

Notes from the L&CPU Executive Committee meeting held on Saturday 20th November at Euxton

After the **Apologies** and the **Acceptance of the Minutes** of the previous meeting we moved on to the **Actions** from those Minutes.

The wording for the proposed **Change to the Constitution** will be presented for approval at the January meeting.

Information on portable **Public Address** systems had been obtained as requested but it was decided that, because it would only be used infrequently, for the time being we should hire one from the clubs that already have one and through this see which one best suits our purposes.

The President and Past President are still to make arrangements with the four **Chief Constables** in our area asking if there has been any progress in how the police actually deal with photographers taking photographs in a public place.

We then moved on to the first item on the agenda:

Breach of Competition Rules

It had been reported to the Committee that part of an image which had appeared on the L&CPU website resembled a stock image from the 'Deviant Art' website.

The EC was informed that this particular website encourages authors to post their images and for others to download these, creatively manipulate them and then repost the image back onto the website. The author of the original image must be credited at all times.

The image in question had won awards in the L&CPU competitions and chosen to represent us at the PAGB. The subject of plagiarism was then discussed – some people innocently think that they can use images from the free cd's given away with magazines where the reader is encouraged to load these onto their computer and then follow a tutorial. Others think that images from so called 'Copyright Free' or 'Royalty Free' discs can be freely used – however our rules are quite clear *'All work entered must be original in concept and the copyright of such work must be at the disposal of the entrant'*.

It was felt that whilst a beginner might make this mistake the author of the image in question was a senior member who had entered work into many competitions and should therefore be aware of the rules.

Whilst we do not wish to destroy photographers we cannot be compliant as we have a duty to protect photographers in general. The successful use of this image has stopped others from gaining awards and winning competitions.

At present we do not have a penalty clause or code of conduct within our competition rules – something we are to look into in the future. The PAGB do however and so we will have to write to them advising them of the situation, that the author has admitted his mistake and proposes to take no further part in club photography. It will then be up to the PAGB to take whatever action it feels necessary which has in the past been a ban on the author entering any competition holding PAGB patronage.

The author of the image will also be sent a copy of the letter.

Correspondence.

We have received a letter asking us to inform our member clubs about a **charity photographic competition in aid of Fairbridge, Merseyside**. This is a national charity which supports young people aged 13-25 to develop the confidence, motivation and skills they need to turn their lives around. There are eight categories and the winning photograph from each section will feature in a month long exhibition in the Gladstone Gallery, St George's Hall, Liverpool. More details will be put onto the L&CPU website.

Bacup CC report that they have recently had two lecturers and judges let them down despite following the correct procedures. We can't look into this unless they give all the details to the L&J Secretary, Bob Dennis. We sadly have to report the death of a Past President of the Union, **Lawrence Hampson**. He was a long serving member of Leigh CC. Our Vice President, Henry Mullarkey, represented the Union at his funeral. The late application for PAGB patronage by Wilmslow Guild AV for their forthcoming **Great Northern Festival** had been fast tracked through by the Management Committee.

The President had received a request from a club member querying what was plagiarism and as a result she is going to put together a statement for the web site on that subject.

Preparation for the AGM.

It is hoped by the 6th December to circulate to the EC members draft copies of the various sub-section secretaries' reports to the AGM. These will be approved and be put together as part of an Annual Report to be circulated to the clubs along with the AGM calling notice.

Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer then gave the latest report on our finances and thanked the members of the EC for claiming their expenses for the year in good time. This would allow him to prepare the Annual Accounts ready for auditing in good time.

Club Questionnaire

A discussion took place on what should go in it this time as many of the questions used before are no longer applicable. Christine Widdall will work on this over the next couple of months.

PAGB Matters

New PAGB Judges have been appointed one of which is our President, Christine Widdall – congratulations! The closure of the FIAP applications list for this year by Ian Platt caused a problem. Most of the L&CPU members had done as they were told and not applied for the forms till October by which time Ian had already closed the list. There have been many comments on the L&CPU website much to the dismay of the PAGB. The PAGB Handbook is again going to be printed and our details are required. The L&CPU will pay the £5.75/club Trustee Insurance on behalf of all the L&CPU clubs. Slides will be dropped from the 2011 PAGB competitions.

The Return of the Big Day

This is to be held at the University of Cumbria in Lancaster on the 20th March 2011. We are busily trying to arrange four speakers to lecture in the two theatres and for sponsors/exhibitors. It is anticipated that the ticket price will be around £12 and we have a limit of around 300 attendees. Keep your eye on the L&CPU website for further details as tickets are expected to go fast.

Competitions

The projected Image Competition takes place today in Chorley with 39 clubs taking part. Only the first four images from each club will be used. The suggestion was made that a rule be introduced for the 2012 competitions stipulating that the size of print mount must be 50x40. During discussions it was felt that this would cause a problem for those people supporting our competitions to meet the criteria for entry into the PAGB Distinctions process as the PAGB do not stipulate a lower size for these Distinctions. The executive have therefore agreed to accept membership of a federated club being sufficient qualifying criterion for entry to the PAGB merit awards. Henry Mullarkey, the Competition Secretary, wishes to introduce a standard 50x40 mount and this proposal will be put to the AGM in February. We were also reminded that the proposal regarding slide competitions will be on this year's AGM agenda. Next year's Competition Rules have been compiled and proof read prior to them being issued to the clubs.

Judges and Lecturers Report.

The L&CPU Judging Seminar was held on Saturday 16th October in Rochdale. 23 people attended including two from other Federations. Following discussions with the 'expert' judges 11 people were invited to come on the Judges list, 7 accepted and four declined. Those accepted will be invited to a 'new judges' meeting.

Mentoring

Bob Dennis is still in the process of trying to set this up by looking at people who have the necessary experience to do this...and also who are willing to spend the time to help others.

Folios.

One folio commentary has been withdrawn for technical reasons. It was suggested that a proposal to drop the commentaries be made at the AGM. Feedback from the clubs

indicates that a lot are not using them. Finding volunteers to make them is becoming very difficult, it is time consuming and their absence possibly makes the clubs think and talk about the pictures more.

Exhibitions.

Tremaine Cornish, our Exhibitions Secretary, reported that he was struggling to find galleries to stage either the PAGB or the L&CPU Print Exhibitions. It was suggested that we ask all our clubs to contact any galleries in their area to offer the 150 framed photographs free of charge – all they would then have to do would be to contact Tremaine. It would be available to the gallery from around the 7th June and then throughout July and August. A request for clubs to kindly go and make enquiries at their local galleries is to be put onto the L&CPU website in the hope that this might prove successful.

This year's PAGB Exhibition goes on show at Townley Hall, Burnley from Saturday 11th December with the Official Opening at 11am.

Archive.

Garth Tighe is planning to digitise all of the prints in the archive so that in future the images would be able to be viewed on the internet. In the next couple of weeks he is due to take out six boxes, photograph them, update the details and once this has been done, return them to the archive. This process will then be repeated until copies of all the prints have been made.

Communications.

John Smith is to check within the next few weeks that all the email links are working as some emails were recently delayed.

Website.

John Royle said that the Forum had recently been extremely busy due to a great many postings regarding the FIAP problems. It was decided that, within reason, the forum should continue as it is without any outside influences.

There being no any other urgent business the meeting closed.