



# Northern Counties Photographic Federation

A Member Federation of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

<http://www.ncpf.org.uk>

## Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 via Zoom.

The President, Alan Wilson, opened the meeting at 7.00pm

**Present:** - Alan Wilson, Gerald Chamberlin, Jim Welsh, Joseph Duffy, Margaret Welsh, Jill Chamberlin, Jo Knight, Phillip Dove, Richard Speirs, Alan Forster, David Brown, Debra Taylor, John Smith

**23/08/01 Apologies for Absence:** - Trevor Walters, John Fare

**Incommunicado:** - Jane Black

**23/08/02 The minutes of the meeting held on 06<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were approved and signed on behalf of the President.**

Proposed by Gerald Chamberlin – Seconded by Alan Forster

**23/08/03 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**23/08/04 Correspondence**

No Correspondence

**23/08/05 Treasurer's Report – Jill Chamberlin**

**Appendix 1**

Jill read through her report. She outlined the expenditure to date and said that she was still working on transferring the accounts to another Bank. This should be done before the next meeting. A discussion regarding the zoom account took place with a number of suggestions which may be cheaper. It was agreed to stick to zoom for now.

Report accepted and attached.

**23/08/06 Reports**

**23/08/06-1 Competitions Chairman – Alan Forster**

**Appendix 2**

Alan read through his report. He said that all of the Judges proposed by the Judges Sub Committee for next years Club Championships and Annuals Competition had been contacted and all have confirmed their acceptances. He said that the Competitions Sub Committee will be reviewing and re-drafting the rules for all competitions before the Club Championships in February. After discussing the procedure for the Presentation Event in November this will be the priority at the next meeting. Report accepted and attached.

**23/08/06-2 Representative to PAGB – Richard Speirs**

**Appendix 3**

Richard summarised his report. A lengthy discussion regarding the PAGB Guidelines attached to his report regarding plagiarism and AI remote shoots took place. Support for these guidelines was unanimous. Richard said that he would outline the concerns raised at this meeting in his next PAGB report. Unfortunately he will not be able to attend the next meeting in October due to his mobility problems and asked for a representative from the committee to take his place. *After the meeting Gerald Chamberlin agreed to do this.* The question was asked if these PAGB guidelines should be incorporated into the current club rules. Richard said that once the PAGB have ratified the guidelines they should then be communicated down to club level. It was thought that once these guidelines are formalised by the PAGB further issues may become apparent as FIAP may have different guidelines for their competitions. This will be discussed at future meetings as and when necessary. Report accepted and attached.

**23/08/06-3 Merit Awards Officer – Gerald Chamberlin**

Gerald said that we had 7 people in the November adjudications. Hopefully they will be successful.

**23/08/06-4 Editor Northern Focus – Alan Wilson**

**Appendix 4**

Alan read through his report. He said that on reflection he will be taking it back to the original timescale of two publications a year. He was asked if the current publication would be sent out before the start of the club season. Alan said that it would be published by next week after updating with relevant information from this meeting. Report accepted and attached.

**23/08/06-5 Judges Sub Committee – Jim Welsh**

Jim said that there was nothing to report at this time. The next meeting of the JSC will be on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**23/08/06-6 Data Manager – Richard Speirs**

**Appendix 5**

Richard read through his report. He said that he had updated the PAGB CES system with the amendments he had received from Margaret. Once the current PAGB Handbook comes to the end of its life the CES system will be the only point of reference for clubs, judges and lecturer details. Updating of information will then be down to the individual judges, lecturer's and club officials who are registered to access the system. He said that the PAGB CES system was not as complicated now as it was previously and suggested that after this season, all judges and lecturer's should be sent details of how to amend their details. PDF Copies of all the judges and lecturer's in our Federation could still be produced if required. Richard and Margaret will discuss this further. Report accepted and attached.

**23/08/06-7 Publications Officer – Margaret Welsh**

**Appendix 6**

Margaret read through her report. She said that all Directories have been posted or hand delivered. Minor issues reported have been sent out as amendments to all club secretaries. She said that she had also received emails from a few clubs asking if the Directory will continue to be produced. This will need to be discussed further as the reported cost for this year was over £600.00. Report accepted and attached.

**23/08/06-8 Portfolio Secretary – Phillip Dove**

Phillip said that he has had a couple of minor problems with the AV's but has managed to sort it out. He said that there would be two AV's (PDI's & Prints) which will be split into two parts as Pictures2exe won't let him combine the shows. A number of clubs may be happy with this as they have a break in between the evening's entertainment and this will create a natural break. Hopefully, this will be all done by the middle of next week. Alan Wilson said that the first production is always the most difficult and he thanked Phillip for all the work he's put in to producing the shows. Gerald asked if the files would be MP4 format. Phillip said that they would.

