

## **The 105<sup>th</sup> L&CPU Annual General Meeting was held at Chorley on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011.**

The L&CPU President, Christine Widdall AFIAP DPAGB BPE3\*, opened the meeting at 1.30pm and welcomed the Delegates.

After the **Apologies** had been recorded and the **Minutes of the 104<sup>th</sup> AGM** had been approved with three amendments we moved on to the 3<sup>rd</sup> item on the Agenda – the **Questions and Clarifications of the Executive Reports.**

**Please note that these reports can be read in full by accessing the password protected section of the L&CPU website – details of how to do this from your club Secretary.**

The first report was from the **President** and was accepted.

Second was the report given by the **L&CPU General Secretary**, Ken Ainscow.

Ed Roper of Wigan 10 Foto Club questioned why there was only a short timescale for clubs to nominate members to go onto the L&CPU Executive Committee. He was advised that in fact clubs could forward nominations at any time and, if there were any vacancies, new members could be co-opted onto the EC at any time but they would of course have to be voted in at the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

The **Treasurer** was asked by Ed Roper of Wigan 10 Foto Club to clarify an expenditure on Seminars that had been held this year – he was informed that this cost related to the Judges Seminar and the follow up meeting for those invited onto the Judges list. (*This seminar only takes place every other year.*)

He also asked why letters from the L&CPU were sent by 1<sup>st</sup> class post.

This happens only on very exceptional circumstances when something needs to be sent out in a hurry. In fact the Treasurer now has a large and increasing stock of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class stamps which, because of the past and forthcoming postal rate increases, should save the L&CPU around £72.

There were no questions asked regarding the contents of the **Lecturer & Judges Secretary's report.**

**Competitions.** Ed Roper on behalf of Wigan 10 Foto Club asked why there was no mention of the PAGB competitions in the annual report. Henry Mullarkey apologised stating that this was an oversight on his part. Ed also asked why it had been reported that the EC had chosen not to purchase a sound system for use at the public competitions. He pointed out that it was essential to hear the judges comments, the giving of the results and for use at general meetings such as this. He was informed that because it would only be used a small number of times during the year the EC had decided to hold off purchasing a unit and instead hire different units from members clubs to see which ones performed the best.

Ian Stewart, a Past President, asked if there had been any research into why a good number of clubs were not taking the print folios. **The Folio Secretary, Jon Allanson**, said that there had been a slight drop in the numbers of clubs wanting to see the prints preferring to see them digitally projected. He reported that this coming year there would be available a disc containing copies of all the print folios, the projected image folio and some pictures from the L&CPU Archive.

Tony Collier of Poulton-le-Fylde PS commented that the images were not shown at their best and suggested that maybe authors might be asked to submit their original digital files. EC member Norman Thompson pointed out that all his pictures were taken on film and of course didn't have a digital file!! Jon pointed out that he often only had 10 days in which to produce the folios before the prints went off to the Exhibition and he didn't think that club external competitions secretaries would be happy to provide these files.

Mike Lawrence of Oldham PS commented that he hoped the rumour he had heard that only prints mounted on a 50cm x 40cm board would be accepted into L&CPU competitions was untrue. Henry Mullarkey said that this was desirable and it was hoped that clubs would actively encourage their members to produce their work to this size as it would then be eligible for the folios, the exhibition and, if selected, to go forward to the PAGB. Dee Mercer of St Helens asked if the sizes were actually checked. The answer was

'yes' as both the PAGB and the L&CPU now exhibit prints in new 50cm x 40cm frames and that despite what some people think, 20" x 16" is not the same size and is therefore unacceptable.

**The Exhibition Secretary**, Tremaine Cornish, advised the meeting that the L&CPU Annual Exhibition this year is being held from the 18<sup>th</sup> June until 29<sup>th</sup> August in Astley Hall and the adjacent Café Ambio. The **PAGB Exhibition** is to go on show at Manchester Cathedral at the end of July and for all of August. Venues & approximate dates have been fixed for the following exhibitions:

2012 L&CPU Exhibition at Towneley Hall, Burnley & the PAGB Travelling Exhibition in Leigh at the Turnpike Gallery and the 2013 L&CPU Exhibition at the Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead. Details of these have been put on the website.

