



SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION Newsletter – April 2025

As I write this, the clocks have just gone forward, and we are being treated to a proper taste of spring. Get your pre-dawn photography done now before it means getting up at stupid o'clock! I also saw some wonderful spring blossoms as I visited a National Trust Garden on the South Devon coast at the weekend so there are plenty of excuses to be out with a camera at the moment.

Remember that the SCPF will be hosting an exhibition of the PAGB Inter-Federation Print Championship in the Young Gallery at Salisbury Library from 12th April to 25th May. Come and see around 150 prints from across the country and why not combine it with a photographic stroll around this historic town.

The SCPF AGM and Finals Day is on Sunday 11th May. This is an opportunity to have a say in how your federation works for you. Any motions need to be submitted via your club secretary at least 4 weeks before the day. We are also looking for nominations for Secretary, Publicity Secretary and a shadow for PDI and Print Championships Secretary and we will be immensely grateful to anyone willing to step forward for the benefit of all federation members!

In this month's newsletter, we share the results of the SCPF PDI and Print Championships and catch up with the Chairman of the Gibraltar Photographic Society as the club celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Stewart Lacey
President

SCPF PDI and Print Championships

The SCPF PDI and Print Championships were held on 23rd March at Colbury Memorial Hall. The well attended event was hosted by New Forest Camera Club with support from Southampton CC and BHPC. A total of 39 clubs entered the PDI championship and 20 entered for prints.

Thanks to Sue Sibley and the New Forest team for the venue, organisation and catering on the day. The print room, in particular, functioned like a well-oiled machine and the prints were ready for collection even before the awards had been handed out!





Suzie Kirkby, as always, wore many hats – coordinating the whole event, running and scoring the competition, printing and mailing certificates and badges, taking pictures and myriad other tasks.

The event was live streamed through YouTube, which was a challenge given the severely limited bandwidth at the venue. However, thanks to the technical wizardry of Nigel Noris, which involved the deployment of a high gain antenna on a tall pole we succeeded in showing the proceedings to an online audience which peaked at 26. The recording remains available on the [SCPF YouTube channel](#).

We had a last-minute issue with one of the judges and Annie Healey was secured as the replacement at 6pm on the Saturday evening. We are extremely grateful to our three judges who did a sterling job throughout the day. They were:



L-R Annie Healey, Pat Couder, Martin Fry

Martin Fry FRPS EFIAP/d3 AV-EFIAP/b FBPE APAGB

Annie Healey FRPS EFIAP/g DPAGB BPE5*

Pat Couder CPAGB BPE1* QPSA

Without further ado, here are the results:

Individual Awards, PDIs

Highly commended

Wilf Springer (Newbury PC) - All Grown Up

Andy Dulson LRPS (Chichester CC) - Nina Kennedy

Andy Bracey (Chichester CC) - Porth Nanven Pebbles

Derek Bridel AFIAP BPE2* (Guernsey PC) - Eyes to the Right

Peter Davidson (Yateley CC) - 2am Blues

Julia Wainwright FRPS AFIAP MPAGB BPE5* (Chichester CC) - Iridescent Starlings

Sue Trower FRPS CPAGB (Jersey PC) - Oceanic Expressions

David McKibbin LRPS DPAGB (Winchester PS) - Two Faced

Trevor Chapman (New Forest CC) - Watching the Schooling Fish

David Rutter FRPS (Lambourn CC) - The Descent

Simon Williams (Basingstoke CC) - Proud Coach with His Boxers Before the Tournament

Sue Trower FRPS CPAGB (Jersey PC) - The Desert Man

Silver medal, chosen by Pat Couder

Mike Barton (Gosport CC) - Pastelization



Pat loved the simplicity of this image, lovely colour palette and gradation of colours going from pink, bluey greens, yellow. Without the title she sees folded paper and loves the layering effect. A fantastic image that would look wonderful on your wall

Silver medal, chosen by Martin Fry
Sue Trower FRPS CPAGB (Jersey PC) - Lady in Black



Some pictures, when you see them, strike you straightaway and this one has, Martin felt, because of its simplicity and the use of form. It is very symmetrical, but the quality of the white and the tones create the perspective with the black features holding it all together as a focal point. You really enjoy the quality of the architecture and the figure in black makes the picture.