**23/08/06-9 Club Support & Development – John Smith**

John said that they hadn't had a meeting since the break up for the holidays. A meeting will be arranged soon. Debra Taylor added that over the closed season, Consett CC had been using Facebook to generate interest in the club and may have recruited 4 new members.

**23/08/06-10 Beamish Representative – Joseph Duffy**

Joseph said that he had a meeting arranged with Paul Foster on 19<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the dates for the Beamish Weekend. The proposed dates are 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024. This is a month earlier than normal as we usually hold this event in May. Margaret said that the proposed dates are already booked for the NCPF Annuals Competitions. Joseph said he would get back to Paul to arrange another date. Information for the Beamish Trophy Competition has been sent for publication on the website.

**23/08/06-11 Webmaster – Jo Knight****Appendix 7**

Jo began by thanking everyone for the invitation to join the Executive Committee. She then read through her report and outlined a number of points that she needed to action to get the new site up and running. Jo then thanked Alan Wilson and Margret Welsh for their help before the site change over and also Linda McGregor from Tynemouth PS and John Tillotson from Penrith CC who both proof read the whole site content before it went live. She then asked for input regarding the content displayed on the site and asked what could and could not be published. Alan Wilson said that anything that keeps it live and interesting regarding photography would be appropriate. He said that it was primarily the NCPF website and club requests to publicize an event or exhibition they are holding would be relevant content. Jo said that before closing the old site she had backed up all of the information it contained. When she then transferred everything over onto the new site the historic content for the Annuals and Club Championships as well as all of the images was corrupted and she was unable to transfer this over. She said she had contacted several members who may have copies of these files but has been unsuccessful. Jo said that she had managed to create the files for the Annuals but has been unable to do the same for the Club Championships. After a discussion to find a solution to this problem it was decided that it should be left as it stands and future competition details could be added as and when they are available. It was suggested that a Club News section was created to advertise the dates of club and interclub competitions for each area. Jo said she would look at this. At the end of her report she was praised for all of the hard work she has put in to redesigning an excellent website. Report attached and accepted.

**23/08/07 Area Reports****23/08/07-1 Northern – Jim Welsh****Appendix 8**

Jim read through his report. Jo said that the dates for the Interclub Competitions in Jim's report could be added to the website calendar.

**23/08/07-2 North Tyne – David Brown**

No Report.

**23/08/07-3 South Tyne – Joseph Duffy**

Joseph said that he had emailed all of the Competition Secretaries with the dates for the South Tyne Interclub Competitions. An acknowledgement of receipt was requested by return and only two secretaries have responded. He then said that when he took over as the South Tyne Area Representative no information regarding competitions etc. was passed on consequently, the Interclub Trophies for his area were missing. He had asked for information regarding their whereabouts and two trophies have been sitting in Ryton Camera Clubs cupboard. These will be returned to him and will be presented at the next Interclub Competition.

**23/08/07-4 Southern – Phillip Dove**

No Report.

**23/08/07-5 Wear Area – Debra Taylor**

No Report.

**23/08/07-6 Western – Gerald Chamberlin**

Gerald said that the Western Area meeting will be held in a couple of weeks time when they will finalise the Western Area Competitions. He said that a discussion will be on the Agenda regarding discontinuing the presentation of trophies as no one really wants to take them away.

**23/08/08 Any Other Business****Appendix 9**

Alan Wilson read through his report regarding communication and distribution of information to Clubs and their members. He proposed that an Excel spreadsheet should be used which can be distributed by mail merge. This would need to be updated periodically by a nominated person (Margaret Welsh/Alan Wilson). He said that with three club members receiving information There should be at least one member who will forward this to the rest of the club maintaining greater distribution between each group.

Jill Chamberlin said that due to Data Protection this should be sent BCC to maintain anonymity. After a discussion regarding Data Protection issues the attached list sent out with Alan's initial report will not be published with the minutes. After further discussion it was thought that this was a good idea in principal and may be utilised by those who need to send out block emails.

Margaret said that a proposal had been made to have access to a Debit Card for NCPF purchases when the new Bank Account is set up. Jill said she would look into this when she speaks to the Bank and will report back to the Executive.

Alan thanked everyone for their contribution to another constructive meeting.

**Meeting closed at 8.40pm**

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**

**Next Meeting Date: Monday 06<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.00pm (Zoom)**

## Appendix 1

### NCPF Finance Report 27 Aug 23

#### Recent expenditure:

Annual licence for the website, thanks to Jo Knight for this £43.20.

