

# L&CPU NEWSLETTER

Issue Number Two August 2009 (Web Version)



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*Front Page Image was of Gwen Charnock on behalf of Wigan 10 FC receives the Tansley Memorial Shield from the L&CPU President, Norman Thompson. The issue was profusely illustrated with pictures taken by John Smith at the Delegates Meeting. They are omitted here, so are any personal details (addresses etc).*

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## Editorial by John Smith APAGB CPAGB

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Welcome to this the first edition of the L&CPU Newsletter..... “but it says Issue number two on the front cover”.... well there was a trial edition put out in March just after the Annual General Meeting and that was basically a summary of what went on at that meeting and a few other snippets of information.

“But I thought you were the Editor of Focal Points, that fine magazine that we all used to look forward to reading”, well yes I was and technically I still am...it is just the your EC have discussed this and decided that maybe we should try a different approach to publicising what is going on within the EC and around the clubs.

Those of you who attended the AGM will remember that I asked, as I had done the previous year, if the magazine should continue. My reasons were that there had been a distinct lack of people willing to send in articles, news and features to fill the 36 pages of the magazine and I found that I was having to trawl through the website looking for news.

In the past we had a large number of regular contributors who wrote extremely good informative and entertaining articles - so much so that the other Federations within the PAGB often used to ‘borrow’ the articles for use in their own newsletters. In fact, without mentioning the particular organisation concerned, we provided 95% of their magazine!!!

This was rather a credit to the Union that this was the case - as usual the L&C led and the other Federations followed ..... which is how it should be!!

I can’t understand why people do not seem to want to have their moment of fame and take the trouble to put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard!!) With the onset of the digital age there are lots and lots of new techniques, the latest cameras, software, technology, plus numerous gadgets and gizmos around that people have discovered and on which they might like to pass their experiences?

I currently co-edit a magazine for the AV Group of the RPS which is published four times a year, it is a 56 page A5 colour booklet and thankfully we often have to hold articles over to the next edition as all the pages are full!!! ‘AV News’ has a mix of competition results, tips from successful producers, news from around the clubs, Photoshop hints and tips, equipment reviews and instructional articles on how to use some of the free software that is readily available. Their members will readily send in items for publication so why not members of the L&C?

Enough of the serious stuff....it this issue we have news of what went on at the first full meeting of the new EC in April, the two Annual Competition judging days in May, the second EC meeting on the 4th July and a brief report and pictures from the recent Delegates Meeting, Award Ceremony and the official opening of the L&CPU Annual Print Exhibition which took place at the Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead on the 18th July.

I hope that you enjoy reading this supercyber magazine - if you want to make it more interesting then please sent your contributions, snaps and abuse to editor@lcpu.org.uk for inclusion in issue three - thank you in anticipation!!



## Executive Committee Meeting 25th April 2009 at Bebington

This was also the handing in day for the Annual Competitions and so we met earlier to sort all the pictures into their various categories before repacking them into boxes for storage until the judging day.

The first part of the meeting was taken up with discussing the resignation of the Vice President of the Union, Christine Widdall and the reasons for this. There was universal regret at her resignation and it was proposed and carried unanimously 'that Christine Widdall be invited to return to the Executive Committee of the L&CPU as Vice-President'. The Management Committee were asked to convey the committee's invitation to come back on the committee.

It was also proposed that meetings should become more formal and also more open and transparent to the membership. Decisions made at meetings should be recorded, are binding and cannot be changed between meetings except by the management committee in a genuine emergency and that any actions must be executed in a timely manner. Also some information on what has taken place at the meeting should be conveyed to the membership within 14 working days of the meeting.

Correspondence. Simon Cotter has relinquished his position as Publicity and Communications Officer and resigned from the committee due to a change in his personal circumstances. A letter of thanks for his work on the EC was to be sent by the Secretary. Amongst other correspondence discussed was the lack of EC members at the AV Competition, an invitation to Chapel CC's 25th Anniversary celebrations, a request for the early publication of the AGM Minutes and some correspondence between Heswall PS and Chorley PS regarding the none arrival of the 2008 PAGB Slide Exhibition.

