



NORTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on Sunday 24th March 2024 at Clara Vale Community Centre, South View. Clara Vale, Ryton NE40 3SY commencing at 2.00pm

24SGM/01 NOTICE CALLING THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Alan Wilson, read the notice calling the Special General Meeting to order.

24SGM/02 PROPOSAL TO AMEND PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NCPF

The President read out the proposal by the Executive Committee to amend Paragraph 4 of the Constitution of the NCPF as follows:-

Line 2 of Annual General Meetings (relating to the Audited Accounts for the preceding financial year ending on 31st December) to read:- *"The Annual General Meeting (hereinafter called and AGM) shall be held in March or April, at which a report of the proceedings during the past year shall be presented, together with the Audited Accounts for the preceding financial year ending 31st March. It shall elect the Executive Committee, Honorary Auditor and appoint representatives to other bodies as may be necessary, determine the Annual Subscription Rate and transact any business as may be necessary in the furtherance of the object of the Federation"*

Rational for the Proposal

To change the NCPF accounting year to 31st March in accordance with normal fiscal year accounting, this will present a true financial report at the A.G.M.

Subsequent financial years will run from 01st April to 31st March of the following year. Previous accounts reported up to 31st December carry 3 months over to the next years account.

This was proposed by the Executive Committee and Seconded by Richard Speirs. Acceptance by those present was unanimous.

24SGM/03 The President closed the Special General Meeting at 2.05pm

Minutes of the 121st Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 24th March 2024 at Clara Vale Community Centre, South View. Clara Vale, Ryton NE40 3SY commencing at 2.0 5pm

24AGM/01 NOTICE CALLING THE 121st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Alan Wilson, read the notice calling the 121st Annual General Meeting to order.

He welcomed 14 Delegates, 2 Past Presidents and 12 members of the Retiring Executive Committee (4 of whom are also Past Presidents). 17 clubs were represented out of a total of 43.

24AGM/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Past Presidents: - Jane Black, John Cooper, Colin Hall, Bryan Gilbert, Pax Garabedian, Cliff Banks, Alan McCormick

Delegates: - Alnwick CC, Amble PG, Ashington CC, Cambois CC, Carlisle CC, Castleside PC, Chester-le-Street CC, Consett CC, Darlington AP, Gallery PG, Guisborough PG, Hartlepool CC, Hexham PS, Keswick PS, The Leica Fellowship, North Shields PS, Pen & CC, Ponteland PS, Richmond CC, Stanhope PS, Stockton CC, Stokesley PS, Washington CC, Wear Valley PC, West Cumbria PG (Disbanded),

Incommunicado: Cramlington CC

PRESENT:- PAST PRESIDENTS: - Alan Porrett, Dave Coates, John Smith, Richard Speirs, Joseph Duffy, Jim Welsh

RETIRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:- 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, Trevor Walters, John Fare

SOCIETY and CLUB DELEGATES: - 28 Delegates, representing 17 Clubs.

24AGM/03 MINUTES OF THE 120th AGM HELD ON SUNDAY 26th March 2023

Acceptance was proposed by Alan Forster and seconded by Howard Wilson and was agreed unanimously.

24AGM/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

24AGM/05 ELECTION OF NEW CLUBS TO THE FEDERATION

No nominations for new clubs have been received. Gerald Chamberlin said that West Cumbria PG had disbanded due to the poor health of their President, Tony Potter and the Secretary, David Price, moving out of the area.

24AGM/06 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE –Alan Wilson

I have been honoured to wear the chain of office as President of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation since April 2022. 24 months where many changes have occurred both large and small, the vast majority having positive benefits which continue as we go forward.

Unfortunately, there have also been negatives; we have lost some great friends including a regional icon of photography; Stan Bewick to whom Tynemouth Photographic Society and the NCPF owe a great deal for his work. We are also down on clubs. When I was inaugurated as President, we had 48 clubs and are now down to 43 with the sad likelihood that another small membership club, West Cumbria Photo Group is likely to fold.

But if you look back, you will note our NCPF Executive Officers and sub-committee teams positively driving and evolving our Federation with, for example:

- 41st International Salon with FIAP, PSA and GPU endorsement managed successfully, a new website created, and PayPal set up. Exhibition, Catalogue and medals distributed and all by a small team despite last minute personnel reduction due to illness. Loss of system software provider being the final straw that unfortunately ended our Salon presence.
- NCPF Club Championships and Annuals. Back to better than pre-Covid entry numbers by clubs. Massive effort by the team, redrafting rules plus all the supporting spreadsheets and the entry method making the system smoother and easier to not only enter, but also to interrogate for fast distribution of results. Changes to the rules encouraging new and fresh work by removing access to those "well known" images that have previously won certificates (Annuals), or work that has previously been entered (forthcoming Club Championships).

- Financial support to those clubs representing NCPF at PAGB Inter Federation Competitions with £100 per club, per competition awarded.
- Removal of bad custom and practice, where NCPF Executive provided raffle prizes from their own pocket. Prizes now purchased and receipted.
- Issue of USB hard drives or pen-drives to Committee for NCPF work, enabling better I.T. security and simple handover to people new in the role.
- Major update to how banking is conducted with E-banking and Debit cards, and as we have heard, change to Financial year accounting.
- Club Support Newsletter, a great initiative with potential options for clubs to entice and maintain membership and other useful information.
- Audio Visual presentations at best ever quality showcasing the work that has done well at Annuals Competition's as Awards and Alliance Entry and Selectors Choice Portfolio's.
- New judges trained and integrated into the system with "how to" guidance documents for clubs provided in easy-to-follow format.
- Existing Roll of Honour for NCPF holders ratified for use of the honour as post nominal letters HonNCPF.
- Northern Focus winner of two awards from PSA's Newsletter Contest.
- A wonderful new website, clean, friendly and very well maintained.
- Data Management of NCPF's PAGB Central Management System Federation Officer Approval alongside updated Publications.
- Assistance to those requesting entry into Awards for Photographic Merit.
- Competitions and Exhibition at Beamish.