NCPF Directories £638.78, this includes distribution postage thanks to Margaret for organising this.

Invoice from Clara Vale for the Annuals Competition, they have changed systems and there has been some confusion over what has and hasn't been billed. Thanks to Alan for liaising over this. £414.00

I advised Margaret to get an HP printer with an ink replacement contract. You pay a small monthly fee and for this you get a specified number of pages you can print per month. HP then monitor ink supplies and send ink before you run out as part of the contract both B&W and colour. The printer cost £150 but this includes 6 months free printing. The last ink purchase was £53. It also scans and copies. The printer remains the property of the NCPF.

I still need to move the accounts to HSBC so we can set up BACS payments but it's been a busy summer. Hopefully I should get it done in the next few weeks.

Jill

#### NCPF Accounts 2023-24

	Cheque	Date	Statement	Detail	Expend.	Income
<b>Treasurers Expenses</b>						
	2403	22/04/23	28/04/23	16 1st class stamps @ £0.95	-£15.20	
	2403	22/04/23	28/04/23	16 2nd class stamps @ £0.68	-£10.88	

	2403	22/04/23	28/04/23	2 Lever Arch files (for a/c's)	-£6.40		
					-£32.48	£0.00	-£32.48
<b>Judges Training Day</b>							
02/04/2023	2397	14/03/23	30/03/23	Clara Vale Village Hall CVVH193	-£182.00		
	2401	02/04/23	28/04/23	Barry's Home Bakery	-£216.00		
	2402	28/03/23	28/04/23	Refreshments	-£6.18		
					-£404.18	£0.00	-£404.18
<b>Executive Committee</b>							
	2398	11/01/23	30/03/23	Club Indemnity Insurance	-£96.94		
24/12/22 - 23/01/23	2388	03/02/23	28/02/23	Zoom meeting licence	-£14.39		
24/01/23 - 23/02/23	2388	03/02/23	28/02/23	Zoom meeting licence	-£14.39		
06/02/2023	2389	06/02/23	28/02/23	Exec Meet Clara Vale CVVH163	-£21.00		
26/03/2023	2395	01/03/23	30/03/23	AGM Clara Vale Village Hall CVVH184	-£67.00		
24/02/23 - 23/03/24	2396	10/03/23	30/03/23	Zoom meeting licence	£14.39		
	2396	10/03/23	30/03/23	Postage AGM Documents	£1.65		
24/03/23 - 23/04/24	2399	24/03/23	28/04/23	Zoom meeting licence	-£15.59		
26/03/2023	2399	25/03/23	28/04/23	Refreshments	-£6.88		
	2402	28/03/23	28/04/23	A4 pockets for Archive Boxes	-£8.99		
24/04/23 - 23/05/24	2417	12/05/23	30/05/23	Zoom meeting licence	£15.59		
2022 & 2023	2418	16/05/23	30/06/23	Annual Archive material storage	-£40.00		(Empire School of Boxing - Blyth)
2022 & 2023	2420	16/05/23	30/05/23	Annual Photographic Equipment storage	-£40.00		(Tynemouth Photographic Society)
24/05/23 - 23/06/24	2435	12/06/23	30/06/23	Zoom meeting licence	-£15.59		
24/06/23 - 23/07/23	2448	04/07/23	28/07/23	Zoom meeting licence	-£15.59		
24/07/23 - 23/08/23	2449	27/08/23		Zoom meeting licence	-£15.59		
24/08/23 - 23/09/23	2449	27/08/23		Zoom meeting licence	-£15.59		
Reallocated					-£355.91	£0.00	-£355.91
	£2.85						
	£6.80						
	£9.65						
<b>NCPF Directory</b>							
2023-24	2436	09/08/23	28/07/23	Pennyprint Ltd A5 Directory 2023	-£255.00		
	2435	12/06/23		Postage Directory Entry Form	-£0.68		
	2449	27/08/23		C5 Envelopes for Directory Postage	£5.25		
	2449	27/08/23		Postage for Directories to Judges/Lecturers	£51.00		
	2449	27/08/23		Postage for Directories to Club Secretaries	£59.20		
					-£638.78	£0.00	-£638.78
<b>NCPF Website</b>							
06/07/23 - 05/07/24	2437	14/08/23		Annual fee to WordPress	-£43.20		
					-£43.20		-£43.20
<b>Club Championships</b>							
12/02/2023	2386	16/01/23	30/01/23	Clara Vale Village Hall CVVH136	-£162.00		
	2388	20/01/23	28/02/23	Postage re certificate	-£0.68		
	2396	09/03/23	30/03/23	Postage re certificates	£1.36		
	2391	11/02/23	28/02/23	Raffle Prizes	-£18.19		
	2391	11/02/23	28/02/23	Refreshments	-£4.45		
	2393	12/02/23	28/02/23	Best DPI Rob Norton	-£10.00		

