



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 Tuesday 19th August 2025 at Clara Vale.

The President, Gerald Chamberlin, opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

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

25/08/01 Apologies for Absence: - Phillip Dove, Dave Coates, David Brown, Jo Knight
Incommunicado: -

25/08/02 The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2025 were approved and signed by the President.
Proposed by Jill Chamberlin – Seconded by Glen Lawson

25/08/03 Matters arising
There were no matters arising.

25/08/04 Correspondence
Gerald said that he had received an email from a small club of an indeterminate position in Northumberland asking how they join the Federation. Gerald said he gave her the information but hasn't heard anything back.

25/08/05 Treasurer – Jill Chamberlin **Appendix 1a/b**
Jill read through her report outlining payments and receipts. Microsoft 365 has been purchased and will be renewed on a yearly basis. Margaret will contact R.E.V.Gomm to find out when the Life Vice President Badges will be delivered. Saltburn still need to request the £100.00 contribution for the Championships. A discussion took place regarding the current contribution to the qualifying clubs due to increased costs with accommodation etc. It was agreed to increase this to £200.00 for the 2026 Championships. John Fare said that Keswick had automatically qualified for next year's PAGB competition. It was agreed that there would still only be two clubs representing the NCPF and therefore only two clubs would receive the £200.00.
Report accepted and attached.

25/08/06 Reports

25/08/06-1 Competitions Chairman – John Fare **Appendix 2**
John read through his report. He said that he had already received 4 entries for Beamish. Richard sent through a list of the new judges and John said that all of the judges have been booked for next year's competitions. Margaret asked if there was any feedback regarding the missing print from Morpeth. John said he had heard nothing but expected that the clubs would be gearing up for the start of the new season and it may be recovered next month.
Report accepted and attached.

25/08/06-2 Representative to PAGB – Richard Speirs **Appendix 3**
Richard outlined his report. He asked for a volunteer to represent him at the next meeting on Saturday 18th October as he will be hosting the 60th Anniversary of Dalston PS. John Smith said that if he was free he would attend. Richard asked if he could let him know a.s.a.p. to allow him to organise the necessary paperwork.
This was accepted and attached.

25/08/06-3 Merit Awards Officer – Gerald Chamberlin **Appendix 4**
Gerald read through his report. He said that 18 members attended the workshop in May. The November adjudication has been cancelled due to low numbers and high cost of running the event. Everyone booked to attend have been offered a place in April. The NCPF are hosting the Merit Awards in April 2026. 12 to 15 volunteers will be needed to help run this event. The PAGB will cover some of the costs involved. All entry fees will be retained by the NCPF.
Report accepted and attached.

25/08/06-4 Editor Northern Focus – Alan Wilson **Appendix 5**
Alan read through his report. He said he would continue in the role until a volunteer comes forward. To date, no one has expressed an interest. This will continue to be advertised on the website. He said that the 98th edition was ready to be published. He suggested that the President writes to the Judges/Lecturers asking them to promote the NCPF to the clubs they visit after their presentations. Gerald said that the Area Representatives should be promoting the NCPF to their respective clubs also. A copy of the Dalston flyer promoting their 60th Anniversary will be sent to Alan for publication in the newsletter. Alan Forster suggested scrapping the Northern Focus and publishing the flyers/ articles that are submitted directly onto the website instead. A discussion took place regarding this. It was decided that this would be brought to the next meeting. Gerald would contact Jo Knight to give her a heads up before the October meeting.
Report accepted and attached.

25/08/06-5 Judges Sub Committee – Richard Speirs **Appendix 6**
Richard outlined the contents of his report. He said that a number of new judges have been appointed at the recent Recruitment Workshop and a couple have been invited to judge at the 2026 Annuals. It was thought that an additional Recruitment Workshop could be held in October at Clara Vale. Richard asked if the committee thought it would be viable to hold a half day event. This was agreed. Alan Wilson queried the appointment of the two new judges that had been approved to judge at the 2026 Annuals. He asked Richard if they were competent enough to take on the roles. Richard said that Alexandra Prescott is a very capable photographer and Brian Graham is also an established and capable photographer.