He is always on the lookout for new venues – please let him know.

**Newsletter Editor**, John Smith, had just two questions – were his written notes of any use to the clubs in advising them of what had been discussed by the EC and were they read?

The answer was yes to both and the project was felt to be a worthwhile exercise!

The **PAGB Representative**, Gordon Jenkins, responding to a question from Ed Roper gave an insight into the problems regarding the forwarding of applications for FIAP distinctions. The new FIAP Liaison Officer is Dave Coates from Northern Counties and he is trying to sort the problems out.

It is hoped that England might host a FIAP Congress in 2014 possibly based in the Manchester area.

The cost of this is estimated to be around £115,000 and an application has gone in for an Arts Council Grant.

Ed Roper was thanked for all his help with the **Website** as he looks after the 'Picture of the Week' and proof reads everything that goes on so that he spots mistakes before anyone else does! John Royle suggested that maybe he should be co-opted onto the committee 'Ex Officio'?

Tony Collier of Poulton-le-Fylde asked why all the paperwork for the AGM was only available from a password protected section of the site and why the password was only sent to the club Secretary?

It was pointed out that under the rules all correspondence had to be sent to the Club Secretary and did we really want all our documentation to be seen by the general public??

Mike Lawrence of Oldham PS asked why, when the application forms for the Big Day' were on the website, couldn't people pay for their tickets by 'Pay Pal'. The answer was because there would be a cost in receiving money by this method and this would have to be passed on as a surcharge. It may be looked at in the future if and when cheques are withdrawn.

Mike also suggested that maybe there ought to be a form on the website for people wishing to sign up to receive the newsletter. He was informed that there was a list on the signing in desk for anyone wanting to sign up to receive the newsletter.

The final report was on the **Archive**. Mike Lawrence of Oldham PS asked what progress had been made in digitising the prints in archive.

He was told by Garth Tighe that around 12 of the 28 boxes have now been photographed, thumbnails of the images will be added to the record and then it is planned that the complete database will eventually go onto the website with a search facility.

In answer to another question from Mike it was felt desirable that nothing should go onto the website until the whole of the work was carried out and checked. To give delegates a flavour of what was available a selection of the images would be on show at the back of the hall after the AGM.

Ed Roper of Wigan 10 Foto Club asked what procedure was being adopted to add new images to the Archive. He suggested that maybe the authors of the top three prints in each section in the Annual competitions should be approached to see if they would be willing to donate a copy for the archive.

There then followed a **Vote of Thanks** to the EC for all their hard work over the past year and the **Response on behalf of the EC** was given by the President. Christine also promised that much of what had been discussed today would be followed up by the Committee.

There then followed the **Election of the Officers:**

The Hon General Secretary Ken Ainscow CPAGB BPE2\* of Lytham St Annes PS

The Hon Treasurer Gordon Jenkins APAGB of Chorley PS.

They were unanimously elected.

**Two new nominations to the EC** were then elected unanimously:

Bill Edwards of Altrincham and Hale PS

Bob Robinson of Warrington PS

**Three serving members were then re-elected unanimously to serve for a further three years:**

John Royle of Crewe PS.

Henry Mullarkey of Ormskirk CC

Norman Thompson of Bury PS

The meeting now had three proposals to consider:

The first was a proposal by Ken Matthews of Sale PS to hold a **Separate Slide Competition.**

Ken supplemented his proposal by stating that:

Last year in the annual competition the slides and projected digital images were judged in the same sections. This was felt to be unfair

In recent years a good number of slides had been produced by writing them from a digital file and not captured when the shutter was pressed.