Silver Medal, chosen by Annie Healey
Julie Mungomery (Hungerford CC) - Show Off



Annie loves peacocks and thought this was stunning. As a nature photographer, this ticked all the boxes. She loved the composition, how the bird takes up two thirds of the frame and then disappears into the background on the right. The detail is gorgeous and she loved it from the heart.

Gold Medal

Mark Perkins ARPS CPAGB (Bracknell CC) - Female Emerald Damselfly



The judges thought it was an incredibly strong image when it first came up. Martin referred to his ABC (Anyone remember the singer, Martin Fry, from the band ABC?). A is the subject, B is the background but C is the most important – it is how they combine in a simple and effective way. It also has the magic addition of the ant. It is superb quality and the tones and colours of the background match those of the subject.

Club results, PDIs

Pos	Club	Total
1	Chichester Camera Club	182
2	Yateley Camera Club	180
3	New Forest Camera Club	173
4	Jersey Photographic Club	172
5	Southampton Camera Club	171
6	Newbury Photography Club	170
7	Wareham Camera Club	170
8	Littlehampton & District Camera Club	169
9	Cricklade Camera Club	169
10	Horndean Camera Club	169
11	Guernsey Photographic Club	168
12	Bognor Regis Camera Club	168
13	Basingstoke Camera Club	163
14	Alton Camera Club	163
15	Fordingbridge Camera Club	163
16	Lymington Camera Club	163
17	Havant Camera Club	162
18	Beaulieu Camera Group	162
19	Winchester Photographic Society	162
20	Hungerford Camera Club	160
21	bh photography club	160
22	Salisbury Photography Club	160
23	Middleton Camera Club	158
24	Bracknell Camera Club	157
25	Oakley Camera Club	157
26	Wimborne Camera Club	156
27	Lambourn Camera Club	155
28	Gosport Camera Club	151
29	Isle of Wight Photographic Society	151
30	Storrington Camera Club	150
31	Focus - Ryde Imaging Group	147
32	Wight Balance Photography Plus	146
33	Reading Camera Club	146
34	Overton Photographic Club	145
35	Niton & District Camera Club	144
36	Haslemere Camera Club	140
37	Ordnance Survey Photographic Society	137
38	Witterings Camera Club	136
39	Highcliffe & Infinity Photography Club	84

Individual awards, print

Highly commended

Jacky Parker (Lymington CC) - Forever Petals

Tony Cowburn ARPS BPE3* (Winchester PS) - Kings Cross Station

Jean Brooks (Havant CC) - The House with the Blue Doors

Silver medal, chosen by Pat Couder

Gordon Gentles (Havant CC) - Trees in the Mist



Pat loved this as soon as it came up and the quality of the print is superb. It is very simple – two trees and a park bench in monochrome and muted tones. The feeling of depth and coldness and the park bench in the mist makes the print full of atmosphere.

Silver medal, chosen by Martin Fry

Julia Wainwright FRPS AFIAP MPAGB BPE5* (Chichester CC) - Black Grouse Reaching for Bud



This is a captured moment. He admired the quality of the print; the textures and tones gave a 3D feel to the print. He loved the composition – the triangle formed by the bird and the twig, and the simplicity of the background which adds rather than detracts. The small twig on the right helps to balance the image and a bit of red as well. What more could you want?

You may also recognise this from the PAGB Masters of Print where Julia achieved her 7th acceptance and a PAGB silver medal for nature.

Silver medal, chosen by Annie Healey

Lin Collins (Horndean CC) - Some Time at the Shoreline



Annie loved the sheer simplicity of the image. We have beautiful movement in the water with a long exposure that gives it a gorgeous pastel look. Then there is a procession of oyster catchers – there are three but she wouldn't have cared if there was one or two. The legs of each of the birds are each doing something different. This was an image that spoke to her and is one she would have loved to have taken herself

Gold medal

Kev Sandall (Southampton CC) - Bleakest Dartmoor



It is an evocative image, but you need to see the print to appreciate its quality – probably why it earned Kev his first acceptance in the PAGB Master of Print this year. The judges thought the strength of the stones of the tor balanced the tree. The area around the rocks has been lightened to give a focus and the clouds add drama to the scene. This print succeeds in hitting the emotions in a way that the projected image often fails.