	2394	12/02/23	28/02/23	Best Print Henry Tennent	-£10.00		
	-	-	-	Judge Alan Porrett	£0.00		
	-	-	-	Judge George Ledger	£0.00		
	2390	12/02/23	28/02/23	Judge John Williams	-£30.00		
						£118.0	
	-	23/02/23	28/02/23	Raffle proceeds		0	
						£118.0	
					-£233.96	0	<b>-£115.96</b>
<b>Annuals Competition 22-23/04/23</b>							
	2438	14/08/23		Clara Vale Village Hall CVVH331	-£414.00		
Open section judges	2405	23/04/23	28/04/23	Gerald Chamberlin	-£70.00		
	2414	23/04/23	30/05/23	Keith Snell	-£65.00		
	2413	23/04/23	30/05/23	Maybeth Jamieson	-£70.00		
Alliance selection judges	-	-	-	Peter Maguire	£0.00		
	-	-	-	Lynda Golightly	£0.00		
	2416	23/04/23	30/05/23	Bill Broadley	-£10.00		
Portfolio selection judges	2412	23/04/23	30/05/23	Veronica Congleton	-£10.00		
	-	-	-	Alan Porrett	£0.00		
	2415	23/04/23	30/05/23	David Hall	-£10.00		
Beginners section judge	-	-	-	John Reed	£0.00		
	2404	22/04/23	28/04/23	Buffet	-£210.00		
				Postage	-£4.89		
	2417	12/05/23	30/05/23	Printer ink for Annuals paperwork	£53.12		
	2417	12/05/23	30/05/23	Refreshments	£16.41		
					-£794.36	£0.00	<b>-£794.36</b>
<b>Beamish Event</b>							
Print sales						£100.0	
						0	
Jim Welsh	2427	02/06/23	30/06/23	3 print sales	-£45.00		
Graham Harland	2428	08/06/23	30/06/23	1 print sale	-£15.00		
Glyn Trueman	2429	08/06/23	30/06/23	1 print sale	-£15.00		
Beamish Commission	2430	08/06/23	28/07/23	Commission on 5 print sales	-£25.00		
				Postage	-£2.04		
						£100.0	
					-£102.04	0	<b>-£2.04</b>
<b>PAGB Championships</b>							
Prints	2433	12/06/23		Tynemouth Photographic Society	-£100.00		
	2434	12/06/23		Saltburn Photographic Society	-£100.00		
PDI's	2431	12/06/23	28/07/23	Northallerton Camera Club	-£100.00		
	2432	12/06/23	30/06/23	Alnwick Camera Club	-£100.00		
				Postage	-£2.72		
					-£402.72	£0.00	<b>-£402.72</b>
<b>Equipment</b>							
				3 Photographic Boxes + postage (£18.29)			
	2419	16/05/23	30/05/23		-£155.09		
	2435	12/06/23	30/06/23	HP OfficeJet Pro 8025e Printer	-£150.00		
					-£305.09	£0.00	<b>-£305.09</b>
<b>Subscriptions</b>							
						£2,240.	
NCPF (43 clubs)				(£770 in 2022 accounts)		00	
						£1,024.	
PAGB (43 clubs)				(£352 in 2022 accounts)		00	

PAGB	2387	19/01/23	28/02/23	46 Clubs @ £32 per club	-£1,472.00	<b>£1,792.00</b>
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<b>Business Reserve Account</b>		06/01/23			£1,281.26	
		04/08/23	Interest to date		£7.80	<b>£1,289.06</b>

<b>Current Account</b>		28/07/23				<b>£20,693.76</b>
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**NCPF Accounts as at 02/06/2023**

NCPF Subscriptions	(43 clubs)		
in 2022 accounts		£770.00	
in 2023-4 accounts		£2,240.00	<b>£3,010.00</b>

	Income	Expenditure	Balance	
PAGB Subscriptions (£352 in 2022 accounts)	£1,024.00	-£1,472.00	-£96.00	(paid for 46 clubs)
Executive Committee		-£388.39	-£388.39	
NCPF Directory		-£638.78	-£638.78	
NCPF Website		-£43.20	-£43.20	
Club Championship	£118.00	-£233.96	-£115.96	
Annuals Competition		-£794.36	-£794.36	
Judges Training Day		-£404.18	-£404.18	
Beamish Event	£100.00	-£102.04	-£2.04	
PAGB Championships		-£402.72	-£402.72	
Equipment		-£305.09	-£305.09	
Equipment write off		-£171.59	-£171.59	
Total Expenditure			<b>-£3,362.31</b>	

**Bank Account Balances**

Current A/C	as at 28/07	£22,388.28
Business Reserve A/C	as at 04/08	£1,289.06
Fixed Saver A/C	to be set up	

**Competition Sub Committee report August 2023**

The last report for the Competition Sub Committee Covered the period up to June 2023.