The Treasurer presented his financial report and asked the EC to consider the subscriptions for the forthcoming year - he saw no reason to increase them at this juncture. He also proposed that any EC members expenses not claimed by the 31st December of the year in which they were occasioned would not be paid.

Under 'Priority Matters' it was reported that the FIAP criteria had been revamped, leading to changes in the award of AFIAP and EFIAP. These changes would be put on the L&CPU website.

The PAGB Executive had voted to increase the subscription rates -the L&CPU Delegates had voted against this increase.

The new Exhibition Secretary is Tremaine Cornish and the exhibition will be framed prior to the EC meeting on the 4th July. New 40cm x 50cm frames are to be obtained including mirror plates and plexiglass.

The Competition Secretary felt a little disappointed by the attendance at the PDI Competition on the evening of the AGM. Other members were of the opinion that attendance was reasonable considering that only seven clubs had entered. It was generally hoped that more clubs would take part next year hopefully at the same venue.

The availability of members to staff the two annual competition days were then discussed and jobs on the two days finalised.

It was suggested that a new inter-club competition be introduced so that clubs could enter a panel of fifteen prints on a set subject; the motive being to encourage club members to co-operate in the production of the project.

It was decided that we should investigate the feasibility of the proposal and report back with a suggested course of action at the next meeting.

Folios. The problem of duplicating slides for inclusion in folios was raised as commercial slide duplication was becoming increasingly rare. The options were to get them copied by a member of the Union, to investigate the availability of commercial slide duping, to scan the slides and have copies made from the digital files or to have a 'Projected Image Folio' to replace the slide Folio and to include scanned slides and digital images. This would be circulated on CD.

It was proposed and carried 'that, for 2010-11 only, there be a projected image Folio to contain either slides (or slide copies) and images for digital projection.' The Folio dates are available on the website.

Judges and Lecturers Secretary is to send letters to lecturers, also existing and new Judges, requesting updated information for the Handbook. Replies would be due by 10th June.

Regarding the Website and Communications John Royle has managed to take over the website and achieve his first aim of "nobody noticing". He reported that "whilst maintaining the news reports as before in the run up to the Annuals he has tried to provide as much help as possible on the website both in publicising the rule changes and in giving people access to help.

I have always been a keen contributor to the Forum and think it has much to offer us but at the same time I have asked that we have "health warnings" clearly displayed on there pointing out that it is a public notice board and that opinions expressed on the postings are not necessarily those of the L&CPU.

We have issued the first electronic Newsletter from the L&CPU but this proved a difficult process because there seems to be all sorts of hindrance to "direct mailing" I have included on the Website the advice on Photographer's Rights and The "Events Guide" is in abeyance as it is now a year out of date. The question as to whether to resume or drop it was raised. It was thought that it needed a Communications Officer to work but as no offers to take on that role were forthcoming; John Smith is to take over preparing the events list."

With regard to PDI competition guidance a sub committee has been formed to look at Hardware and Software and make recommendations to clubs.

Future of "Focal Points" -Focal Points did not seem to be reliably reaching its target audience and a discussion followed on how we should proceed. It was proposed "That 'Focal Points' be dropped and replaced by an occasional e-newsletter, which would include information from the Exec and any other appropriate submissions." This was passed with 2 abstentions; 1 against; 11 for. John Smith offered to compile the text occasionally as necessary.

Under Any other Business it was reported that Brian Dennett had accepted the job of Archivist.

Communications and Publicity Officer - there being no other candidates and as there was no 'Focal Points' now to edit - John Smith accepted the post!



## The Delegates Meeting, Award Presentations & Opening of Annual Print Exhibition

The Delegates Meeting was held on Saturday the 18th July 2009 at 2.30pm in the Williamson Art Gallery & Museum, Birkenhead.

The President, Mr Norman Thompson, welcomed the Delegates and guests and thanked the staff of the Gallery for all their assistance in staging the exhibition. He then reported that it gave him great pleasure to welcome Christine Widdall back onto the Executive Committee and to her role as Vice President. Also that Ian Aldcroft has also been co-opted to the Executive.

He then introduced the L&CPU Treasurer, Gordon Jenkins, to give his report.