If this sounds just like a list – then it is – a list of initiatives, team work and hard work. Although sometimes a challenge, we have a lot to be thankful for, a lot to be proud of and to look forward to within the NCPF, our photographic clubs and our chosen photographic hobby.

The next 2 years are in safe hands with Gerald Chamberlin as next NCPF President. As well as his role of Merit Awards Officer comes the challenge of arranging Merit Awards Workshops, with work well in hand. I wish him well.

Thank you.

Alan Wilson ARPS, AFIAP

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Alan Porrett, seconded by Dave Coates. This was agreed unanimously.

24AGM/07

TREASURER'S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR TO 18-03-24 – Jill Chamberlin

At the end of December 2022 when the accounts were last reported the NCPF had 4 accounts:

1. Current Account with Nat West bank
2. Business Reserve Account with Nat West bank
3. Fixed Interest Account with Scottish Widows
4. International Salon Account with Nat West bank

The Fixed Interest account and the International Salon account were closed by the previous Treasurer before the AGM in 2023 and the balance was transferred to the Nat West Current account.

I took over the role in April 2023. I suggested to the Executive that I would prefer to report the accounts from April to March as this would mean that Subscription payments would then be paid in one financial year rather than over two. This would also align the accounts to the Financial rather than a Calendar year. Therefore this set of accounts covers the period January 2023 to March 2024.

There are therefore two years expenses for the Club Championships and Annuals Competitions.

The Bank account has been transferred from Nat West to Lloyds Bank. This allows the Secretary and me full on line access to the NCPF accounts. We also have 2 debit cards held by the Secretary (for the North East) and myself (for the North West) so that officers have to pay fewer expenses from personal accounts. Cheques can be deposited via an app on my phone. It is also possible to set up Standing Orders, Direct Debit's and pay invoices and expenses by BACS (Bank Transfer).

The NCPF now has 3 accounts:

1. Treasurers Account (Current Account)
2. Business Savings Account (Instant access)
3. Fixed Term Savings Account - 1 year at 3.6%

I have attached a breakdown of the accounts in more detail. Although the closing balance as at March 2024 is £22,899.75 as compared to £21,733.18 in December 2022 this includes the NCPF subscriptions for 2024 of £3,010.00.

Jill Chamberlin

NCPF Treasurer

Balance as at December 2022				
Nat West Current Account	£2,466.61			
Nat West International Salon Account	£2,539.63			
Nat West Business Reserve Account	£1,281.26			
Scottish Widows Account	£15,445.68			
a	£21,733.18			
	Income	Expenditure	Balance	
2023 NCPF Subscriptions	£2,310.00		£2,310.00	(46 clubs)
(£910 in 2022 accounts)				
2023 PAGB Subscriptions	£1,056.00	£1,472.00	-£416.00	(paid for 46 clubs)
(£416 in 2022 accounts)				
Interest Business Reserve	£12.56		£12.56	A/C closed
Interest Scottish Widows	£311.46		£311.46	A/C closed
Executive Committee		£914.16	-£914.16	
NCPF Directory		£371.13	-£371.13	
NCPF Website		£43.20	-£43.20	
Club Championships				
q	12/02/2023	£118.00	£236.68	-£118.68
u	11/02/2024	£165.00	£288.87	-£123.87
Club Championship		£70.00	£328.27	-£258.27
Preparation Day				
Annals Competition				
e	22-23/04/23		£933.42	-£933.42
n	20-21/04/24		£149.00	-£149.00
Judges Training Day			£404.18	-£404.18
Beamish Event		£100.00	£102.04	-£2.04
PAGB Championships			£402.72	-£402.72
Equipment			£331.47	-£331.47
North Tyne Area Group AGM			£20.00	-£20.00
Lloyds Business Savings Interest		£10.69		£10.69
2024 NCPF Subscriptions		£3,010.00		£3,010.00
(43 clubs)				
2024 PAGB Subscriptions		£1,548.00	£1,548.00	£0.00
(paid for 43 clubs)				
Total		£8,711.71	-£7,545.14	£1,166.57
Balance as at AGM 2024				
Lloyds Treasurers Account	£3,889.06			
Lloyds Business Savings Account	£3,010.69			
Lloyds Fixed Term Savings Account	£16,000.00			
	£22,899.75			