The PAGB, the Federations, the Clubs and their individual members each have autonomy of practice.

As soon as there is cooperation which brings individuals together, there is a need to limit autonomy to facilitate a common purpose. Clubs will decide what is acceptable for activities amongst their members. Federations will decide what is acceptable for Federation activities and the PAGB will decide what is acceptable for PAGB activities.

With respect to image creation for use at any level of Club, Federation or the PAGB, many photographers and event organisers will consider using PAGB conditions, as common conditions make images suitable for any use within the PAGB community. Conditions may be specific by genre. For example, the PAGB has eligibility criteria for Monochrome (and by implication for Colour) and for Nature.

### Image Creation

Because an individual is autonomous, image creation by the individual has no limitations. Images can be created from the individual's own photographic originals or from the photographs of others or from non-photographic sources. In general, content copied for personal study does not infringe copyright. That applies whether using an identified image or using something created by an image generator.

The autonomy of the individual becomes limited as soon as there is an intention to publish the image, whether that is for use in a Club, a Federation, the PAGB, or for exhibition in a physical location or on a website. It is the responsibility of the individual to understand the difference between complete freedom in private and the limitations which apply for any publication.

### Applications in Photography

There are actions which amount to automation: processes which are reasonably clear to the user and could be done manually, even if taking a very long time. These have been around for many years, have been refined during that time, and have been considered acceptable.

- Focus stacking takes numerous individual images, collected in a particular way, and stacks the in-focus parts of each image to make a single final image with a depth of focus unattainable by practical optics.
- HDR is similar except that parts of each image are selected based on their tonal values.
- Panorama stitching is similar but with matching of image edges.

These examples are shown because there are now cameras, including phones, with processors which will perform each of these from multiple successive images, with the photographer only being presented with the final result as a single image.

Other examples of automation may be in camera or only in post-processing. The list is long and includes raw conversion, noise reduction, selections, texture effects, mono conversions and many more.

What now causes concern for Club and related uses is software which generates images or parts of images, not from processing the photographer's own originals but from or informed by libraries of images made by others. There are so many that there is a comparison website - 'The 10 Best Free AI Art Generators', implying both that there are more than ten and also that there are others available to buy. Any of these generators may claim to use copyright free images, but there is no way of checking.

There is some uncertainty as to whether image generating software creates an output image from snippets of individual images in a library, or alternatively starts from a random image which is refined by the concepts on which it has been trained. The former case uses the work of other photographers. The latter case uses the work of the software developer. But, however they work, the image produced by an image generator is not created directly by the photographer.

As the discussions about 'AI' in photography have continued (see Open Discussion below), it has become more and more apparent that using the simple phrase 'AI' is both misleading and unhelpful. Photography as an art form is artificial in the sense that it is created by a photographer. Whether certain processes used by a photographer are intelligent is irrelevant.

### The PAGB Position

Previously, PAGB practice was to limit autonomy by using a copyright restriction. The photographer had to own the copyright of the original image or, in the case of multiple contributing images, to all the images used. However, there are situations where the photographer may not own the copyright of their own image, and conversely where an image may be copyright free, or royalty free or have some other designation suggesting that the photographer can copy and use the image regardless.

Whilst accepting that image generators are causing concern, not least from those who feel their images might have been stolen for use in a generator's library, the possibility of copyright infringement by image generation is not an issue for the PAGB. The PAGB now bypasses all issues of copyright and relies solely on the principle of plagiarism. Plagiarism means passing off as your own work something which is, or includes, a contribution from others.

By relying on plagiarism, any or all images contributing to the final image must have been created by the photographer, and processed under the direct control of the photographer, whether that processing is manual such as cloning, painting, dodging, etc., or automated such as using filters or plugins. The PAGB General Conditions already exclude all images or parts of images which may have been created by others, including generator software (Box).

Images must be entirely the work of the Photographer. In composite images, all component images must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks and clipart are not permitted.

It is possible to generate an image on screen and photograph that screen. That image would be a direct copy of an image which itself is not the photographer's original and cannot be used in a way that implies it is the photographer's own work. It is no different from implying that a photograph of, say, a Van Gogh was the photographer's original art. (There is nothing inherently wrong in copying a Van Gogh painting, which a museum would do in order to offer copies – the main selling point being that they are indeed copies.)

