



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 Monday 17th February 2025 at Clara Vale.

The President, Gerald Chamberlin, opened the meeting at 7.25pm and welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

Present: - Gerald Chamberlin, Phillip Dove, Alan Wilson, Jim Welsh, Margaret Welsh, Jill Chamberlin, Richard Speirs, John Fare, Glen Lawson, Alan Forster

25/02/01 Apologies for Absence: - Dave Coates, Joseph Duffy, Jo Knight, Debra Taylor, John Smith
Incommunicado: - David Brown

25/02/02 The minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2025 were approved and signed by the President.
Proposed by Phillip Dove – Seconded by Glen Lawson

25/02/03 Matters arising
There were no matters arising.

25/02/04 Correspondence
Margaret said that she had received an email from Alan Wilson regarding the 100th birthday of Roy Elwood of Whickham PC. He is requesting that the NCPF Executive send him a birthday card to celebrate this milestone. This was unanimously agreed. Alan said he would organise a card and bring it to the A.G.M. to be signed by the committee.

25/02/05 Treasurer – Jill Chamberlin **Appendix 1a/b**
Jill read through her report outlining payments and receipts. She said that Margaret, Jim and Gerald had cleared out the obsolete equipment from the storage at Tynemouth.
Report accepted and attached.

25/02/06 Reports

25/02/06-1 Competitions Chairman – John Fare **Appendix 2**
John read through his report. He outlined the entries for the forthcoming Club Championships stating that entries for both prints and PDI's have increased. A discussion regarding the judges at the Annuals receiving awards took place. It was pointed out that a judge last year received an award. Jim said that if judges are excluded from entering the competitions and being eligible for awards they will refuse to judge. The rules state that if a judge's image is shown, they will indicate that it is theirs and an average of the other two judge's scores will be taken. The particular judge in question was brought in at the last minute as a replacement judge. It was suggested by Richard Speirs that an addition to the rules should state that *'if a judge has an image selected for an award they should take no part in the selection processes'*. This was agreed and will be added to the competition rules as well as the Judges Information.
Margaret said she would contact David Brown regarding the return of the North Tyne trophies.
Report accepted and attached.

25/02/06-2 Representative to PAGB – Richard Speirs **Appendix 3**
Richard outlined his report. He said that the number of clubs registered with the PAGB is 861. This is down by 31 clubs. This may increase the PAGB fees. Richard said that the PAGB are looking at producing guidance for the Online Safety Act 2023. The hosting of the PAGB Inter-Fed Competitions was discussed. Richard asked if we as a Federation would like to host it. The answer was complete silence which was interpreted as 'no'.
Glen Lawson asked if a judge's postcode could be added to their entries on the CMS System. This would help to identify the area they come from when looking to book. Richard said that if a mileage limit is entered when searching for a judge this would give searches within the selected area. He said that he would bring this up at the next PAGB meeting.
This was accepted and attached.

25/02/06-3 Merit Awards Officer – Gerald Chamberlin **Appendix 4**
Gerald read through his report. He said that the zoom link for the APM adjudication is on the front page of the PAGB website. The second APM Workshop will be held at Dalston on 11th May 2025. Posters are available. Margaret will send it out to the club secretaries. Report accepted and attached.

25/02/06-4 Editor Northern Focus – Alan Wilson **Appendix 5**
Alan read through his report. To date, no one has come forward to take over the role of Northern Focus editor. Alan said that he would be happy to continue in the role until someone comes forward. This will be advertised on the website again.
Report accepted and attached.

25/02/06-5 Judges Sub Committee – Richard Speirs **Appendix 6**
Richard outlined the contents of his report. An agenda and flyer for the forthcoming Judges Seminar on 30th March will be published on the website. The next JSC meeting is scheduled for Sunday 02nd March 2025.
Report accepted and attached.

25/02/06-6 Data Manager – Richard Speirs **Appendix 7**
Richard read through his report. He said the issue with the mileage problem had been resolved. It was down to a typing error in the judges entry. Report accepted and attached.

25/02/06-7 Portfolio Secretary – Phillip Dove

Phillip read through his report. The system used for the Championships will also be used for the Annuals. This makes the whole process easier. He said that as suggested last time he has added some Royalty Free music to some of the images.
Report accepted and attached.