He concluded his submission by stating that the L&CPU should maintain slides as a format, accept only 'true slides' into that section and that once slide workers feel that they are once again competing on a 'level playing field' the number of entries would increase.

In his response Henry Mullarkey pointed out that the number of slides entered had fallen significantly and agreed that quite a number of those entered had been originated from digital files.

Last year there were 105 slides entered – not really a viable number for a competition and the judges had remarked that a good number were 'showing their age'.

Whilst some of the slides were entered into the PAGB competition and gained awards the PAGB are not accepting slides into their competitions this year.

He concluded that if enough clubs wanted it then we might look into having a separate knockout slide competition for 'true slides'.

Daryl Giles of Hyde PS commented that people will not enter if they are competing with digital slides.

Jon Allanson the Folio Secretary stated that he was unable to get the slides duplicated now for folios.

Ken pointed out that they were not asking for a folio but a competition and that entries could increase over the years as all authors needed were a camera and film. The separate annual competition could be judged on the same day using the same judges and at no extra cost.

Noel Morgan asked who was going to 'police' this to ensure that the slides entered were as taken in the camera. John Widdall of Oldham PS said that as in other competitions we had to rely on the author's honesty.

Doug Couzens of Lytham St Annes suggested a biennial competition – it was pointed out that there may be a problem obtaining film and getting it processed in two year time!

Harry Emmett of Accrington CC pointed out that there were only a small number of entries into the L&CPU AV competition – yet this was run each year.

After all this discussion there was a call for the vote on the proposal to be taken - the outcome was:

**24 voting for the proposal, 26 against and 8 abstentions.**

The second proposal **to allow proxy voting** was made by the EC after taking on board a suggestion made by Reg Way of Davyhulme during the last Delegates Meeting at Kirkby.

Ken Ainscow on behalf of the EC pointed out that current L&CPU rules insist that only certain people can vote at General and Extraordinary Meetings. What this proposal aimed to do was to allow clubs to appoint

others to attend with a proxy vote. The club would have to ensure that a form naming the person holding the proxy and signed by the club Secretary was handed in prior to the commencement of the meeting. Doug Couzens of Lytham St Annes PS said that club Delegates were appointed by the club at their AGM. The person attending would not have that authority.

Ken Aiscow replied stating that it was up to the clubs whom they sent to represent them - we were not being prescriptive. This system of proxy voting had been successfully used by the PAGB for many years without any problems.

**The vote was taken to allow proxy voting and the vote was carried unanimously.**

The third and final proposal by Barry Colquhoun of Lytham St Annes PS that we have a **'Fee Charging Lecturers List in the L&CPU Directory** was withdrawn by the proposer with the request that this suggestion should be firstly considered by the Executive Committee.

#### **The Launch of the L&CPU Questionnaire.**

The President explained that the forthcoming questionnaire would go out after the Big Day to be returned by the end of April and that she expected the report to be published at the beginning of next season, hopefully in September.

It would be similar to the one sent out 10 years ago but obviously many of the questions would be different.

There would be two separate questionnaires – one to be answered by the club committee and the other would go to a random cross section of club members in a ratio of about 1:10.

Ian Stewart asked why the survey could not be done on line – Christine responded that for this type of exercise it was easier when she had paper copies rather than having to look for it on a computer screen.

#### **Subscriptions for next year.**

The Treasurer stated that membership was going up and, by applying different methods of working, running costs were coming down so he could see no reason to put the subscriptions up.

Yes there were some unknowns – the success of the Big Day and the extra expense in paying out £600 on behalf of the clubs to cover the **Trustee Liability Insurance** when other Federations are asking their clubs to pay for this.

**The proposal to keep the subscriptions the same as they are this year was carried unanimously.**

After the **Appointment of the Independent Examiner** to audit the accounts the date for the next **AGM was set for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at a place and time to be arranged.**

Following this a number of awards and certificates gained in competitions and at the PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit adjudication were presented.

**The meeting was then formally closed.**