To summarise this section, what is critically important for photography as practiced within Clubs, Federations and the PAGB is whether a final image is completely the work of the photographer or whether it contains the work of others. It is not how an image is produced, whether that does or does not include processes labelled as 'AI'.



There is a separate question of how to detect use of generated images, which is merely an extension of how to detect plagiarism of individual images. Detection is known to be difficult and will become even more so. Reliance has to be placed initially on individual respect and honesty when competing on common ground.

### **Other Organisations**

A recent FIAP document (INFO\_260\_2023\_AI) refers to copyright but also reminds entrants that all parts of the image must have been 'photographed by the author'.

The PSA Ethics Policy includes this prohibition statement: "Representing the work of others as one's own (plagiarising an image) in any circumstance, including PSA competitions or PSA recognized exhibitions."

Thus the PAGB, FIAP and PSA are independently aligned without needing to refer to 'AI'.

The RPS has issued this statement: "Images created by AI, including those made from the applicant's own files, are not accepted in any Distinction application." Given the discussion in this paper and elsewhere, is this requirement one which an applicant would be capable of interpreting or understanding, or one which an applicant would be capable of confirming?

### **Computer Generated Images (CGI)**

CGI are created entirely mathematically for use predominantly in films, games and simulators. Like images generated from image libraries or by software trained on such libraries, they have huge commercial value for particular purposes and are here to stay. Whether the resultant images are or are not photographs is again not relevant.

Consider this scenario: I am a landscape gardener/designer. I have planted out a garden for my client. Using 'AI' functions already available, I can take a photograph of the garden and then show my client how it will grow over the years to come.

Consider this scenario: I am a police officer trying to obtain a description of a suspect from a witness. I can use a starter image and distort it to approximate to the witness' description.

The value of such processes and their images is obvious. Augmenting current practice, rather than any interest in Club photography, is really why these processes have been developed.

### **Open Discussion**

There has been a lot of discussion in open forums, and those discussions have raised some valid questions.

#### *How do you define 'AI' in our context?*

(See discussion above)

#### *How does the photographer know whether 'AI' has been used?*

It seems to be agreed that generation from an external source of any significant item of image content is not acceptable.

The boundary between a processing function which has been trained but uses the photographer's image content, and one which recruits content from other images is not obvious. The average club member is unlikely to be aware of exactly how certain complex functions are performed.

Content-aware fill has been discussed as it may be either side of acceptable. If it can be accepted that Content-aware fill uses the original image, and Generative fill recruits content from elsewhere then the former would be acceptable and the latter would not.

For our purposes we may have to consider intention. If the photographer has deliberately recruited content created from the examination of images of others then that would be unacceptable. That already applies to adding a texture or changing a sky. Image generation from a prompt is an extension of that.

#### *Externally acquired images can be used in AV.*

In our APM, an AV can use whole images from other sources provided they are required for the storyline and limited in number. Such additions should be obvious and it may be appropriate to cite sources.

#### *Separate competition category for generated images?*

The photographer and not the image is the entrant to a competition/exhibition. A category for generated images would be a competition between software providers and not between photographers.

#### *How will this affect views on composite images?*

Some photographers in the PAGB community have specialised in highly complex composite images. They may need to maintain meticulous records to confirm the sources of all components of their images. Photoshop "credentials" (in development) may be of assistance but will not extend to all software packages. Might we reach a stage where actual or possible composite/creative photography is viewed with such suspicion that our judges and commentators will cease to marvel at it, and the fashion will change.

#### *How will judges assess images alleged to be 'AI'?*

Judges are asked to assess images within the context of the particular event. Whether an image meets the rules of the event is a matter for the organiser, and judges must assume that all images presented to them are eligible. If a judge has possession of an image file, perhaps in advance, then it is considered unacceptable practice for the judge to undertake any investigation regarding provenance of the image file.

#### *Asking for a RAW file is no solution.*

We are dealing with over 30,000 Club members with a wide variety of skill and practice. Plenty of them do not capture in RAW. Most phones do not. Those who do capture in RAW may not routinely retain images in that format. A single submitted image may comprise of many individual images and whatever material may be requested and examined, an investigation will be complicated and may not give a definitive answer.



# The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

## *Guidance 'Artificial Intelligence' in Photography*

### **Introduction**

This guidance amplifies the General Conditions for PAGB Events. It applies directly to all images submitted to PAGB events.

This guidance may be adopted by others including Federations and Clubs or may be modified for their own use in any way at their discretion.

