



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 16th February 2026 at Clara Vale, Ryton.

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

Present: - Gerald Chamberlin, Phillip Dove, Richard Speirs, Jim Welsh, Margaret Welsh, John Fare, John Smith, David Brown, Glen Lawson, Alan Forster

26/02/01 Apologies for Absence: - Dave Coates, Jill Chamberlin, Jo Knight, Alan Wilson

Incommunicado: -

26/02/02 The minutes of the meeting held on 03rd December 2025 were approved and signed by the President.

Proposed by Alan Forster – Seconded by Glen Lawson

26/02/03 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

26/02/04 Correspondence

No correspondence received

26/02/05 Treasurer – Jill Chamberlin

Jill read in her absence. Gerald said that the accounts had been sent off to be audited for the A.G.M.

Report accepted and attached.

Appendix 1a/b

26/02/06 Reports

26/02/06-1 Competitions Chairman – John Fare

John read through his report. He said that the meeting held on 08th December had concentrated on the forthcoming Club Championships. The rules for the Annuals have now been distributed to the clubs. Two enquiries have been received to help out with Phillips duties while he is President. Margaret asked Alan Forster if he could bring the trophies for the Club Championships and the two Annuals trophies to be photographed ready for the proposed A4 Certificates.

Report accepted and attached.

Appendix 2

26/02/06-2 Representative to PAGB – Richard Speirs

Richard outlined the issues in his report. He said that the PAGB subscriptions would remain at £41.00 until 2027. He explained about a sum of money that is held in reserve by the PAGB the host a FIAP Biennial. The PAGB are asking for approval from Federations to use this money to allow the PAGB delegate to attend the FIAP Congress and Annual meetings.

On the subject of Employers Liability Policies Richard said that clubs are taking out this insurance to cover their committee members but this insurance doesn't cover Discrimination. He said that the Management Liability does cover this and clubs should consider changing if they think that the Employers Liability Policy doesn't fulfil their needs.

The PAGB has changed the competition rules allowing **up to 3** clubs to enter their competitions as they are trying to boost the numbers of attendance. Tickets for the PDI Competition will be £15.00. John Fare asked if the 3 club rule applied to both PDI and Print Competitions as he had only received notification regarding the PDI's. Richard said that it definitely applied to the PDI competition this year. The Print Competition is to be confirmed. The 3 club ruling will be discussed in detail in Any Other Business.

Report accepted and attached.

Appendix 3

26/02/06-3 Merit Awards Officer – Gerald Chamberlin

Gerald said that the APM system is now open. People are starting to upload their entries. The closing date for submissions is 28th March 2026. He said that he had recruited 15 volunteers to help out at the Awards weekend. Richard said that the entry application is now closed as it is now full. This is due mainly to the cancellation of the APM in Scotland in November. All entrants for this have been allocated places in April. Observer tickets are available on the CMS system at a cost of £15.00.

26/02/06-4 Editor Northern Focus – Alan Wilson

In Alan's absence his report was read and accepted by the committee. Alan has indicated that he may have a candidate to take over as the Northern Focus Editor. The nomination will be proposed at the A.G.M. on 29th March.

Appendix 4

26/02/06-5 Judges Sub Committee – Richard Speirs

Richard outlined his short report. He said that the Judges Subcommittee had received several requests for a Judges Recruitment Event. He asked for approval to host a half day event possibly over in the North East. He said this may be held at Dalston depending on the cost. Approval was given. A JSC meeting will be organised in due course to appoint the judges for next year's NCPF Competitions.

Report accepted and attached.

Appendix 5

26/02/06-6 Data Manager – Richard Speirs

Richard outlined his short report. Only one query had been received and solved.

Report accepted and attached.

Appendix 6

26/02/06-7 Portfolio Secretary – Phillip Dove

Phillip outlined his report. He said that a number of suggestions had been taken on board regarding the Portfolio Presentation.

If no other suggestions are forthcoming the presentation will follow the same format as last year.

Report accepted and attached.

Appendix 7

26/02/06-8 Club Support & Development – John Smith

No Report.

26/02/06-9 Webmaster – Jo Knight

Appendix 8

Jo’s report was read in her absence. It was encouraging to see the number of people who are accessing the NCPF website. Report accepted and attached.

26/02/07 Area Reports

26/02/07-1 Northern – Jim Welsh

Appendix 9

Jim read through his report. He praised Glen Lawson for his excellent comments and observations at the N. A. Print Competition hosted by Blyth PS. A discussion regarding the shortage of judges took place. Jim outlined the fact that certain judges were in constant demand and some individuals were accepting bookings then cancelling at short notice giving competition secretaries the stressful task of finding a replacement.

