

May 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

# WPS COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT - SEASON 2016-17

## 1. INTERNAL COMPETITIONS

This season saw the implementation of a change in PDI and Print league competition scoring to give two points for those images that were held back by the judge, while continuing to award every image a point for being entered. All other points for highly commended, third, second and first place were also given an extra point, making six points for the winner. We maintained the system of having three groups by skill level - Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced. The table below shows the number of entries into each group by year spread across the season:

Medium	Season	Beginners	Intermediate	Advanced	TOTAL	Active members
PRINTS	2013-14	25	26	28	79	50%
	2014-15	33	29	33	95	54%
	2015-16	29	31	30	90	47%
	2016-17	21	31	35	87	44%
PDIs	2013-14	22	26	29	77	49%
	2014-15	30	29	30	89	50%
	2015-16	32	30	28	90	47%
	2016-17	28	31	32	91	46%

From this table it can be deduced that:

- the number of Beginners entering league competitions is reducing
- the number of Intermediates and Advanced entering is roughly level
- fewer than half of the members are entering league competitions

There are an increasing number of members in the Advanced group. The Committee may need to review the best way to keep these groups approximately the same number by reallocation of grouping by individual, based on results and/or frequency of entering.

Some thought is currently going in to understanding better why the number of total entrants is broadly static while the Society membership is increasing quite rapidly. However, a general increase in the number of entries would create a judging and logistics problem as we are bound by the duration of an evening and the number of images that we can expect a judge to look at and provide us with fair and consistent feedback.

The results of the various competitions for this season can be found on the WPS website and will be published in next season's Handbook.

In the league there were only one or two points separating the places and in the Advanced Prints all three places shared the same point score, the positions being decided on count back of Firsts awarded over the five rounds.

The Monochrome competition was again popular, with many members putting in two entries, but fortunately there was sufficient time to complete the judging feedback and identifying the winners without over-running.

The Society Evening saw a great variety of images on show including some excellent portraits, creative work and plenty of humour. The Beginners print competition was not very well subscribed but the quality was good.

## 2. EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

This year it was decided to split Competition Secretary roles between myself and Glyn Paton who focused on the External competitions and also booked the judges for all our internal competitions. In practice there was a sharing of roles due to the inevitable absence of one of us from time to time.

A panel of some of our more experienced members met to select the many WPS images that are entered into External competitions at the beginning of the season.

### A. SCPF

WPS was looking to consolidate our position in occupying the top league in both Prints and PDIs. It is worth reflecting that we were in League 3 for PDIs as recently as 2015 and were only promoted to League 1 for Prints in the same year. Our results were excellent, finishing in 1st place for the Prints and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the PDIs. Although we are a large Society in terms of membership, the number of those that are actively entering competitions with external quality work compares reasonably with many other clubs, so these results are very pleasing. Full League results are available on the SCPF website.

In the SCPF Exhibition, held in the Salisbury library in January, we also did well, being awarded 2nd place for our print panel.

### B. Victory Trophy

The Victory Trophy is a friendly competition between ourselves, Southampton and New Forest clubs. For more than 20 years we had bravely and stoically entered this competition and at the end of the evening put on a brave and stoic face as we came second to Southampton. However, WPS won the last two competitions and the next is due to take place on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## 3. JUDGES

This season we saw the usual controversial range of judges opinions, discussed afterwards with equal measure of pride, passion and despondency, depending on whether the judgement was in favour of a particular image or not. My opinion is that most judges seemed to arrive at a reasonable shortlist but since the final decision is subjective the precise order is always controversial.

Mid-season, we had a run of judges that did not seem very comfortable with the Nature genre, for which I sought clarification from SCPF judging coordinator Ken Scott. He confirmed that Nature in open club competitions should be judged and scored as Pictorial images rather than applying the strict Natural History guidelines.

This season we introduced a new process to provide a more formal and structured review of a judge's performance on the evening, as requested by Ken Scott. This involves asking three members and myself to score the judge on various aspects and a feedback form is sent to the SCPF for monitoring. Thank you to Viv Brett for finding my feedback volunteers throughout the season and for all the members who willingly gave their time and opinions as part of this process.

Also thanks to Steven Cooper and those of you who have assisted me in keeping track of the scoring on Print evenings.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

I have enjoyed my time as Competition Secretary but I am finding it difficult to balance all the many Society activities with my other photographic interests. It is with some regret that I have decided to leave the Society and club photography for a while in order to focus on international salons, going for an FRPS, gallery exhibitions, more travel and providing more training and workshops.

In my three years at WPS I have met many great people and learnt a lot at one of the best run and most successful photographic societies in the South. Although I will continue to attend some events as a guest and hope to provide some more training for the society, I take this opportunity to thank everybody for their help and guidance and wish all members the very best in their future photographic endeavours.

Peter Orr ARPS