Equipment held by the NCPF

Vote Counting Machine (Number 1) Brown Case	<2019
Vote Counting Machine (Number 2) Black box	<2019
Computer Linked Vote Counting Machine (Number 3)	<2019
Rear Projection screen	<2019
President Insignia, Gavel & Block	<2019
Competition Trophies	<2019
Brother Printer	<2019
Hitachi CP X265 Digital Projector	<2019
Optoma DH401 Digital Projector	2022
Canon Xceed Digital Projector	<2019
Pradovit Colour Projector 90 + 150mm lenses	<2019
Pradovit Colour Projector 150 + 250mm lenses	<2019
Optomis Projector Carry Bag	2022
Public Address System	<2019
Transmitter for P/A system	<2019
Maplin Speaker System	<2019
5 x DVD Copier Machine	<2019
DVD Writer Asus SDRW 08DS UOB 8 speed external	2022
Dymo Printer	<2019
Portable Hard Drive, Hub adaptor & keypad	<2019
Computer extension leads	2019
Computer leads for HP laptop	2021
Advent AHDMDV115 HDMI cables	2022
Seagate 2TB Export External Hard Drive	2022
Toshiba 1TB Portable Hard Drive	2023
Chuwi Herobook Laptop, Accessories & Cables	
USB Sticks and Portable hard drives	2022
3 Heavy duty print boxes no handles w21x17x4	2023
Projector Stand	2023
Light Box (donated from Sunderland PA)	
Toshiba Satellite Pro L850-IMJ Laptop (for scoring)	
Targus Scoring Pads x 3 + adapter + 7 port USB hub	
USB Connection Extension Cables (for use with scoring)	
Targus Carry Case	
This equipment is now obsolete and has been disposed of	
8x8 Projector Screen	<2019
Tables	<2019
Acer Ferrari 4006 WLMi Laptop	<2019
Toshiba Laptop	<2019
Laptop	<2019
Hewlett Packard 17 Laptop	2021
HP255 G6 Laptop	2022
Toshiba Senator Carry Bag	2021
Laptop Carry Bag	2022
Beamish Banner	<2019

Jill explained in detail the movement of monies over the last year. She explained that a new auditor had not been appointed in time for the A.G.M. but the Audited Accounts would be presented at the next A.G.M.

Margaret Welsh said that the obsolete laptops had been donated to a gentleman who purges the files and refurbishes them. He then gives them away free of charge to senior citizens and teaches them how to use them.

There were no questions for Jill regarding the accounts.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Jim Welsh, seconded by Alan Forster. This was agreed unanimously.

24AGM/08

REPORT – COMPETITIONS CHAIRMAN – Alan Forster

The 2023 Annuals took place at Clara Vale in April 2023. The full results of all of the individual award winners are available on the NCPF website. The Corder Trophy for the best club entry of monochrome prints was won by Keswick PS with Washington CC runners up. The Bewick Trophy for the best club entry of colour prints was won by Morton PS with Keswick PS runners up. The Myles Audas Memorial Trophy for the best club entry of projected digital images was won by Keswick PS with Workington & District CC runners up.

The 2024 Annuals will take place at Clara Vale over 20/21 April and the results will be available on the NCPF website shortly afterwards.

In the 2023 Inter Federation Print Competitions, the NCPF came 10th in the monochrome section with 183 points, 6th in the colour section with 197 points, and 11th in the nature section with 192 points. Congratulations go to Julie Walker ARPS DPAGB EFIAP EPSA of Keswick PS who was awarded a PAGB Ribbon for her nature print "Bison Foraging In Snow". It is a wonderful image, well done Julie!

The Inter Federation Club PDI Championship took place on 15th July 2023. The NCPF was represented by Keswick PS and Northallerton CC who scored 99 points and 90 points respectively. These scores were insufficient to go through to the Final Competition or win The Plate Competition, but both clubs are to be congratulated for the achievement of winning the right to compete in the Inter Federation Club PDI Competition.

The Inter Federation Club Print Championship took place on 21st October 2023. The NCPF was represented by Tynemouth PS and Saltburn PS who scored 129 points and 136 points respectively. Unfortunately these scores were insufficient to go through to the Final Competition or win The Plate Competition, but congratulations to both clubs for the achievement of competing in the Inter Federation Club competition.

The awards presentations for 2023 successfully took place on Sunday 26th November at Clara Vale.

The Club Championships for 2024 were held at Clara Vale on Sunday 11th February and were very well attended by club members with standing room only. There were 23 entries in the PDI competition and 16 entries in the Print competition. These numbers are slightly higher than last year. The PDI Competition was eventually won by Gosforth CC with Keswick PS in second place. Both clubs scored 253 points but Gosforth were awarded first place, only after 10 rounds of the tie break rule. Gosforth CC and Keswick PS will be invited to take part in the next PAGB Inter Club PDI Competition. The Print Competition was won by Keswick PS with 252 points, with Saltburn PS in second place with 248 points. Both clubs will be invited to take part in the PAGB Inter Club Print Competition. Many thanks go to all clubs who took part in the competition and congratulations to Gosforth CC, Keswick PS and Saltburn PS on their success.

During the last year, the Competition Sub Committee spent many months discussing and redrafting the rules to consolidate changes over recent years, to align with PAGB rule changes, to reflect recent developments of the impact of artificial intelligence in photography, and to make things clearer for clubs and their members. We have also spent considerable time revising the spreadsheets used behind the scenes for scoring, calculation tie breaks, sorting results, and to make entries to NCPF competitions easier for club competition secretaries. These were used for the first time in the Club Championships to great effect, and are being used in the Annuals with some further improvements. I would like to place on record my thanks to everyone who was involved in this work for all of their time and diligence.

I would also like to thank the numerous judges who have supported our competitions during the year, and everyone who gave their time to assist behind the scenes. Without all of you, the competitions simply would not happen. Thank you!

I have decided to stand down from the Competitions Sub Committee at this AGM and I would like to place on record my thanks to all other Competition Sub Committee members and NCPF Executive members for their terrific support and forbearance. There is now a vacancy on the Competition Sub Committee, and if anyone is interested in volunteering to help the NCPF and support the competitions we all enjoy taking part in, please let us know.

