask the clubs themselves what is acceptable or not. It will also require judges to embrace this form of presentation and their willingness to participate in the learning process. Hopefully common sense and forward thinking will prevail.

Well that should provoke some feedback on the new Forum. Certainly it raises many questions. From my only personal perspective it does make you think. Many clubs I



have judged at I would not have the time to start altering images and complete the judging on the night. I do prefer to stand and comment rather than be distracted on each image.

That said I did do a Tape commentary where I recorded a version of "ordinary" judging but also saved a file of amended images (without any commentary) which I gave the club the option to show members if they felt it would not offend.

Several people have also sent me images for my comments. Have explained the comments I have also included an amended version for comparison. This has always seemed well received and it is quite satisfying when the author has submitted a picture incorporating my tips and it does well in a competition. However, the main difference here is that an individual has specifically contacted me for comments.

Judges and Lecturers Forum

This is now available through the N&EMPF Website via the Judges and Lecturers pages.

To get full access to the forum and features (such as the messaging system or to add attachments) you are required to register and make an initial forum post. The "Introductions" forum might be a good place to start.

I will authorise access to the Forum and will also monitor content. I want it to be a mechanism to exchanges ideas any inappropriate content will be removed.

I hope you found this e-news of benefit. I hope to have some articles from guests in the next e-news which will probably come out after the Lecturers Seminar on 21st February. I hope as many as possible can come.

David Gibbins *ARPS AFIAP APAGB*
Judges and Lecturers Secretary