Appendix 8

25/02/06-8 Beamish Representative – Joseph Duffy

No Report. This will be removed after the A.G.M. as it will be taken over by the Competitions Subcommittee next year.

25/02/06-9 Club Support & Development – John Smith

No Report.

25/02/06-10 Webmaster – Jo Knight

No Report.

25/02/07 Area Reports

25/02/07-1 Northern – Jim Welsh

Appendix 9

Jim read through his report. He said that the Northern Area AGM was held on Sunday 16th February. He said that the members were complaining about the lack of response from judges. They said that the majority don't even respond to emails. Jim suggested that they attend the Judges Seminar with the possibility of becoming a judge. No takers came forward. He explained the problems that took place at the Northern Area Knockout Competition hosted by Wooler CC. After a discussion at the A.G.M. it was decided that this competition would be abandoned and replaced with an Open PDI Competition. All club officials agreed. This will be competed for next season. Report accepted and attached.

25/02/07-2 North Tyne – David Brown

No report.

25/02/07-3 South Tyne – Glen Lawson

Appendix 10

Glen read through his short report.

25/02/07-4 Southern – Phillip Dove

No Report.

25/02/07-5 Wear Area – Debra Taylor

Appendix 11

Debra's report was read. She will be stepping down as the Wear Area Representative at the A.G.M. It was agreed that Debra had done an excellent job as area rep. and everyone sent her their best wishes for the future. A thank you card will be sent from the Executive. Report accepted and attached.

25/02/07-6 Western – Gerald Chamberlin

Appendix 12

Gerald read through his report. Dalston will be hosting an event with Leigh Preston as the speaker in the afternoon of 04th October 2025. They will also be hosting an exhibition to celebrate their 60th Anniversary in the morning of the 04th October. Report accepted and attached.

25/02/08 Any Other Business

Gerald said that he went through the equipment that had been removed from the storage at Tynemouth. The back projection screen had totally perished and had to be disposed of along with the majority of the other equipment which was either unusable or obsolete. A number of digital keypads were also found. Gerald will test them and use if necessary.

Margaret said that she had sent out invitation for the A.G.M. to the Past Presidents, Executive members and the Club Secretaries. Four Past Presidents replied immediately. No response from clubs so far. Colin Hall's invitation will be sent by post as both of his email addresses bounced back. All organisation for this event is in hand.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Future Meeting Dates: Tuesday 19th August 2025 - Clara Vale - 7.20pm (confirmed by Clara Vale)

Monday 13th October 2025 - Zoom - 7.00pm

Wednesday 03rd December 2025 - Zoom - 7.00pm

Monday 16th February 2026 - Clara Vale - 7.30pm (confirmed by Clara Vale)

Sunday 29th March 2026 - A.G.M. - Clara Vale - 2.00pm (confirmed by Clara Vale)

Northern Counties Photographic Federation

Finance report

13February 2025

Expenditure

- The monthly printer ink contract £11.99
- PAGB subscriptions for 42 clubs @ £39.00 per club £1,638.00
- We received a refund of £7.81 from Amazon for the new laptop
- Clara Vale Exec meeting £21.00
- Clara Vale Club Championships £195.00

To date we are overspent £854.70 this year on the subscriptions we have received from Clubs for 2024-25. Full details are shown on the Accounts spreadsheet. This is despite using the interest of £579.16 from the Fixed Term Savings account.

All 42 clubs have now paid their NCPF and PAGB subscriptions. The PAGB have been paid their share.

The equipment store at Tynemouth has now been sorted, and the obsolete equipment has been disposed of. Thank you to Margaret, Jim and Gerald. The equipment list on the Finance spreadsheet has been updated.