Alan Wilson then asked when the Judges ABC listing would be reviewed and upgraded. Richard said that this would be discussed at the autumn meeting of the JSC.

Report accepted and attached.

25/08/06-6 Data Manager – Richard Speirs

Appendix 7

Richard read through his report. He said he had only received a couple of queries over the closed season.

Report accepted and attached.

25/08/06-7 Portfolio Secretary – Phillip Dove

Appendix 8

In Phillip's absence his report was read by the committee and discussed in detail. John Fare said that the usual method of sending the Portfolios to the clubs was by wettransfer. They have now limited the number of files that can be sent for free. A discussion took place regarding a subscription of £21.00 per month for wettransfer. Other options were taken into account including Google Drive and Microsoft 365. Gerald said that he thought that we should look into wettransfer. This will be investigated further. John Fare said that he would speak to Phillip after the meeting. Alan Wilson suggested that as Phillip will also be President at the next A.G.M. his workload should be seriously looked at and shared out to relieve the pressure of coping with the Portfolio work and the Presidency. Margaret said that this would be discussed at the next Committee Meeting. Report accepted and attached.

25/08/06-8 Club Support & Development – John Smith

No Report.

25/08/06-9 Webmaster – Jo Knight

Appendix 9

In Jo's absence her report was discussed and accepted.

25/08/07 Area Reports

25/08/07-1 Northern – Jim Welsh

On Jim's behalf, Margaret read through the proposed Interclub Competition dates for the Northern Area in 2025/26. They are:-

INTERCLUB OPEN PDI COMPETITION – 16th November 2025 – hosted by Cambois CC – Judges are Alan Porrett,

Peter Maguire & Catherine Ball

INTERCLUB PRINT COMPETITION – 22nd January 2026 – hosted by Blyth PS – Judge is Glen Lawson

4 WAY PDI COMPETITION – 11th February 2026 – hosted by Cambois CC – Judge is Alan Wilson

INTERCLUB THEME COMPETITION – 19th March 2026 – hosted by Ashington CC – Judge is Alan Porrett

Report accepted and attached.

25/08/07-2 North Tyne – David Brown

No Report.

25/08/07-3 South Tyne – Glen Lawson

No Report.

25/08/07-4 Southern – Phillip Dove

No Report.

25/08/07-5 Wear Area – Vacant

25/08/07-6 Western – Gerald Chamberlin

No Report.

25/08/08 Any Other Business

Appendix 10

Alan Wilson read through his short report outlining the details of additional exhibitions for Row Elwood.

Gerald asked if it would be possible to hold a Merit Awards Workshop on 23rd November 2025 between 10.00am & 1.00pm before the Presentation Event at 2.00pm. This was thought possible if the room is available. Margaret will contact Clara Vale to book the additional room and time.

Margaret said that she was still waiting for a response from five clubs with the 2025/2026 Directory updates. She has sent out She has sent out two reminders to the clubs. If there is no response soon the information given last year will be used for the new Directory. All details received have been updated and the PDF files are ready to be sent out.

Ratification of Sub Committees:-

JUDGES SUB COMMITTEE – Richard Speirs (Chair), Keith Snell, John Fare, Bill Broadley, Gerald Chamberlin, Lynda Golightly, Arjun Nambiar

COMPETITIONS SUB COMMITTEE – John Fare (Chair), Margaret Welsh, Jim Welsh, Phillip Dove, Joe Finlay, David Brown, Gerald Chamberlin, Alan Wilson

Both Subcommittees were approved.