Club awards, print

Pos	Club	Total
1	Chichester Camera Club	179
2	Yateley Camera Club	177
3	Southampton Camera Club	176
4	Winchester Photographic Society	174
5	New Forest Camera Club	174
6	Havant Camera Club	171
7	bh photography club	170
8	Lymington Camera Club	170
9	Newbury Photography Club	166
10	Horndean Camera Club	165
11	Storrington Camera Club	163
12	Gosport Camera Club	161
13	Fordingbridge Camera Club	159
14	Alton Camera Club	159
15	Salisbury Photography Club	158
16	Basingstoke Camera Club	158
17	Bracknell Camera Club	155
18	Beaulieu Camera Group	152
19	Highcliffe & Infinity Photography Club	85
20	Oakley Camera Club	35

Thanks to everyone who took part and congratulations to those photographers who achieved awards. Chichester and Yateley Camera Clubs will represent the SCPF at the PAGB Inter-club print and PDI championships, later in the year. Winchester PS will be the hosts of the Championships next year.



Meet the Gibraltar Photographic Society



Leslie Linares
Chairman Gibraltar PS

What are the origins of Gibraltar Photographic Society?



GPS premises at Wellington Front

The GPS was founded in 1965, as a result of the amalgamation of two clubs: the United Services Camera Club which was only open to members of the armed services in Gibraltar and had been running on and off since the 1950s, and the Calpe Institute Camera Club, a civilian club which had also been running on and off since 1940. The combined club was originally named the John Mackintosh Hall Camera Club, because that was

where meetings were held, but its name was changed to the Gibraltar Photographic Society after its first AGM in 1965. Very few records were kept of the Society before 1975, so very little is known of its activities and membership. We do know that membership stood at around 40, and that subscriptions were set at 5 shillings a month with fortnightly meetings on Wednesdays.

What is the makeup of your membership?

Our membership currently stands at 60, which is not bad going for a territory whose population is only 30,000! This number tends to vary from year to year, with it reaching 90 in strong years. Membership is open to anyone interested in photography, and we accept membership from around 12 years of age. Originally most members were men, but today 34% of members are women. We attract members via Facebook and Instagram, via our Annual Exhibition and through the photography courses that we run. We do not currently have a website, but we have plans to set one up soon.



Club members at the Annual Exhibition opening

Where do you meet?

The Society met at the John Mackintosh Hall, which was set up in 1964 to bring together cultural entities and their activities. This venue had a darkroom which our members used regularly. All these facilities were free of charge. In 1986 the local government offered the Society its own premises at Wellington Front, a line of fortifications from the 1840s. These fortifications have around 30 vaults originally used as accommodation, workrooms, offices, etc, and we acquired one of these. We pay a very low rental for this, though we need to pay insurance, etc. Originally, we had to refurbish the place at our own cost, but in 2017 the government decided to refurbish all premises at Wellington Front, ours included, together with all the surroundings.

What does a typical meeting look like?



Talk on a trip to India

We meet every Monday evening from around 7.00pm to 9.00pm, and our programme follows that of many UK clubs: regular competitions in Black and White Prints, Colour Prints, and Digital Images. These are on themes set at the start of the season. We also hold talks and presentations on all aspects of photography, but we have a problem that we

have a rather limited reservoir of lecturers and appraisers who are not also members of the

Society! So, we are always alert to visiting photographers who can help out. We have the advantage that as we own our own premises, we can hold meetings on any day of the week.

