

COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT, AGM 2009/2010

Internal Competitions

The Competitions were very well supported once again, with many members making some very fine images in both Print and Projected Digital Image.

The number of entries has remained fairly constant over the past 3 seasons, despite changes in formats and classes. In 2007/2008, 418 images were entered, and these included the one-off slide competition alongside the Prints. In 2008/2009, the total was 407, and this season 412.

This season, we ran four competitions instead of three for the Projected Images. The Advance Class doubled, and the Intermediate Class tripled its entry over last season's numbers. The Beginners were almost the same. In the Prints, we reduced the number of Print competitions from six to five, and the Beginners class's numbers reduced dramatically from 138 to 78 entries, but the Intermediate increased and the Advanced reduced ever so slightly. The competition evening a few weeks ago produced roughly the same number of entries in each competition this season as last season.

However, despite all the changes, the competition leagues were the closest ever!

In the Prints Advanced class, the last competition started with the possibility of any one of the top seven entrants walking off with the trophy. In an exciting finale, the person who was seventh at the start of play was the eventual winner.

In the Intermediate Prints, it was again very close! The top five shuffled themselves with three points between them, and one person won it on the tie-break rule, despite failing to finish in the awards in the last competition.

The top four in the Beginners were all in the running for the trophy, but the top three in the league finished in that order in the last competition.

In the Projected Digital Image classes, we experimented with using the marks given by the judges as the points on the league tables. This system only works fairly and properly if the top mark is always the same, and the judges mark evenly across the competition.

The Advanced Class was dominated by just one member, who won all four competitions. It was slightly closer in the Intermediate, with just two points separating first and second, and even closer in the Beginners, where just half-a-point separated the top two members.

Again, the 12 trophies were fairly evenly distributed, although one member won three trophies, and two members won two trophies each. Two trophies were won by women, and the other ten by men.

Statistics: number of entries per competition

	<u>Totals 2009/10</u>	<u>2008/09</u>
Prints Advanced	79	88
Prints Intermediate	84	77
Prints Beginners	78	138
PDI Advanced	51	33
PDI Intermediate	69	21
PDI Beginners	51	50
Good Knight Trophy	13	12
Fair Damsel Trophy	15	16
Outings Cup	8	7
Greg's Egg Cup	15	17
Thackeray Cup	5	6
Dunelm Trophy	9	12

External Competitions

Following the success of last season, we entered this season's SPF League Competition with high hopes, although inwardly we knew that you need a fair amount of luck to win the competition, and we were lucky last season! We struggled in the Prints, particularly the away round in Guernsey at the start, where some of our top images were only getting 6.5 marks out of 10 from the judge. It got slightly better, but the experimental PDI set actually did better than the Prints, and we managed more tens. It was good to see some of our up-and-coming members scoring highly, with David Hughes, Ella Matthews, and Matt Clarke all scoring as well as the advanced members in the panel, and a special mention to John Norris, who scored one of our five *tens* during the season. The other *tens* came from Anne Ruffell, Martin Farrow, and two from Tony Smith. Martin's Cathedral Mystery and Tony's Old Woman and Goose were the highest scorers, and went forward to the individual competition on finals day.

As a result of us winning the SPF League competition last season, we took part in the PAGB Finals held in Connah's Quay in October. This is for the top clubs from each Federation from the whole of the UK, and is very tough indeed. Zoe, Gordon, Anne, and I went to Connah's Quay for the weekend, enjoyed the experience, and saw some very exciting images in the Competition. Although we didn't trouble the top clubs, it was reassuring to think that out of some 1400 clubs in the country we were competing with the elite. Thanks to everyone who supported us by providing work for selection.

Philip George May 2010.