As Executer of Jane Black's will, Howard Wilson has given Margaret three of Jane Medals and her Fenton medal and certificate. Jane has requested that the RPS certificate and medal are made into a trophy. After discussion it was thought that as the receipt of trophies is on the decline they should be stored in the archives for now with Jane's eulogy. Richard suggested that the picture, which is currently the Jane Black Trophy, could be replaced with a certificate which will not need to be returned by the recipient. A number of orange NCPF ribbons have been found. It was thought they could be used for a number of occasions. Their use will be determined at a later date.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Future Meeting Dates: 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

16 August 2025

Expenditure

- The monthly printer ink contract has increased from £11.99 to £13.49 from June
- Purchased Microsoft 365 for £69.99 for a year, this will need renewed annually.
- Storage fees have been paid to Tynemouth Photographic Society and Empire School of Boxing £20 each.
- 3 new NCPF Life membership badges have been purchased £252.00
- Lloyds Bank are now charging us a monthly fee, this has varied between £4.25 and £7.35 depending on activity.
- Clara Vale Exec meeting £22.00
- The website £43.20 and domain name £12.40 have been purchased for another year
- The Annuals competition cost £1,009.30, Clara Vale charged £518.00 for the weekend.
- Club Championships judge David Phillips charged £20.00
- NCPF Judges Training Day cost £62.50
- PAGB Awards assessment day cost £50
- Keswick Photographic Society have been paid the £100 contribution for the PAGB PDI championships. Due to increased costs can we discuss the level of the NCPF contribution.

Community Account

Balance at AGM	£2,849.73
Expenditure	<u>-£1,790.16</u>
Current balance	£1,263.55

Commercial Instant Access Account

Balance at AGM	£3,047.61
Interest	<u>£10.31</u>
Current Balance	£3,057.92

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

estimated interest £440.00

Jill Chamberlin

NCPF Treasurer

Appendix 1b

NCPF Accounts as at	16/08/2025		
	Income	Expenditure	Balance
2024 NCPF Subscriptions	£2,940.00		£2,940.00 (42 clubs)
Interest from Fixed Savings a/c	£0.00		£0.00
2026 PAGB subscriptions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Executive Committee	£0.00	£467.49	-£467.49

Bank Charges	£0.00	£25.27	-£25.27
NCPF Website		£55.60	-£55.60
Club Championship 2025			
Presentation Day	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Club Championship 2025			
	£0.00	£20.00	-£20.00
Annuals Competition			
12-13/04/25	£0.00	£1,009.30	-£1,009.30
PAGB Championships		£100.00	-£100.00
PAGB Awards		£50.00	-£50.00
Assessment 12/05/2024			
Judges Training Day		£62.50	-£62.50
Equipment	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure			-£1,790.16

Equipment depreciation		£392.52	-£392.52
(Value w/off over 4 years)			
Balance of 2025-26			£757.32
subscriptions + interest			
Lloyds Bank Account Balances			
Community Account	AGM	23/03/2025	£2,849.73
	Expenditure		-£1,790.16
(from Fixed Savings a/c)	Interest		£0.00
	2026-27		£0.00
	Balance	16/03/2025	£1,263.55
Commercial Instant Access A/C			£3,047.61
Interest			£10.31

			13/02/2025	£3,057.92
Lloyds Bank Account Balances AGM 2025				
Treasurers A/C	2024-25	23/03/2025	-£90.27	
Subs for	2025-26		£2,940.00	
			£2,849.73	
Fixed Term Savings A/C		23/03/2025	£16,000.00	

The last meeting of the Competition sub-committee was held on 25 April with the next meeting due to be held on 20 October. Since the last Executive meeting both the Club and Annual Championships have been held.

At the Club Championships Keswick PS won both the PDI and Print Championships and Saltburn PS were the runners up in both so the clubs were selected to represent the NCPF at the PAGB Inter Club Championships. The PAGB Inter Club PDI Championship took place on 6 July at Warwick. The scores of both clubs were insufficient to qualify for the final so both went into the plate competition. Keswick PS won the plate (Don Morrison Trophy and bronze medal) with a score of 105 points whilst Saltburn scored 91 points. Keswick winning the plate competition means they automatically qualify for the 2026 PAGB Inter Club PDI Championship. The PAGB Inter Club Print Championship will be held at Blackburn in October.