The Treasurer said that last year he was full of doom and gloom predicting that as fuel prices were going through the roof and that this would impinge on the L&C finances. Thankfully it didn't really happen to that extent and so the impact was minimal.

The membership of the Union in June 2008 was given as 3502 and having just received the last of the Annual Returns last week he was pleased to report that the membership has risen to 3708 - an increase on the year of 5.88%.

He continued by saying that "at the AGM I indicated that the subscriptions wouldn't go up, this was assuming that the membership numbers remained static. As you can see I am, unlike the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a very positive position. The subscription last year was £3.55 per member and £33.00 for clubs with ten members or less. With the increase in the membership your Executive Committee at the last meeting agreed with me that we should reduce the subscription from £3.55 to £3.30 per member and to £30.00 for clubs with 10 or less members.

That was the good news - now for the bad news!!!

The number of photographic clubs in the UK is on the decrease and it is the number of clubs not the members in those clubs that fund the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. Because of this the PAGB subscriptions this year will rise by £1.00 from £27.00 to £28.00."

Gordon then went on to discuss Public Liability. In his role as Insurance Services Officer for the PAGB he has been holding discussions with the insurance company regarding next years premiums. These have been kept at the same level for the last four years but there has been talk of a small increase. Gordon will argue that there should be no increase for a number of reasons, the main one being that our risk, looking at the lack of claims, is very small.

He went on "However we have a small number of clubs within the L&CPU that arrange their own public liability but this year I am going to insist that those clubs furnish me with their Certificates of Public Liability at the same time as they pay their subscriptions. The reason is that we the L&CPU Executive have a responsibility of a 'duty of care' to our Judges and Lecturers. The reason I am mentioning it now is that the subscriptions need to be paid by the 31st December, I cannot accept your subscription without your Public Liability Certificate, therefore if it takes 3 or 4 weeks to obtain a certificate you may fall into the trap of being one of the clubs that are late paying!!! Please arrange for a copy of the certificate to be available for you to post with your subscription in November / December - there will be no excuses as I will refer to this notice given at this meeting and I shall also ask John Royle to add this note to the website.

There is, as you know, a late payment levy of £20 and I really don't want to have to collect any late payments as it causes me a lot of extra work - last year all clubs paid by the due date .... How? Well we put a list of those clubs who hadn't paid up on the website and that had the desired effect and soon brought the subscriptions in!

To recap the 2010 Subscriptions will be £3.30 per member, £30.00 for a club with 10 members and under, the PAGB rate will be £28 and I will advise you on the Public Liability premiums in late October."

The President then asked for a seconder for the proposal to reduce the subscription....and was promptly inundated!!!!

Gordon then went on to discuss the new Directory which has just gone off to the printers and got quite animated when he said that size matters!!!

What he was asking was if the Directory or some copies of the Directory should be produced at A4 size rather than in the A5 format that it presently is?

Being larger it makes it easier to read for those of us with failing eyesight (well Gordon didn't actually say it but all the judges do receive a copy!!!!). The outcome was that, as some clubs thought it a good idea whilst others weren't so sure, he decided to have about 50 printed that way - so if you are having trouble reading this size 10 type.....

The President then mentioned the 'Roll of Honour' which was instituted at the L&CPU 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to recognise the people who have done outstanding work for the Union and club photography in our region. It is awarded to very few people each year which makes it a very special award. "As a prominent member of Southport PS, Pat Hey has been active for many years within Southport PS and on their committee. She has had a very long association with the Southport Open Exhibition, for which she has always worked very hard in the background. Pat and her husband Vin received the entries to their home for many years and had a lot to do with cataloguing the entries and the hanging of the exhibition. When Keith and Margaret Suddaby left Southport for the nether regions of Northumbria, Pat and Vin took over the responsibility for the Southport Open. Although the Southport Open now has a new chairman, Pat is still very involved at every level of this and club activities.

It is with great pleasure that her name has been added onto the Roll of Honour this year."

Henry Mullarkey, the L&CPU Competition Secretary then spoke about the PAGB Awards. They are booking up fast and in 2010 the Application Forms will be changed. New forms will be sent out as soon as they are available which is expected to be the end of August. Because of an insufficient number of entrants there have not been as many slide adjudications however in October 2010 it is the turn of the L&CPU to host the adjudication and it has been decided that to support those still working with slides, whatever the number of entrants an adjudication will take place. If you are thinking of going for these awards and would like to enter them whilst it is in our region - then you are advised to make an application as soon as possible.

