

COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT, 2012/2013

This is my final report as Competition Secretary. I am proud to have held this post since its inception in 1988, although I started putting the roots down at about the same time as Sir Alex Ferguson became manager at Manchester United FC. When I decided to stand down a couple of weeks ago, I never realised that there would be repercussions. Just after I decided to retire, Sir Alex Ferguson followed suit? How the hell did he know?

Internal Competitions

The Prints Classes were well supported, but because we had fewer monthly competitions, there were less images entered this season, but not by that much. The late start for the competitions caused some members to lose interest, and some left, but next season you will be pleased to know that we are back to having five prints and five PDI competitions.

Surprisingly, despite having only 4 competitions, there were actually no tie-breaks? All the competitions were close, but every class was won outright.

In the Prints Advanced class, the winner was the same as last season, Paul Davison grabbing the title at the final attempt from Michael White and Tony Smith

In the Intermediate Prints, it was also a very close affair. It was noticeable that the promoted "Beginners" from last season were all in the running for the title as we came down to the last competition, where any one of nine members could win. Roger Dixey managed successive promotions and will now compete in the Advanced next season. Simon Mann and Linda Carlin made up the top three.

The Beginners Prints was an easy canter to the finish for Steve Green. He managed a first, second, and a first and then a Highly Commended. Irene Wood and Janette Lloyd came 2nd and 3rd.

In the Projected Digital Image classes, competition was even tighter!

The Advanced Class was close as usual. The Prints Champion was also the PDI Champion, Paul Davison, and he just beat off a strong challenge from Eric Blake and Allen Cox to take the title.

In the Intermediate PDIs, it was a similar story to the Prints, again! Last season's beginners were all the front runners with Simon Mann winning two competitions, but chased to the end by Roger Dixey and the "Black Label" duo. Eventually, it was Gerard Carlin who took the prize without actually winning any competitions, consistency being the order of the day. Simon Mann came second, with Roger Dixey third and the other competition winner Linda Carlin in fourth.

In the Beginners, Janette Lloyd won the first two competitions, but failed to be placed for the next two, leaving the door open for a late surge by someone. That someone was Brian Jones, but he failed to make up enough ground, and had to settle for second place. Geoff Budd, a new member did well and finished in third.

The 13 trophies were again well shared, with only Paul Davison winning more than one (admittedly, the two big ones - the Advanced!). After last season's "all men and just one woman" scenario, the women

fought back and redressed the balance a bit this year, with Janette Lloyd, Linda Carlin, Sue Cocks, and Dawne Gardener shining the light for the ladies.

Two trophies have still to be contested.

Statistics; number of entries per competition

		<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2011/12</u>	<u>2010/11</u>	<u>2009/10</u>
Prints Advanced		85	96	85	79
Prints Intermediate		84	70	76	84
Prints Beginners		48	91	96	78
PDI Advanced	68	100	80	51	
PDI Intermediate		70	104	91	69
PDI Beginners	50	93	90	51	
Best of the Year Prints		38	40		
Best of the Year PDI			45	45	
Good Knight Trophy	15	10	16	13	
Fair Damsel Trophy		15	10	18	15
Outings Cup			19	19	8
Creative Cup		29			
Greg's Egg Cup	21	31	31	15	
Thackeray Cup	4	6	7	5	
Dunelm Trophy	12	10	9	9	

External Competitions

In the SPF League Competition, I am pleased to report that we have had another successful season in the Prints. After winning Division 3 last season, we dominated Division 2 this season, always coming first or second out of the seven clubs involved. This resulted in us running away with the title, so much so that we had won the league with one round to spare.

Alex Fyfe once again had the highest scoring print! His print, called *Lieutenant Colonel Skinner's Horse*, scored the maximum 10 marks in every competition except one, where it scored 9.5. (The Judge has been dealt with accordingly!), Other images also scored 10, Gordon Brown for *Mist on the Test* scored high, and also scored the lowest mark of 6 in one competition. Gordon's *Lantern Reflections* scored 10 twice, and Anne Ruffell's *Lloyds, The City, London*, and Tony Smith's *Kolkata Man 2* scored our other 10's.

However, in the PDI league, we do not seem to be able to emulate that success shown in the Prints, and did quite badly in Division 4 for the second year running. However, last season we scored just one maximum 10 marks, this season it was nine maximums, including John Dudley who scored four maximums for *Sidecar Pursuit*. Roger Dixey scored two 10s for *Forty Winks*, and there were a couple of other 10s too!

In the Victory Trophy, our annual match with Southampton, we lost again, but there must come a time when we beat them?

Thanks to everyone who supported us by providing work for selection. Next Season we play in Division 1, it will be tough, but we have the calibre of work to compete with the best. We march on, can we make it three successive league titles?

EPILOGUE

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Competition Secretary. There were many challenges to overcome, particularly in the early days. The WPS did not have a Competition Secretary before me. We were not considered a competitive club, indeed, some senior ex-members even frowned on the very idea of competitions and a league system because someone might win and someone might lose, and that could never be in a Society such as this! The results, in those days, were secret, and they were only privy to a few elite members. You certainly were not allowed to find out how you were doing in the league, because that might put someone off. Anyway, Leagues were for sporting events, not photo clubs! There were even some members who were worried about the league tables being printed and shown on the noticeboard or, heaven forbid, on the computer? Someone might hack into it, and compromise National Security. And that was before the Internet?

But much has changed! The results are much more transparent now.

For some years now, I have felt that the standard of work in the WPS has been increasing tremendously, both because of the Panels Group and the Competitions. This high standard is being borne out by the number of our members who now have distinctions from the RPS or the PAGB.

All over the country, amateur photographers are striving to produce the highest quality work in their respective clubs. Some members at some clubs are very competitive, and some clubs even have a competitions group like we have a Panels Group, or an AV Group?

If we are to compete at the highest level, not just in the SPF, but in the PAGB National competitions, then it is really important to have a high standard of competition. Competitions spur people on to produce better images, and we should strive for the highest standard possible.

I am pleased to hand this over to my successor, who I know will maintain the standards that I have tried to achieve in my time. His integrity is without question, and I am sure he will bring the WPS even greater success. Over to you, Gordon Brown.

Philip George May 2013.