Alan Forster

Chair Competitions Sub Committee

Alan said that John Gilkerson had been a member of the Competitions Subcommittee for the last 20 years and has helped at every competition. After due consideration John has also taken the decision to retire from the subcommittee and we wish him well. This leaves another vacancy to fill on the team. David Brown has said that he would be interested in joining the subcommittee and will be invited to the next meeting.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Jim Welsh, seconded by Richard Speirs and agreed unanimously.

24AGM/09

REPORT – BEAMISH REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – Joseph Duffy

NCPF Beamish Weekend 2023

The Annual Beamish Exhibition took place over the weekend of May 20th – 21st 2023. 100 prints by NCPF club members from Blyth PS, Morton PS, Morpeth CC, Washington CC and Whickham PC were on display. The winning image from the Beamish Trophy Competition 2022 Lavender Bag Teamwork by Phillip Dove of Saltburn PS was also on display and Joe Sheridan of Washington CC brought along his framed prints from his BA (hons) degree course in photography and media. There was also a small display of prints in tribute to the late Bob Paris ARPS, DPAGB in honour of the work and dedication he had shown to photography for many years.

The Exhibition, now upstairs in the Masonic Hall, right in the town centre, proved to be a popular location with Beamish visitors. A total of 960 people visited the exhibition over the course of the weekend with 5 prints being sold. Congratulations to the successful authors – it is always nice when somebody likes your work so much they are willing to put their hands in their pockets and buy it.

It was nice to see familiar faces both at the exhibition and out and about at the museum enjoying their photography and (hopefully) working on entries for the Beamish Trophy Competition.

Positive comments were received from photographers and visitors alike and the venue worked well for the display.

The Beamish Exhibition provides a chance for NCPF clubs to showcase the work of their members, spread the word about the Federation and hopefully get some membership interest at the same time. Disappointingly, only clubs from the local area submitted prints for the display. **It would be nice if we could attract interest from clubs further afield for next year.**

I would like to end by saying a big THANK YOU to the volunteers, Jim & Margaret Welsh, Stephen Maddison, Lynda Golightly and Philip Duffy who manned the Exhibition over the course of the weekend, talked to the visitors and promoted our hobby. Without them things like this simply wouldn't happen.

Joseph Duffy LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB

Joseph added that the next Beamish Exhibition would be held in the Masonic Hall on 11th & 12th May 2024.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Mike Allport, seconded by Alan Porrett and agreed unanimously.

REPORT – REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PAGB – Richard Speirs

I attended the Executive Meeting on Sunday 4th February 2024 at Warwick University. The previous day I attended the opening of the Masters of Print Exhibition in Birmingham which was very well attended by successful entrants, sponsors and a good number of interested photographers. The Exhibition will visit the Northern Counties from the 18th May to the 8th June and will be displayed in Wilkinson's Cameras in Carlisle.

At the Executive meeting the Treasurer identified that the number of affiliated camera clubs has been steadily reducing over the past few years, from 961 in 2021/22 to 890 in 2023. This reflects the number of clubs which have recently closed in the NCPF. For 2025 the PAGB Treasurer is basing the budget around a membership of no more than 850 affiliated clubs. To help address the shortfall in fees the Executive agreed to an increase from the current £36 to £39 for 2025, subject to this being approved at the AGM in April.

The eligibility of clubs to use work in PAGB competitions from members outside their Federation, the Keswick Question, was discussed in detail. Many delegates believe that using work from members outside of a club's Federation prejudiced other members. The meeting agreed that in future only work from members within a club's Federation could be used for any PAGB competition. The only exceptions being for previous long term members of a club who had moved out of the area but had continued their membership and participation in the club. It was further agreed that a "special exceptions" form would be produced enabling a club to put a case to the PAGB for having work from an out of Federation member.

Fees for Zoom judging were raised by several delegates who felt that several clubs were taking advantage to use judges for no cost. Agreement was reached that "reasonable costs" up to a maximum of £15 could be charged, as happens within the L&CPU. Any other charges, donations etc. requested by judge a for Zoom events would need to be agreed with a club by prior contract.

I raised the question of Federations continuing to produce hard copy directories of judges and lecturers now that the CES system was more fully developed. The response was that the majority had or were stopping printed directories in favour of the national system. Some Federations have been using online only Directories for nearly 10 years. In recognition of its more comprehensive facilities the CES will in future be known as the CMS, Central Management System.

At a meeting of the NCPF Executive on the 20th February 2024 it was agreed that the current NCPF Directory would be the last hard copy version. In future all information will be held in the PAGB CMS system and it will be the responsibility of clubs, judges and lecturers to maintain their own details. Guidance for this is currently being finalised.

The Awards for Photographic Merit are still popular, especially with the introduction of 2 new categories, Badge and Excellence, which are currently only for print entrants. The April 2024 adjudication is being hosted by the Southern Counties Federation in Basingstoke. The November event should have been taking place in the Welsh Federation however they were unable to find a suitable venue. Arrangements are now being finalised for the L&CPU to host the event at a school near Wigan.

The venue for the Inter Club PDI Championship on 21st July will not be held at Warwick University due to escalating costs. The location will still be Warwick but at a large school instead. Full details will be available nearer the time.

The Inter Club Print Championship will take place on Saturday 19th October at the Croston Theatre of Westholme School Blackburn. I will be attending the PAGB AGM on the 13th April.

Richard Speirs DPAGB Hon PAGB Hon NCPF

Questions were raised about the CMS System. Richard said that he would address these after his Data Manager's report. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Phillip Dove, seconded by David Brown. This was agreed unanimously.

REPORT – EDITOR OF "NORTHERN FOCUS" – Alan Wilson

The 95th Edition of "Northern Focus" should by now be in your "in box" distributed as "Spring 2024" with another mix of interesting PAGB/Federation/Club and Individual stories and opinions.

