

I shall divide this report into three sections to begin with I will round up this season's Internal competitions, then I'll summarise the external ones and finally I'll give some thoughts on next season.

Internal competitions: Generally they've been very well supported throughout the season culminating in an incredible 118 images on the Society Competition evening.

- In the Beginners class from the 10 monthly competitions that we held in the season there were eight different winners a testament to the high quality of photographers in that class. And while on a monthly basis the number of images across both Beginners classes, prints and PDIs, tended to be a slightly disappointing 10 to 15 entries, overall 37 photographers submitted at least one image in monthly competition which I think is fantastic. Hopefully next season with a bit more confidence and more images in the bank more people will have a go on a regular basis
- In the Intermediate class there were again eight different winners across the 10 monthlies, monthly submissions tended to be in the range of 15-20 and a total of 27 photographers entering something.
- In the Advanced class there was a bit of a domination by a few with only six photographers triumphing and this time, perhaps not surprisingly virtually everyone entered both PDIs and Prints (except one)
- So overall from a possible 30 monthly class competitions there were 22 different winners, which is fantastic. Special mention goes to Steve Green and Paul Davison though. The only people to win a monthly print and a monthly PDI. And to David Mckibbin the most dominant photographer this year who won three of the monthly Prints.
- The Society evening, as I've already mentioned, was fantastically well supported so a big thank you to everyone that had a go at that. And the feedback from the judge was that this was not just about quantity, there was quality there too
- Our new venture this year the mono competition was also a fun evening with people being allowed two images which resulted in 60 images being judged but we did we just get through them all.

In terms of the Society's participation in external competitions it was a bit of a mixed bag. We had our usual defeat to Southampton in the Victory Trophy. I'm talking to Southampton about how we mix this up next year so will cover that shortly

In the SCPF competitions we enter three "events".

- Print League
- PDI League
- And the Exhibition

In the Print League we were in Division one competing against Southampton, Chichester, Highcliffe, Basingstoke, Havant and the New Forest. We were in a good place after five rounds and I was hopeful that we would retain our place for next but sadly two poor results saw us relegated. I've seen a lot of good images go by this season so I'm hopefully we'll have a good panel next season.

In the PDIs we were in Division four competing against Boscombe, Steyning, Overton, Solent, Bournemouth and Wimbourne. We did well here and have been promoted to Division three. Again, I hope we can push on next season to Division two

In the Exhibition our panel of six Prints was awarded a Highly Commended, Louise Brown was awarded a Highly Commended for her Print Blue Mini and Paul Davison was awarded third place for individual PDI.

Looking ahead to next season, as I mentioned earlier, I'd like to encourage much more participation in the internal competitions as I think that they are some of the most interesting and inspiring evenings we have. The sheer range of subjects and the diversity of techniques on show makes for a really good evening. Although they are called "competitions" and there is an element of competitiveness to them, we should also think of them as a means of exhibiting our work to a wider audience and getting feedback, not just from our external judge but many of the membership.

There are some other external competitions that we could enter as a Society and now that I've had a year in the post and got used to the cycle I'll look to enter more of them next season.

The Victory Trophy will remain just us and Southampton next year as Havant and Chichester declined our invitation though the New Forest are candidates to join us next year.

Gordon Brown

WPS Competition Secretary 2014