At the Annual Championships Keswick PS won the trophies for PDIs and Colour Prints whilst Penrith and District CC won the mono print Trophy. The individual winners are identified on the NCPF website. Congratulations to Jo Knight from Keswick PS who won the trophies for Best Overall image in all sections, Best PDI, Best Colour print and Best Monochrome print.

At the PAGB Inter Federation Print championships the NCPF were 12th equal in the Colour Print Competition, 10th equal in the Mono Print Competition and 12th in the Nature Print Competition. Jo Knight won the Judge 2 Award in the Mono Print Competition and Graeme Clarke from Gallery PG won a PAGB Ribbon in the Nature Competition.

At the meeting on 25 April the committee reviewed the operation of the Annual Championships. Many thanks for those who supported the Championships which were very successful. The review meeting highlighted some issues regarding missing prints after collection by the club representatives. There are some proposed improvements for labelling on Nature prints and highlighting key points in the rules which will be addressed for next year's competition.

A flyer for the Beamish competition has been issued and a small number of entries have been received.

The list of judges for the 2025 Beamish Competition and the 2026 Championships was issued by the Judges sub-committee. The judges have been contacted and have agreed to judge the competitions.

The next meeting on 20 October will concentrate on the arrangements for the Presentations at Clara Vale on 23 November 2025.

List of judges for competitions**Beamish Competition 2025**

Rob Butler

Club Championships

Arjun Nambiar

Linda Golightly

Keith Snell

Annual competitions*Open*

David Ord

Lynda Haney

Dave Phillips

Alliance

Sue White

Jeremy Malley Smith

Peter Maguire

Portfolio

Jane Morris Abson

David Woodthorpe

Brian Graham

Beginners

Alexandra Prescott

PAGB Representative's Report 19th August 2025**Appendix 3**

1. The PAGB AGM was held, via Zoom, on the evening of Thursday 10th April 2025. Dave Gibbins became the new President with Peter Young elected as the incoming Vice President and Gordon Jenkins taking over the role of Treasurer for the duration of the Vice President's appointment. I attended the subsequent Executive Meeting at Warwick University on the 12th April.

2. The principal concern for the meeting was the state of the PAGB finances. Costs of running Inter Federation and Interclub Competitions have risen substantially as have the main PDI and Print Championships. This, when coupled with the reduction in the number of sponsors and the reduction in the number of affiliated clubs, will require serious consideration of the extent and costs of all events in future. Gordon Jenkins has requested that the organizers of all events prepare detailed costings and potential savings for consideration at the next Executive meeting in October.

3. Some new lectures are being produced for the Recorded Lecture Service including one by Leigh Preston, which will then appear in the Recorded Lecture Service.

4. There were no items which directly impacted on the operations of individual Federations.
5. There were serious concerns expressed about the viability of the Awards for Photographic Merit scheduled to be held on the 22nd and 23rd of November in the Surrey Photographic Federation. Numbers of applicants was minimal and there had been insufficient interest in running a pre awards workshop scheduled for May which was subsequently cancelled.
6. I will be unable to attend the next meeting of the PAGB on the 4th October at Warwick University and I hope that a member of this Executive may be able to represent the NCPF in my place. If a volunteer is forthcoming I will make the necessary arrangements.

Richard Speirs

Awards Officers Report – 19th August 2025

Appendix 4

In May 2025 the NCPF held an APM workshop at the Victory Hall, Dalston, Carlisle where 18 people from all areas of the Federation attended to receive feedback on their application images.

A very successful day was had.

If you subscribe to PAGB E-news you will have read already that the November adjudication has been canceled due to low numbers and the high cost of running the event. All the people who had booked a place at the November event have been offered a place in the April 2026 event.

I have been informed by Daphne Hanson PAGB APM secretary that applications are up for this time of the year and are advising people to book now to be sure of a place.