Report accepted and attached.

26/02/07-2 North Tyne – David Brown

No Report.

26/02/07-3 South Tyne – Glen Lawson

Appendix 10

Glen’s report was read. Report was accepted and attached.

26/02/07-4 Southern – Phillip Dove

No Report.

26/02/07-5 Wear Area – Vacant

Jo Knight has been contacted by a club member from the Wear Area asking why the results of the Wear Area Battle hadn’t been posted on the NCPF website. Without an Area Representative, reports such as these are down to the host clubs to inform the Webmaster. Alternatively, the clubs in that area can appoint an Area Representative.

26/02/07-6 Western – Gerald Chamberlin

Gerald said that a Western Area meeting had been held on the 14th February. No minutes had been received as yet so nothing to report. The Western Area Battle will be held in December. This is usually the first Saturday in December but this has been changed as Dumfries are hosting this year and are tied up with other business. This will now be held on 12th December. This will revert back to the third week in December or the next competition.

26/02/08 Any Other Business

A discussion regarding the PAGB rule change allowing **UP TO** 3 clubs to enter the Inter-Fed Competitions took place. As Keswick PS has already pre-qualified we have the option of sending two additional clubs to the PDI Competition. This could potentially incur an additional cost of £400.00 to the Federation if we subsidise the entrants in both sections with £200.00 each. John Fare pointed out that the email received from the PAGB stated that the 3 club rule only applied to the PDI Competition this year and not the Print. After a short debate it was agreed that we would enter 3 clubs into the PDI Competition this year and revert back to 2 clubs next year.

David Brown had reservations regarding the decision to only allow 2 clubs to enter when the opportunity to participate was there for an additional club to represent the NCPF. He said that retaining the 2 club rule was basically down to NCPF funding. He thought that the decision to deny a third club the opportunity to participate was unfair and suggested that the third club should be given the opportunity to enter if they self fund their entry into the competition. After further discussion it was decided that the original decision of only sending 2 NCPF clubs to the PAGB Competitions as upheld.

The nomination of Executive Officers for election at the NCPF A.G.M. was proposed as follows:

President – Phillip Dove, **Vice President** – Alan Forster, **Past President** – Gerald Chamberlin, **General Secretary** – Margaret Welsh, **Hon. Treasurer** – Jill Chamberlin. The proposal was accepted by the Executive Committee and unanimously agreed. All additional Executive posts were discussed and changed where necessary. These will be proposed and seconded en-bloc at the A.G.M.

Margaret said that the question of holding the NCPF A.G.M. on zoom has been raised a number of times by various clubs. During the Pandemic we did this and we were joined by members of clubs who are further away than is reasonable to journey to Clara Vale. It was a relative success but not something that she would propose doing on a yearly basis, maybe every other year as she thought it was still necessary to hold a face to face meeting. It was agreed to propose this at the A.G.M. with a view to holding the 2027 A.G.M. on zoom. Margaret then said that if this was agreed, she wouldn’t be able to take notes as Secretary and admit the zoom entrants at the same time. The hosting on zoom would have to be allocated to someone else. It was agreed in principal and if agreed at the A.G.M. the organization will be reviewed at future Executive meetings.

A discussion took place regarding the recent email received from Howard Wilson regarding the rules for AI content in competitions. The consensus was that clubs are responsible for their own rules regarding acceptable content in their competitions. The NCPF issues rules for their own competitions based on PAGB and FIAP guidance. This guidance can then be incorporated into individual club rules. The outcome of the debate concluded with Alan Forster agreeing to draft guidance to be sent out to the clubs and publish on the NCPF website.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed.....

Date.....

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

Finance report

15 February 2026

Expenditure

- 3months printer ink contract has been paid at a cost of £40.47
- 2 months Lloyds Bank monthly fees has been paid at a cost of £8.50
- Keswick Photographic Society and Gosforth Camera Club have both been paid their £100 contribution towards costs.
- Clara Vale Village Hall has been booked for:
 - i. Exec meeting £22.00
 - ii. AGM £112.50
 - iii. Club Championships £220.50
 - iv. Annuals Competition £535.50
- Hive Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) and Management/Trustee Liability (£1000,000) cover has been paid £108.73
- As per an agreement with the PAGB, Federations receive a refund on their public liability premium. Refund of £97.00 (£48.50 for January 25 and £48.50 for January 26) received.
- Subscriptions have now been received from all the Clubs. The PAGB have been paid their subs £1,681.00
- Laptop and mouse has been purchased £398.98
- Premier Inn has been booked for Lynda Haney who is judging the Annuals competition £101.15, a meal day for 2 nights will be added to this but is payable when booking in.
- Postage for certificates not collected at the Presentations day £8.09

Community Account

Balance at AGM	£2,849.73
Transfer from	
Instant Access a/c	£1,000.00
Expenditure	-£4,907.24
Subs 2026/7	<u>£2,870.00</u>
Current balance	£2,016.47 *

(*£203.98 from Annuals Competition in 2004/5 accounts, £857.15 expenditure is for events in the next financial year.)