Current Account

Balance at AGM	£3,889.06
Expenditure	-£3,685.30
NCPF 2025 subs	<u>£2,940.00</u>
Current balance	£3,143.76

Instant Access Savings Account

Balance at AGM	£3,010.69
Interest	<u>£34.58</u>
Current Balance	£3,045.27

Fixed Term Savings Account £16,000.00 matures 04.11.2025 2.75%

estimated interest £440.00

Jill Chamberlin

NCPF Treasurer

NCPF Accounts as at

13/02/2025

	Income	Expenditure	Balance	
2024 NCPF Subscriptions	£3,010.00		£3,010.00	(43 clubs)
PAGB Subscriptions	£1638.00	£1638.00	£0.00	
Executive Committee	£627.36	£667.03	-£39.67	
NCPF Website		£51.46	-£51.46	
Club Championship 2024 Presentation Day	£57.00	£351.25	-£294.25	
Club Championship 2025	£0.00	£195.00	-£195.00	
Annuals Competition 20-21/04/24		£1,236.02	-£1,236.02	
Beamish Print Exhibition	£75.00	£63.75	£11.25	
PAGB Championships		£400.00	-£400.00	
PAGB Awards Assessment 12/05/2024		£321.90	-£321.90	
Newcastle Cathedral Exhibition		£50.00	-£50.00	
Equipment		£1,116.06	-£1,116.06	
Total Expenditure			-£3,693.11	
Equipment depreciation (Value w/off over 4 years)		£171.59	-£171.59	

Balance of 2024-25 subscriptions + interest	-£854.70
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Lloyds Bank Account Balances

Treasurers A/C	AGM	18/03/2024	£3,889.06
	Expenditure		-£3,685.30
	2025-26		£2940.00
	Balance	13/02/2025	£3143.76
Business Savings A/C			£3,010.69
Interest			£34.58
		13/02/2025	£3,045.27
Fixed Term Savings A/C		04/11/2025	£16,000.00

Lloyds Bank Account Balances AGM 2024

Treasurers A/C	2023-24	18/03/2024	£879.06
Subs for	2024-25	18/03/2024	£3,010.00
			£3,889.06
Business Savings A/C		18/03/2024	£3,000.00
Interest			£10.69
Fixed Term Savings A/C		18/03/2024	£16,000.00

The last meeting of the Competition sub-committee was held on 27th January with the next meeting due on 3rd March.

At the meeting of 27th January the arrangements for the NCPF Club Championships were confirmed.

The number of clubs entering the Club Championship Competitions this year is 22 for the Print competition and 31 for the PDI competition. Last year there were 16 entries for the Print competition and 23 Entries for the PDI competition.

In the main, the Competition Secretaries have submitted their entries in the required format. There have been a few with minor typos and an odd oversized image, but these have been taken care of quite easily. We are very grateful that most have read the rules carefully and adapted to the new system well.

There have, however, been a few that have been quite creative when it came to the naming format. Phil has resolved most of the issues along the way with only a few occasions when it has been necessary to refer back to the clubs for their assistance.

Chester le Street have been unable to submit a complete entry in both Print and PDI and Durham have only submitted 18 in their print entry. Although this means that the Clubs would have little chance of winning the competition I have allowed the entries to go forward so that the individual entries receive a score. Durham has been given the opportunity to submit 2 additional entries.

As the entry system expects 20 images in each submission, in order to cater for the missing images a black slide has been added for each missing entry. This will be easy to skip over when projecting them when judging. The score sheets will be 'greyed out' for those images too.

The score sheets and associated excel files for the judging and results are now virtually complete. Phil expects the finished and checked files can be forwarded to Margaret and John at the week end.

Printed sheets for manual scoring and a list of prints expected from each club, along with a sheet for contact details of the person responsible for collecting the prints will be with Phil on the day.

A flyer for the Beamish Competition will be issued shortly.

The rules for the Annual competitions require minor amendments and the objective is to get the revised rules issued as soon as possible after the next sub-committee meeting on 3rd March. The closing date for entries is anticipated to be the 24th March so it gives Clubs 3 weeks to complete their entries.

John Fare

PAGB Representative's Report 17th February 2025**Appendix 3**

I attended the meeting of the PAGB Executive Warwick University on the 1st February and the following report highlights the significant discussion points which arose.

The meeting opened with a minutes silence to commemorate the passing of 3 former PAGB Presidents which had happened since the last meeting. These included our own Jane Black who was kindly remembered by many at the meeting.