I have contacted all of the NCPF members that attended the May workshop and informed them of the situation and have already received a number of emails requesting application forms.

It looks like the April event is going to be well subscribed.

Just before the schools broke up for the summer holidays I had a meeting with Caldew School, Dalston to confirm everything was on track for April 2026 which it is, the school staff are really enthusiastic about us holding the event at the school.

Towards the end of the year I will start to ask for volunteers to help with the event.

Approximately 12 to 15 people will be needed to help on each day.

Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP

NCPF President / Award Officer

Northern Focus Editor Report August 2025

Appendix 5

The 97th Edition of "Northern Focus" is ready for distribution as "Summer 2025". The edition shall be e-distributed once updated with anything relevant from this NCPF Executive Meeting and prior to majority of clubs restating. There is still time to contribute, topics of note very welcome.

Winter- 98th Edition

Looking to the next Edition, due distribution January / February 2026, I politely request any photographic related images and stories from Area's from Club's and of personal stories.

Next Northern Focus Editor

As previously advised, should any member volunteer for the Northern Focus Editor role. I would be very willing to hand over and provide training and support, meanwhile I shall continue with the role.

Alan Wilson

Editor Northern Focus

Judges Subcommittee Report 19th August 2025

Appendix 6

A meeting of the subcommittee was held on the evening of Sunday 4th May, to discuss and agree potential judges and selectors for the 2025/26 NCPF Competitions. A copy of the minutes of that meeting are attached for reference. I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to Lynda Golightly for producing such clear and comprehensive minutes.

The Chairman of the Competitions subcommittee reports that all bookings for judges are now in place.

Richard Speirs NCPF Judges Subcommittee Chairman

Northern Counties Photographic Federation

A Member Federation of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

JUDGES SUB-COMMITTEE

Date: 4th May 2025 (Intended final)

Location: Hosted on Zoom

Present: Richard Speirs (Chair)

Keith Snell; John Fare; William Broadley; Gerald Chamberlin; Lynda Golightly (Secretary)

Apologies for Absence: None

Minutes of previous meeting (2nd March 2025)

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

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Review of the Judge's recruitment event

Reminder had been sent out for the event which was held as planned on 30th March at Dalston Victory Hall.

Reasonable turnout ending up with assessment of 10 people with everyone attending showing merit.

The following 5 individuals were invited to join the judge's listing and have since accepted:

Alexandra Prescott (N Tyneside)

Brian Graham (Carlisle)

Darren Richardson (Hartlepool)

Ron Kelly (Penrith)

The following were considered good enough but have declined:

Simon Roberts(Keswick), He currently holds the post of Programme secretary

Tim Parmley (Dalston) He currently holds the post of competition secretary

Bernard Bird (Wooler) – does not want to judge

Pat Young (Wooler) does not want to judge

Anthony Melling (Keswick) He currently serves as internal Competition Secretary and does not want to judge

Graham Turner (Hexham) Now appointed Competition Secretary and hasn't the time at present.

Richard will prepare an update/report on the outcome of the event for the next executive meeting which is on 19th August.

This will be sent to Margaret to put before the executive in advance of the meeting.

The committee felt it was important to get new judges active as quickly as possible as a lengthy delay risks them losing interest. The possibility of a second recruitment event at Clara Vale in the autumn was discussed briefly.

Use of the small room and the kitchen was thought to be adequate for such an event and would keep down the cost. The group sessions could be split across the two spaces.

It was thought that the introductory talk could be cut back a little to allow more time for the assessment process.

Decisions on this event can wait till the next meeting as clubs are now on holiday.

Selection of judges for 2026 NCPF competitions

Discussion resulted in the following proposals

Club championship:

Arjun Nambiar

Keith Snell

Lynda Golightly

Reserve: William Broadley

Annuals Open:

David Ord

Dave Phillips

Linda Haney (from Oldham)

Reserve: Peter McGuire

Alliance:

George Ledger

Sue White

Jeremy Malley-Smith

Reserve: Peter McGuire

Portfolio:

Jane Morris Abson

Brian Graham

David Woodthorpe

Reserve: Olivia Costello

Beginners:

Alexandra Prescott

Reserve: Geoff Green

Beamish:

Rob Butler

Reserve: Geoff Green

Those in *italics* were accepted as judges following the recruitment in March.

