

AGM 19/5/09 President's Report

I started my year as President by welcoming you to our new venue here at the Discovery Centre. I had 2 particular objectives as President

1. Firstly to ensure that new members were made welcome and encouraged to take part in our activities. I have been please to see new members taking part in and being successful in our monthly competitions and attending our meetings at Littleton Hall
2. Secondly to encourage new initiatives, so that the Society keeps up with the changing world of photography.

At its first meeting last June your new committee set up a sub committee led by Vice President Zoe Hemsley comprising Gordon Brown, Keith Taylor and a co-opted Anne Ruffell to come up with new ideas for the new season. This resulted in

1. A beginners group led by Zoe and Mervyn Edwards that met twice a month before our Tuesday meetings.
2. The extension of our monthly workshops at Littleton into new areas such as Lightroom, web site design, and portrait photography with professional models.
3. The formation of a Panels Group which met bi-monthly, encouraging members to work towards PAGB and LRPS Distinctions and to exchange views on each others work.

Our thanks must go to Anne Ruffell for organising the workshops, to the members who led the workshops and to Anne and Zoe Hemsley for developing the Panels Group.

A new initiative that was well received was the way the Society's entry for inter club competitions was chosen. Nearly 30 members came to hear our three DAPGBs Alex Fyfe, Zoe Hemsley and Anne Ruffell plus our Class A PAGB judge George Walsh and Phillip George discuss and select a short list of prints to represent the Society. Later the same people met to select the final 10. It must have been successful as we won the SPF print competition after a gap of 14 years.

It this point I must thank Phillip George whose enthusiasm and hard work contributed enormously to this success. His work as Competition Secretary for the last 20 years was recognised by being given the Roll of Honour of the Southern Photographic Federation.

The Committee was pleased to recognise the contribution over many years of another member by granting Life Membership to Jim Denness

Our Annual Exhibition was as well supported as usual and ran smoothly due to the efforts of Joe Kaplonek and his team. The attractive Catalogue was produced by Andrew Golden and Rosie Aldridge. The innovation of framing the award winning prints was well received particularly by visiting members from other clubs.

We are fortunate to have had such a hardworking committee with a mixture of experience and new blood. I thank them for the support they have given me.

Many other members have contributed;

Barbara Lambert has organised Outings;

David Taylor has continued to run our website and Paul Irving is applying his web design expertise, working with David, to launch a new website with extended facilities in the near future.

Many members helped Julia Passingham with our refreshments,

Rosie Aldridge designed and produced the Members Handbook

Thanks to them and to all the other helpers I have failed to mention.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of one of the most successful clubs in the Southern Photographic Federation. My best wishes go to Zoe Hemsley my successor.

Ron Foulkes