The PAGB Treasurer, Peter Young, has been nominated as the next Vice President when Dave Gibbins takes over the role of President at the April AGM. Gordon Jenkins is to take over as Treasurer.

The number of federated clubs continues to decline with the loss of a further 31 clubs in the last year to the current total of 861. Only one Federation, the Scottish, has reported an increase of 3. Several delegates reported that in their area there were several smaller clubs operating who were using PAGB judges and lecturers for their programme but who hadn't joined their Federation. Most delegates present reported that member numbers had increased in several of their clubs so the picture may not be quite as depressing as regards the number of photographers taking part in club activities.

The recent Online Safety Act 2023 is now in force and might have implications for club and Federation websites. The Act itself is very complex and Mark Buckley-Sharp is to produce a guidance overview to compliance for subsequent circulation.

Two new lectures are being produced which will then appear in the Recorded Lecture Service.

The delegate from the RPS identified that applications for LRPS are now digital only this may require Federation websites to update any details or links they currently hold for the RPS distinctions.

There was considerable discussion regarding the PAGB Inter Federation Competition and whether in future it should be organised by Federations or the PAGB. All delegates were asked to find out if their Federations would be willing to host the event in future.

Following lengthy discussion, it was agreed that PAGB Subscriptions for 2026 should increase by 5% to £41, subject to AGM approval.

The Awards for Photographic Merit will be hosted by the Scottish Federation on the 26th and 27th April at Dunblane. There was still space for entries there being currently only around 600/day against the usual maximum of 850. The next adjudication has, so far, very few entries and will be hosted by the Surrey Photographic Association on the 22nd and 23rd November.

The PAGB will be present at the Photo and Video Show which is being held from the 8th to the 11th of March at the Excel Arena in London instead of at the NEC in Birmingham. The PAGB stand will be offering one to one advice to photographers considering going for their Awards in Photographic Merit.

The next meeting for the PAGB is the AGM to be held via Zoom on the evening of Thursday 10th April. The subsequent Executive meeting will take place on Saturday 12th April

Richard Speirs

Awards Officers Report – 17th February 2025

Appendix 4

Coming up shortly are two APM adjudications, the first is next weekend which will take place on zoom were club members can log on and watch, this is for A/V awards. Two members of the NCPF have submitted A/V's for this award, one for their CPAGB and the other for their DPAGB.

In April we have one NCPF person submitted work for their DPAGB.

This will take place at Stirling. Scotland.

We wish them all good luck and hope they gain there awards.

The next APM workshop/advice day is booked for Sunday afternoon the 11th May 2025,
An information poster is now ready to be distributed.

Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP
NCPF Awards Officer and President

Northern Focus Editor Report 17th February 2025

Appendix 5

To my knowledge there have been no volunteers to take over the upcoming vacancy of *Northern Focus Editor*.

If (by the AGM) this remains the case and the NCPF Committee wish me to continue; I shall volunteer to continue in the role while leaving the door open for a future suitable replacement Editor.

97th Edition of Northern Focus shall be published early April as the Spring Edition including updates from AGM.

Alan Wilson
Editor Northern Focus

Judges Subcommittee Report 15th January 2025

Appendix 6

A meeting of the subcommittee was held on the evening of Sunday 19th January, primarily to discuss arrangements for the Judges Recruitment Day on the 30th March 2025. A copy of the minutes is attached for information.

The Agenda and Flyers for the event will be circulated before the end of February.

As can be seen the next meeting of the subcommittee will be held via Zoom on the evening of Sunday 2nd March.

Richard Speirs
NCPF Judges Subcommittee Chairman

Northern Counties Photographic Federation

A Member Federation of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

JUDGES SUB-COMMITTEE

Date: 19th Jan 2025 (draft for chairman's approval)

Location: Hosted on Zoom

Present: Margaret Welsh (Executive, meeting set up only) Richard Speirs (Chair)
Keith Snell; John Fare; William Broadley; Gerald Chamberlin; Arjun Nambier
Lynda Golightly (Secretary)

Apologies for Absence: None

Minutes of previous meeting (13th October 2024)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated to all members and were accepted as a true record.

Meeting opened at 7pm.