What other activities does your club offer

The Society owns an excellent set of studio flash equipment including backdrops and other accessories, and these are used to hold studio sessions with models. Members can hire the premises and equipment at a small fee. We organise outings around Gibraltar and into neighbouring Spain, and also across the Strait of Gibraltar to Morocco. A popular destination is the beautiful blue village of Chefchaouen in Morocco. Outings to the Carnival in Cadiz are also popular. We hold "You are the Appraiser" sessions where members are asked to appraise a



GPS outing to O'Hara's Battery



Quiz night

a specific area, day and time period, to take photos, and these are then appraised and discussed, with prizes awarded. Our Society also holds regular digital images competitions with UK clubs, and image exchanges with UK and international clubs. Our main function of the year is our Annual Exhibition in September/ October. For this, we bring over to Gibraltar a UK adjudicator/ appraiser, who spends a few days with us, providing talks and workshops. Recently, we have been using appraisers from the SCPF for this.

What engagement does the club have with the SCPF?

In 1986 our Society became members of the then Southern Photographic Federation of G.B. and took part in the prints league competitions. However, in 2006 it was decided to cease this due to the difficulties and problems in the transfer of prints and finding a UK club willing to host us when it was our turn to carry out the judging. With the advent of digital photography, in 2016 we applied for and were accepted as a member of the SCPF, and we have been competing in the digital images league competitions since then. Linking via Zoom we can

participate fully in the appraisals, and we have learnt a lot from that process. Some of our members have even taken part in the workshops held by the SCPF to train appraisers. In 2022, four of our members were admitted to the SCPF Roll of Honour

How does the club work with the wider community?

The Society is fully engaged with Gibraltar Cultural Services and often cooperate with them in exhibitions and competitions where photography is widely accepted as part of the cultural/art scene in Gibraltar. We run induction courses in photography that are open to the public, and we also participate in a summer programme for children run by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority. Here we run practical photography workshops for children between 10 and 12 during their summer holidays. We also carry out workshops for children with special needs. We provide assessors for the Duke of Edinburgh Award participants who choose photography as their skill and run workshops for scouts who wish to



Youth Arts jamboree. Scouts



Talk to GCSE students

get their photography badge. We also give talks to students doing GCSE and A-level photography courses. Our Annual Exhibition, held in a large exhibition gallery in the centre of town, helps in promoting our Society, and we also put up a display stand in Main Street, advertising our Society, our activities and events. Images from our regular competitions and from our exhibitions, are published weekly in the Gibraltar Chronicle, our popular daily newspaper.

What are your plans for the future?

This year the GPS is celebrating its 60th anniversary, and we are holding a number of special events to mark the occasion. This includes three special exhibitions consisting of panels of work by individual members, and a series of workshops by a visiting UK photographer. We will be having a photography awareness stand in the centre of town, special articles in the local press, and hopefully a dedicated programme on local TV. All this will serve to put the Society in the spotlight and provide it with plenty of publicity. Hopefully we can attract more members, especially among the young. We are happy that we provide a good range of activities during the year, and that the membership is generally satisfied with what we offer. However,



Talk on creating slideshows

there is always room for improvement. We would like to offer a greater range of workshops, including some aimed at developing the skills of beginners, especially in the use of Photoshop/Lightroom. We would also like to hold more outings where members can practise and develop their skills. Outings are important to improve the social aspects of the club. We would also like to see how to alter the balance and structure of our year programme so that competitions (always popular!) and other activities can be merged in such a way that it all works as a whole. At the end of the day, our aim is that the membership enjoys belonging to the club and participates in as many events as they can, whilst at the same time learning



Talk by GBC cameraman

through the process and being proud of belonging to a Society that is an integral part of the cultural family of Gibraltar.

Leslie Linares BEM ARPS
Chairman, the Gibraltar Photographic Society

Finals Day In memoriam segment

I mentioned in the March newsletter that I would like to include an “in memoriam” segment to commemorate those club members who have sadly passed away in the previous 12 months. This will be run as an AV sequence which should include a photograph of the member – ideally head and shoulders, a short paragraph description to accompany the photo, and around half a dozen images which could be examples of their work or pictures of them involved in some club or photographic activity. If there is someone in your club who you would like to have remembered in this way then please email president@southerncountiespf.org.uk with the details and send pictures by WeTransfer, Dropbox or any other means that may be convenient to you. Please get your submissions to me by 5th May