L&CPU Print Exhibition -This is currently on show at the Williamson Art Gallery, Slatey Road, Birkenhead until the 16th August. The gallery is open from Tuesday till Sunday between 10am and 5pm.

This year the exhibition has been mounted as themes and so your comments on this way of presenting the images would be welcome.

It was then time for the Awards for those successful entrants and clubs in the Annual Competitions.

Wigan 10 Foto Club made a clean sweep of the club competitions winning all seven sections, Austin Thomas and Roy Rimmer were joint Print Photographers of the Year, Austin Thomas was the Slide Photographer of the Year, Ed Roper the Digital Photographer of the Year....and Roy Rimmer became the Overall Photographer of the Year - an outstanding success for what is in fact a small club!!!

Second in the Monochrome Print were Chapel CC, and in the Colour Print were St Helens CC. Bury PS were 2nd in the Nature Prints, Chorley PS, 2nd in the Open Digital whilst Bury PS and Crewe PS were joint 2nd in the Nature Digital. In the Open Slide section Lytham St Annes PS and Bebington PS were joint 2nd and finally Chapel CC were runners up in the Nature Slides.

First and third places in the Arthur Downes Young Photographer of the Year Competition went to Thomas Goldie from Southern PS which is on the Isle of Man. The second place went to Olivia Loughran from the Formby PG. Sheila Davies from the West Lancs AV Group won the AV Competition.

The President then declared the 2009 print Exhibition open.

Following the award presentation and the Official Opening Ceremony the Delegates from the clubs collected their Exhibition Catalogues and went off to look at the 150 framed pictures that were on show. They also had the opportunity to look around another print exhibition showing life and events on the Wirral that was produced by the members of the Wallasey APS.

Everyone with images in any of the folios should have received a copy of the catalogue from their Delegate or, if the club wasn't represented on the day, copies were due to be posted out for them via their club Secretary. Thanks go to our Exhibition Secretary Tremaine Cornish, to all the members of the EC and also to Colin Simpson and the staff at the Williamson Gallery.



## STOP PRESS!

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### New PROJECTED IMAGE section in Annuals for 2010

Just to show how topical we are, I have just received this by email from Henry Mullarkey the Competition Secretary: 'Following the success of the changed rules regarding the number of prints in each section that authors were allowed this year we are adopting a similar change to slides and digital images.

By combining them together to form two 'Projected Image' sections -General, and Nature - and also by reducing the number of images to 3 per section per author (these can then be 3 slides or 3 Digital Images or a mixture in each section) this will make the total number of images eligible for the projected sections equal to that of prints ie; total 6.'

Well that is it for the second (my first!!) issue of this supercybermag!! The Minutes from the EC meeting on the 4th July haven't yet arrived so that Information will have to appear in the next issue. I hope that you have found this issue interesting - maybe you might like to contribute towards the next or let me know what you think of it - let me know by email to [editor@lcpu.org.uk](mailto:editor@lcpu.org.uk)

### The Directory

Following on from the receipt back of the Annual Returns the L&CPU 2009/10 Directory has been compiled and will soon be posted out to the club Secretaries. We have already been notified of one error in the information that it contains - the entry for Ray Wilson is incorrect:-

*Please see the emailed version of this Newsletter or email the L&CPU Secretary or Webmaster for full details.*



### The L&CPU Website (Advertisement)

The site is updated weekly with:

- Club News
- What's on in the L&CPU Region
- Picture of the Week
- Competition results
- Entry forms for all our Competitions
- Club information and web sites
- PAGB information

This is a one - stop information site for L&CPU clubs and societies which has all the very latest Competition Rules.

Any changes to these rules are published here first and the club entry forms can be downloaded for use from the site.

You can join in all the lively discussions on the L&CPU Forum, take part in the monthly on-line competitions, post some of your club's images and maybe add a few of your own photographs.

*Make sure you log on to us at: [www.lcpu.org.uk](http://www.lcpu.org.uk)*