Margaret set up the Zoom meeting for the group and handed control to The Chairman. She left before the start of the meeting.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Richard confirmed that Jeremy Malley Smith (an experienced judge in L&CPU who is moving to our area) is to be placed in the NCPF B list.

Judges recruitment event 2025

NCPF approval received for this event.

Date confirmed as 30th March 2025

Venue confirmed as Victory Hall, Dalston.

It was decided that meeting would be run as a half day event (1-4pm). This format would require reduction in the presentation time of the opening speakers to allow sufficient time for potential new judges to review and present the images. Tea, coffee and biscuits would be served, this being organised by those attending from Victory Hall.

All members of the Judge's subcommittee present at the meeting agreed to helping out on the day of the recruitment event. It was thought that this would be enough support for the event.

Richard (presentation skills) and Arjun (a judge's experience) agreed to do the introductory presentations which would be cut back to a max of 30 mins each.

The remaining 2 hours would be devoted to the assessment of those present to identify potential new Judges.

It was noted that the recruitment of judges in the west of the region was particularly important and that an advertising campaign in this region would be helpful.

Three people from the north east of the region have already shown interest.

Denis Dunning i.den@mac.com

Keith Hart keith@ownimage.co.uk

Alexandra Prescott FRPS

It is uncertain if these and others would be willing to travel to Dalston for this event.

It was thought that the invitation to attend the recruitment event could be extended to clubs in Dumfries.

Invitation material from past recruitment events was thought to be available and this could be revised for use.

There was discussion on whether Competition Secretaries would be invited as observers. Information sheet for Competition secretaries has been prepared in the past and remains available for use.

Action – Richard to Draft invitation and circulate for approval

Richard informed the committee that the NCPF had approved another recruitment event for later in the year. It was decided that we should complete this one before informing clubs of a second event as this could impact attendance in Dalston.

AOB

Discussion relating to the selection of judges for the Northern County events. It was agreed that this could be put off until the next meeting.

John Reed is to retire from the judges list.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday 2nd March at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Data Managers Report 17th February 2025

Appendix 7

Since our last meeting I have received one approach regarding access problems for the CMS. In this instance a Competition Secretary was having difficulties finding the judges lists. Following an email the problem was resolved.

The peculiarity in the CMS where one Richmond based judge appeared to be living over 3000 miles from their home address has now been resolved. It was discovered that on entering their address details a space had been left at the beginning of the Post Code. Once removed the mileage distance was automatically rectified.

Richard Speirs

Portfolio Secretary's Report 17th February 2025

Appendix 8

The preparations for the Club Championships are now virtually complete and it is now possible to give some thought my role in the 2025 Annuals, drawing on the experience gained from last year's Annuals and the entries to this year's Club Championships.

The naming format for the Club Championships has been successfully adopted by the majority of clubs and has increased the efficiency and accuracy of accepting entries.

I would, therefore, propose that an almost identical format be implemented for the Annuals. This will not only have the effect of making the preparations for the judging simpler but would produce a huge time saving when preparing the AVs following the competition. Having been used in the Club Championships, it could be seen as a familiar format for the Competition Secretaries to use.

An example of the Club Championship format was:

01SALT#PRINT#Anne Author#A Great Photo.jpg

The proposed format for the Annuals would be:

01SALT#BEWI#Anne Author#Another Good Photo.jpg

The only real change between the competitions therefore is that the section that identifies an entry as PRINT or PDI for the Club Championships becomes the four digit competition code that has traditionally been used for the Annuals competitions. Sorting and naming images for the AVs could then be automated and the initial preparation, which is possibly the most time consuming part of the task, can be reduced dramatically.

In the 2024 AV presentations, a suggestion was made that they could benefit from some music to break up the spoken word and add interest. Royalty Free music was added where I considered it was appropriate. I would welcome feedback on this and thoughts as to whether it should be repeated in the 2025 presentations?

Phillip Dove

NCPF Portfolio Secretary

Northern Area Representatives Report 17th February 2025

Appendix 9

NORTHERN AREA MONO & COLOUR PRINT COMPETITION

The Northern Area Print Competition was held on Tuesday 21st January 2025. The host club was Amble PG and the judge was Alan Porrett ARPS, DPAGB, EFIAP, APAGB, Hon NCPF.