The September Edition was missed out following a schoolboy error on my part, where the virtually complete edition and supporting files were lost in an I.T issue. Despite encouragement from Committee catchup proving too difficult.

Summer Edition- 96th Edition

Looking to the next Edition, due distribution early September I politely request any photographic related images and stories from Area's from Club's and of personal stories.

Next Northern Focus Editor

Should any member wish to volunteer for the Northern Focus Editor role (or even a sub-Editor role), I would be very willing to hand over and provide training and support.

Alan Wilson

NCPF Northern Focus Editor

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Peter Annable, seconded by Phillip Dunn. This was agreed unanimously

REPORT – JUDGES SUB-COMMITTEE – Jim Welsh

The current Judges' Subcommittee consists of Jim Welsh (Chair), Stephen Fowler (Secretary), Alan Wilson (NCPF President), Bill Broadley, Gerald Chamberlin, George Ledger, Keith Snell, Arjun Nambiar, John Fare and Lynda Golightly. We have continued to hold our Subcommittee meetings on zoom which gives us a much wider range of choice when replacing members who have completed their 7 year tenure.

After another successful Judges Refresher and Recruitment day was held at Clara Vale, Ryton on 2nd April 2023, 7 new judges were accepted and added to the 'C' List of the NCPF Directory. The selection of judges for the 2024 Club Championships and Annuals Competitions were made by the Subcommittee in September 2023. The Championships were held in February 2024 and the Annuals are due to be held in April 2024. The selection of Judges for the 2025 Championships and Annuals Competitions was made at the meeting held on 4th February 2024 and ratified by the Executive on 20th February 2024.

Feedback from Clubs and Judges using the Judges Comment Form is still the best way to inform the Judges Subcommittee of any complaints or compliments you would like addressed. The form can be found on the NCPF website under the 'Clubs' heading – 'Judges Feedback'. Judges should also use this form to report any issues (or compliments) they may have when visiting clubs. Please consider using this form as your feedback is essential to the committee when considering judges promotions.

Some members of the Subcommittee will be retiring just after this A.G.M. having served their 7 years tenure. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Stephen Fowler, who is currently the Secretary of the Subcommittee, and George Ledger, whose tenure is complete in June, for their service and valued input at our meetings and Recruitment days. Lynda Golightly has kindly agreed to take over as Secretary and my thanks go to her for stepping in to this role.

In 2019 my 7 years as a member of the Judges Subcommittee came to an end. At that time I was about to take over as NCPF President. As the retiring President did not want to take on the role as Chairman of the Judges, I stepped in and I have continued in this role for the last 4 years. After nearly 12 years serving on this subcommittee I have also decided to step down but I am pleased to say that an excellent successor has been nominated to take over.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those members on the Judges' List for the excellent work done by them in providing a valuable service to our member clubs. Over the last year we have lost several good judges through retirement and personal circumstances. Our thanks go to those who have left the list. I would especially like to thank the members of the Subcommittee for their help and support over the last 4 years as Chairman and I'm sure my successor will be given the same help and support during his service.

Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB, HonNCPF
Chair, Judges Subcommittee

Jim was thanked by the President for his excellent service as the Judges Subcommittee Chairman.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Joseph Duffy, seconded by Philip Dunn. This was agreed unanimously.

24AGM/13

REPORT – DATA MANAGER – Richard Speirs

As Reported in the PAGB Representative Report the NCPF will no longer be producing a hard copy Directory. In future all information will be held in the PAGB CMS system and it will be the responsibility of clubs, judges and lecturers to maintain their own details. Guidance for this is currently being finalised.

Once completed the guidance will be circulated to all clubs, judges and lecturers and will be available on the NCPF Website. The prime advantage of this move is that it will enable any club to search all judges and lecturers throughout the PAGB and not just within the Northern Counties Federation. Likewise details of every club in the PAGB will be available together with many of the services offered through the PAGB.

Richard Speirs DPAGB Hon PAGB Hon NCPF
NCPF Data Manager

Richard was asked a number of question from the floor regarding the CMS System. He outlined the details in his report. The decision by the NCPF to discontinue the publication of the Directory was taken after consultation with 14 other Federation Representatives who said that their respective Federations had already ceased to produce a written directory. Richard emphasised that all Cubs, Judges and Lecturer's would now be responsible for updating their details on the CMS system. He said that he is working on guidelines and once they are completed they will be sent out to all Club Secretaries, Judges and Lecturer's.

Alan Porrett asked how to change lecturer details. Richard said that every Judge, Lecturer and Club Data Manager would have to register on the system and be approved before they could make any changes.

Further questions were asked regarding the removal of entries and how to change Club details etc. After explaining in detail Richard said that all of this information will be covered in the guidelines documentation. Howard Wilson asked if the judges and lecturer's lists would be accessible. Richard said that these could be accessed without registration and it would be possible to print off a list of judges and lecturer's if necessary.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Howard Wilson, seconded by Mike Allport. This was agreed unanimously

24AGM/14

REPORT – PORTFOLIO SECRETARY – Phillip Dove

Having taken on this role for the first time, I was able to draw on the experience of others.

The resulting Awards and Alliance Av's were produced in a similar format to previous years with some minor alterations to the format.

I am grateful for the contribution from the portfolio selectors. Their comments on the selected images gives an added dimension to the presentations.

I expect to be able to continue in a similar vein for future editions, and anticipate that the newly introduced naming system for images will make the task easier. This will mean that once again the AV's will be able to be distributed to all clubs, without cost, in time for their new season.