The list of potential judges will be circulated for review by this committee and John Fare will start to approach those on the list to confirm they are willing to take on the proposed task. The executive will need to agree all those that have accepted.

AOB: Nothing to report

Next meeting has not yet decided. Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Data Managers Report 19th August 2025

Appendix 7

Since our last meeting I have received very few approaches regarding the CMS.

In one instance a newly appointed judge was experiencing problems registering on the system, that has now been resolved. The most recent, and still current, concern was from a club secretary who had changed their email address and could no longer access the CMS as they no longer had access to their original email details. The new email address is now live on the system, and I have advised on how to get back into their personal details with either their old password or by registering a new one. At the time of writing this report I have yet to hear if the proposed solution has worked or not.

Richard Speirs

Portfolio Secretary's Report August 2025

Appendix 8

The 2025 Annuals Alliance Portfolio AVs are nearing completion. A similar format to 2024 has been adopted as it seemed, from the feedback that I received, to be quite popular.

My personal goal of distributing them by the end of August has been a little delayed through personal circumstances, but I anticipate that despite this delay, they will be available early in September. This should still be in sufficient time for clubs to make use of them during their 25/26 season.

The issue of distribution has been partly resolved with the availability of OneDrive as a substitute for WeTransfer. I used it to distribute the files to the Portfolio Selectors. Two of the three selectors managed the download successfully, but the third could not access the files as he had some issues with his Microsoft account on his Mac. I was able to send his via WeTransfer as it was within the new limits of the free version.

If there are more than a few clubs who cannot download from my OneDrive, then this will present me with an issue regarding distribution.

I have trialed several alternatives in the past and found some to be very advertiser heavy, others very 'clunky' in use and some that are both of these. Any thoughts on this would be very welcome.

Phillip Dove

NCPF Portfolio Secretary

Website Report August 2025

Appendix 9

The website continues to function well with no reported issues.

Website traffic during 2025 consists:

Jan 2025: 486 visitors and 1602 page views

Feb 2025: 738 visitors and 3001 page views

March 2025: 506 visitors and 1899 page views

April 2025: 421 visitors and 1753 page views

May 2025: 421 visitors and 1365 page views

June 2025: 231 visitors and 753 page views

July 2025: 374 visitors and 1479 page views

There was a large spike in visitors to the site in February, due no doubt to details being published of both the Club Championship and the Annuals Competitions. Posts on the Annuals Competition have been the most read during the year, followed by those on the Club Championship. Our magazine Northern Focus is also widely accessed via the website, so I do hope we can find a volunteer to take over the role as Editor.

Traffic has slowed during summer, I assume as most Camera Clubs aren't in operation. Despite this, I have still received several articles for inclusion on the website which keeps it up to date and visitors interested.

There have been several requests for information via the Contact Form on the website during the year, which have been answered either by myself or a relevant Executive member.

Our website domain, hosted by Wordpress.com, was renewed for 12 months on 6th June at a cost of £43.20.

Jo Knight

Webmaster

Appendix 10

NCPF Executive Meetings Tues 19th August 2025 - Clara Vale - A.O.B. For Information – Roy Elwood photographic archive

Dear Executive Committee.

Whickham Photographic Club have continued to work with and support the family of the late Roy Elwood FRPS.

For interest and information.

WPC's Open Day Exhibition (Saturday 30th August) shall include a section of Roy's work.

Under the initiative of Howard Wilson Tynemouth CC (Roy's initial club) have offered to hold an Exhibition of his works (dates are to be confirmed).

A photographic biography of Roy's life is being created on DVD by Alan Wilson. A copy shall be passed to NCPF for archive and access.

Regards

Alan Wilson