### **Principles**

How an individual creates an image for their own use, and what source material is coopted for image creation, is entirely at the individual's discretion. But, when an image is submitted alongside the images of others into a competition or exhibition, then each participant needs to be assured that the other participants are using only their own original work. The PAGB sets out to give that assurance within its General Conditions (box).

Images must be entirely the work of the Photographer. In composite images, all component images must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks and clipart are not permitted.

There is a distinction between the image content, which is controlled by the General Conditions, and image processing and presentation which is at the photographer's discretion. Processing can utilise techniques such as selection, noise reduction, calculated textures, montage, HDR, focus stacking and many others. Presentation may include keylines, print paper types, print mounting and others.

Photographers who enter PAGB events with images which do not meet the General Conditions are liable to sanctions under the PAGB Breach of Rules Procedure. The Breach of Rules Procedure may also apply to other events such as those with PAGB Patronage.

### **Image Automation**

There are now many image processing methods available in camera, or in processing software or in plug-ins for such software, which have been refined or trained by their developers using the characteristics of many images. The list of methods is extremely long with examples such as face-detection focussing, raw conversion, monochrome conversion, noise reduction, focus stacking, HDR, panorama stitching and many more.

To the extent that these processes are applied only to the photographer's original image, or to all the photographer's original images in a composite, then they comply with the PAGB General Conditions.

### **Image Generation**

Banks of individual textures and skies have been available for some time and there are software systems which will overlay an imported texture or substitute a sky.

Increasingly there are image generator systems which draw on, or have been developed or trained on, content from large image banks to create new images, via a user prompt or specification.

Any importation, whether manual or automated, of all or part of a single image or of a generated image which includes or has been developed from the work of others, means that the resulting image content is not entirely the work of the photographer. The resulting image then does not comply with the PAGB General Conditions and is not permitted where those conditions apply.

### **Compliance**

It is appreciated that the individual photographer may not be fully aware of exactly how individual processing functions act, whether in-camera or in post-processing. However, the PAGB would expect photographers to be aware of when any significant addition has been made to an image which is not part of an original work by the photographer.

## **Appendix 4**

### **Northern Focus Editor Report**

Having reviewed my NCPF workload regards Competitions (PDI's) I postponed distribution of the 95<sup>th</sup> "Summer" Edition of Northern Focus, reverting to a 6 monthly publication.

With The 94<sup>th</sup> Edition distributed as "Winter 2022/23" in February 2023, the bi-Annual publication will occur once updated from any news information from this Executive meeting.

Future editions will continue c February/March and August/September most relevant date being the August/September when most of our NCPF clubs are restarting their seasons.

Thank you.  
Regards  
Alan Wilson

**REPORT OF THE DATA MANAGER TO NCPF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****30<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

1. I have been making amendments to the PAGB CES System database for the NCPF as and when new or updated information appears. Most recently entering the changes notified by the Secretary following the publication of the latest Handbook.
2. The PAGB Handbook will no longer be produced in its present printed form but will be totally reliant on the information held in the CES System. Many Federations have, like the NCPF, populated the system with the current details of clubs, judges and lecturers and are now moving towards making those listed responsible for updating their own entries. The system for doing this is easier than it was initially but may well still prove a challenge to many. The NCPF have already indicated that the latest printed Directory will be the last and it will now be important to notify all clubs, judges and lecturers that in future they must update their own information through the CES database.
3. As the new season for clubs is upon us it is perhaps the most appropriate time to issue instructions and guidance as to how updates can be made.
4. Members of the Executive are requested to consider how this can best be achieved.

**Richard Speirs****Appendix 6****PUBLICATION OFFICER'S REPORT**

After managing to retrieve the letters and forms for the Judges, Lecturer's and Club Officials to update their details for the 2023-24 Directory, I contacted John Smith in the hope that he had a copy of the actual Directory template. Fortunately, he found a word document which he emailed to me. Without this I would have been stumped so THANK YOU JOHN.

I began sending out update requests to the Club Secretary's, Judges and Lecturers in May and finally completed the Directory in early July. Richard Speirs proof read the draft and John Smith organised the printing. Unfortunately, I spotted an error with the club area lists after they had been sent for printing. After collecting the printed Directories from John, Jim and I went through them all and amended this error before packaging for posting. Apart from a small number we hand delivered around our area the last packages were sent out on the 18<sup>th</sup> August.

I have had positive feedback from everyone I have spoken to. Only one complaint from a disgruntled Lecturer has been received. I have inadvertently downgraded Sue Hingley from ARPS to LRPS. Three Judges did not respond to my emails for an update to their information. I have since been informed that Mark Petherbridge has passed away. An email will be sent to all concerned advising them of these amendments.