Phillip Dove CPAGB, LRPS
NCPF Portfolio Secretary

Phillip was thanked by the President for the excellent job he had done in producing the Portfolios. This was agreed by those present.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Dave Coates, seconded by Peter Annable. This was agreed unanimously.

24AGM/15

REPORT – MERIT AWARDS OFFICER – Gerald Chamberlin

Over the past year I've had a steady number of NCPF club members contacting me on how to go about applying for their PAGB APM (Awards for Photographic Merit).

All enquiries receive an informal/chat phone call for me about the awards before they receive by email all the application and information forms.

For the November 2023 adjudication the PAGB have added 2 new awards that club members can apply for which take the number of awards available to 5. The two new awards only apply to prints at the moment but it is hoped to apply them to PDI's in the future.

BPAGB — Badge (new) only 7 prints are need for this award, lower pass mark than the CPAGB.

CPAGB — Credit 10 images, print or PDI

DPAGB — Distinction 15 images or PDI

EPAGB — Excellent (new) 15 prints but needs a higher pass mark than a DPAGB.

MPAGB — Masters 20 images prints or PDI

Several people were entered for the November adjudication both in prints and PDI's with some applying for their CPAGB and some for DPAGB.

Our congratulations must go to:

Jane Morris-Abson from Richmond CC for gaining her DPAGB in PDI's and to

Simon Roberts form Keswick PS for gaining his DPAGB in prints.

To date 2 people are in for their awards in the coming adjudication in April 2024.

Good luck to the two in April.

In the next 2 years a lot is to happen regarding the NCPF and APM which I will go into in more detail later in this AGM.

Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP
NCPF Awards Officer

Gerald was asked a number of questions relating to the awards. Howard Wilson asked if the new badges were going to be permanent. Gerald said that yes they were. Alan Forster then asked if anyone wished to go in for their DPAGB before attaining their CPAGB would this be possible. Gerald said that this was possible but recommended that they start with the 'C' first, or even Apply for the BPAGB. The President thanked Gerald for explaining in detail the new criteria.

Acceptance of the reports was proposed by John Fare, seconded by Howard Wilson. This was agreed unanimously

REPORT – CLUB SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT – John Smith

The above sub-committee has now completed its first full year in its role in trying to deal with matters most affecting clubs, especially since the end of Covid restrictions. The sub-committee has looked into various ways and means in helping clubs in and on behalf of the NCPF. It has been a year of progress in this matter with the sub-committee looking at and discussing those various matters which might enhance NCPF Clubs with the view to encourage new members to join clubs. In taking onboard those suggestions made it is hoped, that in applying them, clubs might be helped in lifting their syllabus without adding to their costs that they might ordinarily incur in the planning stages. This has been done to varying degrees by suggesting ways of including subjects as outlined in the News Letters sent out to the clubs during the year.

A great deal of the sub-committee's time since the commencement of its set up has been discussing and formulating ideas and how to reach all the clubs and members within the Federation. To do this we have had to look at ways and means of what the clubs expected from the Northern Counties Photographic Federation, no mean task I might add. At this particular time the way forward was to inform clubs via a Newsletter as mentioned above. It was thought that this might be a way of distributing information and helpful suggestions as well as glean ideas from the clubs and members who have successfully done something that has proved a success in reaching out to members and new members. We want to hear from you all on this so that we can pass this on to others. The sub-committee's desire is to spread good and helpful news to all clubs in the Federation so that numbers increase. The Newsletter's, three at the moment, have had advice concerning Club Banking, much on the minds of clubs at this particular time, and we thank the Treasurer for giving us something to think about in dealing with this item. Another suggestion has been raised concerning the use of the PAGB Recorded Lecture Service which is something to think about when ideas get a little bit hard to come by. All I can say is that we hope that you investigate and use the advice given and let us know your feelings on this matter. All I can say is **"please help us"**.

I do hope that we have had some input to the clubs within the NCPF but please let us know. We haven't given up and as long as the NCPF is here so are we. The sub-committee members have enjoyed looking into ways and means to help the clubs and out there someone has an idea that may provoke us to act and help.

One thing I would like to say is thanks to the sub-committee members for their time and effort, it is a privilege to know them and I hope you think so too. Thanks to Jo Knight in joining us and producing a website that has helped so much in what we do and I would ask that you and everyone you know in your clubs subscribe to it and avail themselves of the up-to-date information that comes along. Finally, I would like to thank Alan Forster who has been a stalwart and great enthusiast on the committee and is now retiring from this committee at this AGM. We thank him for all his work and input. You will be missed.

"What Next?" This is a good question. This is also an opportunity for all the clubs of the NCPF to have an input. **Let us know please.**

**John Smith EFIAP, PPSA, APAGB
CSD Chair**

John asked for input from all clubs with suggestions and ideas that they had used in the past to recruit new members. All information would be discussed at the CSD meetings. The President said that a lot of useful information and helpful guidance had been sent out to the clubs since the forming of the CSD subcommittee. He thanked them for their ongoing support to the clubs.

Acceptance of the reports was proposed by Gerald Chamberlin, seconded by Peter Annable. This was agreed unanimously

REPORT – WEBMASTER – Jo Knight

At the 120th AGM in March 2023 it was reported that webmaster Gerry Adcock had previously tendered his resignation and I subsequently took over the role in June 2023. The NCPF Executive wishes to express its thanks to Gerry for all his hard work over the years, not only in respect to the website but also in the digital organization of NCPF competitions.