The winning club was Ashington CC with an overall score of 221. In 2nd place was Amble PG with 215, 3rd place was Blyth PS with 214, 4th place was Cambois CC with 206, 5th place was Morpeth CC with 204 and 6th place was Alnwick CC with 201. Wooler CC did not submit an entry for this competition. The scoring was very tight but Ashington CC were well ahead in both rounds of the competition. Three prints scored 30 points. The two prints scoring 30 points in the Colour section were Bamburgh Dawn by David Burn of Alnwick CC and Lepus, Next Generation by George Sudlow of Amble PG. The print scoring 30 points in the Monochrome section was Marker by Keith Saint of Ashington CC.

Ashington CC were congratulated on their win for the third year in a row and the three members from Alnwick, Amble and Ashington were congratulated for their success in gaining 30 points for their respective prints in both sections of the competition. The trophy was presented to the President of Ashington CC, Roy Smith. Thanks were also given to Alan Porrett for judging the competition. As usual his comments were constructive and complimentary.

The event was well attended by all clubs who entered and the host club held a raffle and provided refreshments at the end of the competition.

4 WAY INTERCLUB PDI COMPETITION

The 4 Way Interclub PDI Competition between Blyth, Cambois, Cramlington and Whitley Bay was held on Tuesday 11th February 2025. The host club was Whitley Bay PS and the judge was Tony Broom.

After a very tight competition, Blyth PS won with an overall score of 264. In 2nd place was Whitley Bay PS with 255, 3rd place was Cambois CC with 250 and Cramlington CC came 4th with 241 points. The image scoring 30 points was 'Madonna Lily' by Richard Young of Blyth PS.

Jim Welsh received the trophy on behalf of Blyth PS. This is the 4th year in a row Blyth has won this trophy, sharing it with Whitley Bay PS in 2023.

Tony Broom was thanked for his constructive comments throughout the competition and the event was well attended by all clubs. The host club provided an excellent buffet after the competition.

NORTHERN AREA A.G.M.

The Northern Area A.G.M. was held on 16th February 2025. At least one representative from each Northern Area Club attended. A debate took place regarding the Interclub Knockout Competition. After discussion it was agreed by all clubs that this competition should be terminated and a new Open PDI Competition should replace it. Both trophies from the Knockout will be used. The large trophy will be awarded to the winning club and the small trophy will be awarded to the author of the highest scoring image on the day.

The CMS system was also discussed as one club was still having difficulty accessing the judges list. They were advised to contact Richard Speirs.

Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB, Hon NCPF
Northern Area Representative

1. The next leg of the South Tyne Trophy (PDI) is on Tuesday the 18 February 2025 hosted by Ryton & District CC.
2. The South Tyne Area will hold an AGM on Zoom on Wednesday the 26 February 2025.

Glen Lawson

South Tyne Area Representative

Wear Area Report – February 2025**Appendix 11**

No news from individual clubs.

I have decided to step down as representative for the region at the AGM. I have made the club secretaries in the region aware and asked if they can see if any members are interested in taking over from me.

Thank you to the other NCPF committee members for their support. I have particularly enjoyed the Wear Area Battle and being involved in the NCPF project to encourage new club members across the region.

Debra Taylor

17th February 2025

NCPF Western Area Report 17th February 2025**Appendix 12**

The W/A held a meeting on Saturday 15th Feb 2025.

All of the Western Area clubs attended, including Dumfries CC.

The main part of the meeting was a review of the last W/A Inter club comp held in December 24.

A couple of changes were made to the rules including one which all clubs agreed to was to limit all images submitted to a 3 year rule where all images must have been taken in the last 3 years leading up to this competition.

It was agreed that the W/A would host an event on Saturday 4th October 2025 and the speaker would be Leigh Preston. This would take place in the afternoon and would be held at the Victory Hall, Dalston.

Dumfries CC are holding the annual exhibition from the 1st March to 29th March at the Gracefield Art Centre, Dumfries.

The next meeting is planned for 13th September 2025.

Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP.

NCPF W/A rep and President