The total cost of printing the Directories	£255.00
The total cost of postage	£110.20
<b>Final total</b>	<b>£365.20</b>

**Margaret Welsh****Appendix 7****Webmaster's Report 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

I officially took over the NCPF website from retiring Webmaster Gerry Adcock on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The domain name "ncpf.org.uk" is currently held with Easily.uk at a cost of £7.50 per annum. I discovered that previous Executive member, Dave Coates, was still renewing the NCPF domain name as there had been issues transferring the Easily account to retiring webmaster Gerry Adcock. I have now successfully transferred the Easily account into my name as current webmaster. The domain is paid up until 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024.

The design templates for the website were with Wordpress.org. The website was rather outdated and it would have been a lengthy and complicated process to update it. As Wordpress.org is more usually used for commercial websites, it was decided to transfer the design to Wordpress.com and to start with a clean slate. The transfer cost £43.20 and this will be an ongoing annual expense. As Wordpress.com is less complicated to use any member of the Executive, with instruction, could access the site if needed to update it or add content.

The website space and NCPF email addresses are hosted by Hostpapa.co.uk at a cost of £100 per annum. The hosting is paid up until 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025, after which it may be possible to transfer the hosting to Wordpress.com for a reduced fee.

I have had to open a free Google Calendar account in the name of NCPF which I could then link to the website for the Upcoming Events section.

There have been a couple of minor issues on the site, eg a typo on one of the email addresses meant that emails were being bounced back, but I'm hoping I've now ironed out any glitches. I'm currently still working on re-creating the pages for historical competition results. Unfortunately this has been hampered by the back-up I made of the old site being corrupted and therefore unusable, so I'm having to source all the images and results from scratch.

The newly designed website went live on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Feedback has so far been positive and the site well used. In the first month, there were 145 individual visitors and 823 page views recorded.

Traffic mainly arrives at the website via searches on Google or Bing, although we also get referrals from Facebook and the Wordpress app. We currently have 20 people following the site and receiving updates via email.

*Jo Knight*  
Webmaster

**NORTHERN AREA REPORT 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

The Northern Area Interclub Competition dates for 2023-24 have been confirmed as follows:-

**Northern Area Knockout Competition** will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

The host club is Ashington CC and the judges will be Alan Porrett, Peter Maguire & Stuart Skelsey.

**Northern Area Print Competition** will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The host club is Alnwick CC and the judge is Stephen Fowler. This competition should have been hosted by Amble PG but with a lack of support by club members, the Competition Secretary has informed me that they will not be taking part in any of the Interclub Competitions this season.

**Northern Area Themed PDI Competition** will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The host club is Blyth PS and the judge is David Best.

Blyth PS will also be the hosts for the **4 Way PDI Competition** between Blyth, Cambois, Cramlington and Whitley Bay on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The judge will be David Ord.

**Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB**

**Northern Area Representative**

**NCPF Executive meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023****Discussion Document - Alan Wilson****NCPF Communication – Distribution Method and List For Consideration**

Methods of written communication to our NCPF clubs have been discussed in the past with concern that information is not always passed on to all club members at all affiliated clubs.

NCPF has also received past complaints from individual(s), no longer conducting their previous role, but who remain on live lists and receive unsolicited e-mails.

I created the attached list when originally distributing portfolios with, (I believe) 100% success of confirmation that multiple club officials had received the presentations.

To create the list, I contacted each club requesting details of which club officials should receive both written information and (via WeTransfer) the AV's themselves, all clubs replied with details of club officials, interestingly with multiple different "job titles".

The Excel List easily lends itself to distribution for "Mail Merge" for bulk sending of e-mail messages and with a bit more effort e-mail messages with attachments. All within a single e-mail "Send". Reducing workload while ensuring more than one recipient is copied.

Very Large messages (Presentations) still need to go via WeTransfer where maximum of 8 addresses may be forwarded to at any one time. Updated list remains extremely valuable to ensure correct address.

I wish to propose maintenance of this (or similar) lists with multiple recipients, which should be updated annually, via mail merge communications for clubs. Seeking update following their end of season AGM's (usually May).

**Considerations:****Data Protection Regulations**

List will be shared to NCPF Executive members who have an honest requirement for such details i.e., Hon Secretary. Hon Treasurer. Portfolio Secretary and Competitions Officers and shall not be shared out with the organisation.

**Maintainer**

Hon Secretary would be obvious choice if annual maintenance helps reduce overall workload, I would be happy to update this current and slightly out of date version if required.

Thank you.

Regards

**Alan Wilson**

**President NCPF**