I re-vamped the website and added new features, one of which is the ability to subscribe to the site so that new posts are delivered straight to members' email inboxes. This means that all individual members of the Federation's clubs have the ability to be kept up to date with news from the NCPF if they so choose.

A section was added to offer advice and information from the new Club Support & Development Group, and updated guidance in respect to the rules and procedures governing the Annuals Competition and Club Championship made available.

The NCPF regularly receives requests to advertise non-PAGB photography events, so a new section has now been added to the website with a Calendar detailing events such as the Photography & Video Show, as well as talks, competitions and exhibitions local to the north of England.

The updated website is well used. 41 news items have been posted on our front page by a variety of authors and since its launch in June 2023 we have had over 2,700 visitors from 36 countries and nearly 12,000 individual page views of our website. As webmaster, I also regularly receive requests for advice, help and information via the site's Contact Form.

**Jo Knight
Webmaster**

In Jo's absence her report was read out by Margaret Welsh. It was agreed by all present that she has done an excellent job with the website and brought it into the 21st century. Alan Wilson thanked Jo for all of the work she has done and is continuing to do.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Dave Coates, seconded by Richard Speirs. This was agreed unanimously.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Jill said that there would be no change to the NCPF subscriptions for next year. Any increase to the PAGB subscription will be passed on to the Club Treasurer's in due course.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Dave Coates, seconded by Jim Welsh. This was agreed unanimously

NCPF ROLL OF HONOUR

Margaret Welsh said that there were no nominations proposed for this year.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

There were no nominations for the Award for Meritorious Service.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISTINCTIONS/AWARDS

Distinctions/Awards have been received by the following members:-

APAGB	David Stephenson	Workington & Dist. CC
CPAGB	Timothy Cossins	Saltburn PS
DPAGB	Jane Morris-Abson	Richmond CC
	Simon Roberts	Keswick PS
Hon.FIAP	David Coates	Northallerton CC
EFIAP/b	David Brown	Gosforth CC
MPSA	Keith Snell	Keswick PS

Congratulations were given to everyone who had received distinctions.

The President, Alan Wilson, took to the floor to read through a very distinguished career report in photography and outlined an in-depth history of photographic achievements gained by one of our respected and long standing members of the NCPF. After reading through the citation he asked Dave Coates to join him. He then said that it gave him great pleasure to bestow upon Dave the prestigious award of Honorary Life Vice President of the NCPF. This award has only been handed out twice previously and can only be issued to two qualifying members at a time. Not known to be speechless, all Dave could say was 'THANK YOU' to the Executive for awarding him the honour. Everyone agreed it was a well deserved.

24AGM/22

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING EXECUTIVE

Jim Welsh said it was a very great pleasure to give the vote of thanks.

He continued by saying that a number of changes had taken place since the last A.G.M., especially with the NCPF Competitions. He personally thanked Alan Forster, Alan Wilson, Phillip Dove and Alan Parker, who between them have revamped the whole competitions structure. He then thanked the other members of the Competitions Subcommittee who work quietly in the background ensuring things run smoothly. Alan Forster, who is retiring as Competitions Chairman, was personally thanked for all of the work he has put in during his term as Competitions Chairman.

At the last A.G.M. we appointed a new Treasurer and Webmaster. Jill Chamberlin has streamlined the banking system and brought it up to date and Jo Knight has totally transformed the NCPF website. He thanked them both for their exceptional work.

He thanked Alan Wilson for his service as President over the last 2 years and looked forward to his continued support as Past President of the NCPF.

The remaining Executive team were thanked for the exceptional work they had done since the last A.G.M. and all of the Subcommittee members for the work they do on behalf of the NCPF. Let's not forget that each and every one of them gives their time freely to keep the Federation running.

He asked those present to show their appreciation with a round of applause for the huge amount of work that continues to be done to keep the Federation going. Jim was thanked by the President for his kind words.

24AGM/23

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND AUDITOR

Margaret Welsh said that there was a vacancy for the Competitions Committee Chair as Alan Forster was stepping down from the role. A nomination to the Executive had been received for Linda McGregor of Tynemouth PS. This was proposed by Howard Wilson and seconded by Alan Forster. This was agreed unanimously by the attending delegates.

The nominations for the role of President, Vice President, Past President, General Secretary and Hon. Treasurer were all proposed by the Executive. A seconder only was required for these roles. An en-bloc proposer and seconder were required for the remaining Executive positions. The positions of Area Representatives were proposed by the respective clubs in each area. A seconder was required for these positions. Joseph Duffy was stepping down as the South Tyne Area Representative and a nomination had been received for Glen Lawson of Gateshead CC to take over this role. The nomination had been approved by the South Tyne Clubs. This was proposed by Margaret Welsh and seconded by Jim Welsh and agreed unanimously by the attending delegates. The positions of Non-Executive Archivist and Equipment Caretaker only required a vote of either For or Against by the attending delegates.

