

Lancashire and Cheshire Union: Report on the Executive Meeting 1st May 2010

Report for web news letter by Diana Magor in the absence of John Smith off gallivanting in France!

The meeting of the committee took place at Lower Bebington Methodist Church on Saturday 1st May 2010.

The morning session was occupied with sorting the L&CPU Annual print entry ready for the judging in two weeks time. This is a manual labouring job, with large black boxes brought from all over the area, unloaded from cars, unpacked and sorted into three huge piles representing the Colour, Mono and Nature categories. Prints on small mounts are carefully separated from the rest and go into a labelled box while oversize mounted specimens are considered, as they should by rights be disqualified but usually get included with a proviso that the club will be contacted. Then each group is randomised by dint of committee members collecting an armful of prints and walking round a central row of tables, placing a print on all the piles. Since we take a different size armful we end up having a different place in the line so they are well and truly mixed up. Then it's back into the boxes, duly labelled with their category, and stacked up before we move on to the next group. It takes a long time and is physically very tiring as the boxes are large and heavy and you are constantly bending and turning. Feel a moment of pity for the executive! The CDs and slides have also been removed from the boxes to be dealt with by a different person at a later date.

The executive committee meeting took place in the afternoon.

The President welcomed the two new co-opted members, Bill Edwards of Altrincham and Hale PS and Bob Robinson of Warrington PS. They briefly introduced themselves and Bob pointed out that in the past there have only been three female Presidents and that two of them were from Warrington. Co-opted members hold their post until the next AGM when they can stand for election for a three year period.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted although there was an error printed for the date of the Big day which is planned for Sunday 27th March 2011.

With respect to the potential problem of street photography a planned approach to the Chief Constables of the L&CPU area has been shelved as the PAGB has already written and received a reply although no guidelines have been issued to Police forces in the area. The President and Treasurer would seek a meeting.

The AV Licensing problem has also been investigated by the PAGB and the RPS and a newsletter from them will be available soon. From the 1st April 2010 all venues intending to play music must have a licence anyway.

Ian Aldcroft is soon to set up an area on the web where members' pictures can be uploaded and then assessed and we will let you know when this is ready for use.

Correspondence was read, discussed and actions approved, ranging from the possibility of new clubs wanting help with start-up organisation, to how clubs should contact judges and lecturers, and to the vexed question of folios. The latter topic seems to raise high

feelings so Bob Dennis pointed out that the folios are selected from the range of subjects entered and they endeavour to put together a group of images which represent a variety, including some from every club from the higher marked pictures. The number of slides entered is well down this year but putting them in the same category as the digital is intended to deter entrants from having slides made from digital capture since there is no longer a separate slide entry and the quality of digital projectors has improved. Some of the letters refer to items which will be brought up at the AGM.

Finances: The Federation is in a good financial situation.

Members of the L&CPU had attended the **PAGB AGM** and a report was made, including the situation with the **FIAP rules**. A statement had been published by FIAP (available on the PAGB web site) which definitively states that individual countries cannot add their own requirements for distinctions although the PAGB have yet to take a decision. It would mean that there is a level playing field across the world. The L&CPU were strongly in favour of the FIAP decision and also felt that waiting until October for a decision in GB was unfair on people trying to get together their entry.

The L&CPU seems to be very proactive in providing services to participating clubs compared with other Federations.

The **Trustees Insurance Cover** will be available to all clubs, with the PAGB providing the finance for it for the period from September 2010 until January 2011 prior to collecting funds from the Federations.

With reference to the **Big Day** proposed for 27th March 2011, venues had been investigated and were being evaluated by a subcommittee group.

The **Judging Day for the L&CPU Annual** is 15th May 2010 and arrangements for this were discussed.

The **Two Competition day** - the L&CPU print and projected image club challenges - planned for February are likely to be as popular as last year so will take a long time, so it may not be on the same day as the AGM and will need an alternative venue. The winners are invited to represent the L&CPU at Warwick and Deeside later in the year.

The **KO competition** is planned for November 20th and a possible venue is in the pipeline.

The **PAGB exhibition** will be at Towneley Hall, Burnley again with a selection of Archival prints.

New Lecturers will soon be available and a list provided.

Web site:

David Marsh's book is now available on the web site in the Archive section plus the pictures used.

Directory updates are visible on the front page of the web site and information from individual clubs is trickling through. Please send all such information to the web master. Changes are being made constantly to keep the site easy to use and good to look at.

The **image of the week** seems popular but remember you may need to scroll down to get to the editorial part. Ian Aldcroft pointed out that slightly fewer people were accessing the site but those who did, spent longer viewing it.

There is an **index of events** now.

Some members had queried whether it was possible to sell photographic items through the web and this is possible as part of the forum, although the best option for selling wet process equipment is probably to Colleges or Disabled Photographers' Charity.

The meeting took about 3 ½ hours.