The following Officers were confirmed for 2022/2023

POSITION	NOMINEE	PROPOSED	SECONDED	FOR	AGAINST
President	Gerald Chamberlin	Executive Committee	Dave Coates	Unanimous	
Vice President	Phillip Dove	Executive Committee	Dave Coates	Unanimous	
Past President	Alan Wilson	Executive Committee	Dave Coates	Unanimous	
General Secretary	Margaret Welsh	Executive Committee	Dave Coates	Unanimous	
Hon. Treasurer	Jill Chamberlin	Executive Committee	Dave Coates	Unanimous	
Judges Committee Chair	Richard Speirs	Jim Welsh	John Smith	Unanimous	
Data Manager	Richard Speirs	Jim Welsh	John Smith	Unanimous	
PAGB Representative	Richard Speirs	Jim Welsh	John Smith	Unanimous	
Competitions Officer - Prints	Alan Wilson	Mike Allport	Philip Dunn	Unanimous	
Competitions Officer - PDI	Alan Wilson	Mike Allport	Philip Dunn	Unanimous	
Club Championship Officer	Alan Wilson	Mike Allport	Philip Dunn	Unanimous	
Competitions Committee Chair	Linda McGregor	Howard Wilson	Alan Forster	Unanimous	
Northern Focus Editor	Alan Wilson	Jim Welsh	Richard Speirs	Unanimous	
Portfolio Secretary	Phillip Dove	Jim Welsh	Alan Forster	Unanimous	
Club Support & Development Chair	John Smith	Alan Forster	Peter Annable	Unanimous	
Beamish Representative	Joseph Duffy	Alan Porrett	Alan Forster	Unanimous	
Webmaster	Jo Knight	Dave Coates	Gerald Chamberlin		
Merit Awards Officer	Gerald Chamberlin	Richard Speirs	Linda McGregor	Unanimous	
Elected Member 1	Alan Forster	Linda McGregor	Gerald Chamberlin	Unanimous	
Elected Member 2	John Fare	Richard Speirs	Phillip Dove	Unanimous	
Elected Member 3					
POSITION	NOMINEE	PROPOSED	SECONDED	FOR	AGAINST
Northern Area Representative	Jim Welsh	Northern Area Committee	Alan Forster	Unopposed	
North Tyne Area Representative	David Brown	North Tyne Area Committee	Alan Forster	Unopposed	
South Tyne Area Representative	Glen Lawson	South Tyne Area Committee	Alan Forster	Unopposed	
Southern Area Representative	Phillip Dove	Southern Area Committee	Alan Forster	Unopposed	
Wear Area Representative	Debra Taylor	Wear Area Committee	Alan Forster	Unopposed	
Western Area Representative	Gerald Chamberlin	Western Area Committee	Alan Forster	Unopposed	
Non Executive Posts					
Non-Executive Archivists	Margaret & Jim Welsh			Unanimous	
Non-Executive Caretaker	Howard Wilson			Unanimous	
Hon. Auditor	David Mitchell			Unanimous	

There being no further candidates for office the above were ratified and duly elected.

At this point in the proceedings the Retiring President, Alan Wilson handed over the Chain of Office to the Incoming President, Gerald Chamberlin. Gerald then presented Alan with his Past President's Badge. Gerald then took over the proceeding's.

24AGM/24

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BEAMISH WEEKEND – 11th & 12th May 2024. Prints will be needed for display. Contact Joseph Duffy

ANNUALS – 20th & 21st April 2024 to be held at Clara Vale.

Print boxes can be collected until 5pm on Sunday. Volunteers who would like to help should contact Margaret.

PHOTO EXHIBITION – Alan Wilson announced that Whickham PG have the opportunity to hold a Photographic Exhibition in St. Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne between 15th July & 18th August 2024. He invited other clubs in the Federation to submit a selection of their prints and PDI's to display during this time. Those interested should contact him. A flyer will be sent out to all clubs in due course requesting participation.

APM WORKSHOP – 12th May 2024 to be held at Clara Vale. Gerald Chamberlin will be holding a workshop for those members who are interested in applying for a PAGB Merit Award. All those interested should contact Gerald for further details. A further APM Workshop will be organised in April 2025 and held in the West. The Awards for Photographic Merit will be hosted by the NCPF in April 2026 at Caldew Academy, Carlisle. Further details will be given nearer the date.

MASTERS OF PRINT EXHIBITION – 20th May – 08th June 2024 will be on display at Wilkinson's, Carlisle.

NCPF PRESENTATION EVENT – Sunday 17th November 2024 at Clara Vale. Gerald Chamberlin said that last year we acquired the Masters of Print Exhibition to display during the event but unfortunately we aren't able to show it this year. He said he was working on accessing another exhibition instead.

24AGM/25

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alan Judd from Ryton CC requested that the rules and hand-in deadlines for the NCPF competitions could be determined and circulated to all clubs before the start of each season. Alan Forster said that this would be added to the Agenda for discussion at the next Competitions Subcommittee meeting.

Peter Annable said he was having difficulty buying a licence to download a talk from the PAGB website. Richard Speirs said that if he was registered there shouldn't be a problem but said that he would look into it for him.

Howard Wilson asked at what point in the proceedings were death notices announced. He asked if recognition could be given to the death of Keith Hildreth earlier in the year who was a long standing member of Tynemouth PS and retired judge and lecturer. This was duly recorded.

The retirement from the Executive of long standing member, Trevor Walters was also recorded. Trevor has resigned from the Executive Committee through ill health. We would like to wish him well in his recovery.

As reported earlier by Gerald Chamberlin, West Cumbria PG has disbanded. This was a small club headed by Tony Potter who has resigned due to poor health and no one else is able to take over. Gerald recorded his thanks and those of the Executive Committee, to Tony for all of the work he has done over the years.

24AGM/26

VOTES OF THANKS BY THE PRESIDENT

The President, Gerald Chamberlin thanked everyone present for turning up and supporting the event. He asked those delegates present to encourage their club members to attend the forthcoming events that have been recorded at this meeting. He said that he would be happy to hear from anyone who may be interested in applying for a PAGB distinction. Further information regarding the entry process can be received by emailing him.

He then thanked everyone for coming and wished them all a safe journey home.

24AGM/27

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The President declared the meeting closed at 4.10pm

Signed

Date