Commercial Instant Access Account

Balance at AGM	£3,047.61
Transfer to Current a/c	-£1,000.00
Interest	<u>£17.75</u>
Current Balance	£2,065.36

Fixed Term Savings Account £16,000.00matured 4 November with interest of £440.00
The £16,440.00 has been reinvested at 2.24%, interest will be £368.26

Jill Chamberlin
NCPF Treasurer

Appendix 1b

NCPF Accounts as at	30/11/2025			
	Income	Expenditure	Balance	
2025 NCPF Subscriptions	£2,940.00		£2,940.00	(42 clubs)
Transfer from Interest A/c	£1,000.00		£1,000.00	
2026 PAGB subscriptions	£1,681.00	£1,681.00	£0.00	
Executive Committee	£97.00	£972.97	-£875.97	
Bank Charges	£0.00	£50.77	-£50.77	
NCPF Website		£79.59	-£79.59	
Club Championship 2025				
Presentation Day	£100.00	£296.48	-£196.48	
Club Championship 2025				
	£0.00	£220.50	-£220.50	

Annuals Competition

12-13/04/25	£0.00	£1,009.30	-£1,009.30
Annuals Competition			
11-12/04/26	£0.00	£636.65	-£636.65
PAGB Championships		£400.00	-£400.00
Club contributions			
PAGB Awards		£77.50	-£77.50
Assessment 12/05/2024			
Judges Training Day		£62.50	-£62.50
Equipment	£0.00	£1,297.98	-£1,297.98
Total Expenditure			<u>-£4,907.24</u>
Equipment depreciation (Value w/off over 4 years)		£392.52	-£392.52

Balance of 2025-26 subscriptions + interest	-£1,359.76
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Lloyds Bank Account Balances			
Community Account	AGM	23/03/2025	£2,849.73
	Expenditure		-£4,907.24
(from Fixed Savings a/c)			£1,000.00
	2026-27		£2,870.00
	Balance	15/02/2026	£2,016.47
Commercial Instant Access A/C			£3,047.61
Transfer to Current a/c			-£1,000.00
Interest			£17.75
		15/02/2026	£2,065.36
Fixed Term Savings A/C		04/11/2026	£16,440.00

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
Commercial Instant Access A/C		23/03/2025	£3,000.00
Interest			£47.61
Fixed Term Savings A/C		23/03/2025	£16,000.00

The last meeting of the Competition sub-committee was held on 8 December October with the next meeting due to be held on 9 March.

The meeting on 8 December concentrated on the arrangements for forthcoming Club Championships on 22 February. The arrangements have been finalised and everything is on schedule. Many thanks for those who have been involved to date and who are involved on the day.

The number of Clubs entering the NCPF Inter Club championships is comparable to last year.

Year	Number of Clubs entering PDI Competition	Number of Clubs entering Print Competition
2025	30	22
2026	30	23

At the last NCPF Executive Committee it was agreed that in addition to Keswick PS two additional clubs could be nominated to represent the NCPF at the PAGB PDI Inter club championships. Subsequently the PAGB have formally notified the NCPF that it has been agreed to change to the competition rules so that each Federation is now permitted to nominate **up to three** Clubs to participate in the PDI Championship (also known as "Warwick"). This is in addition to any Federation Clubs who have pre-qualified from the previous year's Championship.

Keswick PS have automatically qualified for the 2026 PAGB Inter-Club PDI championships so the Executive Committee need to agree if the number of additional Clubs selected to represent the NCPF at the PAGB PDI Inter-Club Championships should be increased from 2 to 3.

The rules for the NCPF Annual Competitions have been issued to the sub committee members for comment and comments have been received. The Competition entry package and rules will be issued by 23 February. The closing date for entries will be 22 March.

Two club members have expressed an interest in joining the Competitions sub-committee to assist with running the Club and Annual competition entry systems. We are currently following up on their expressions of interest.

John Fare.

PAGB Representative's Report 16th February 2026

Appendix 3

I attended the meeting of the PAGB Executive at Warwick University on the 31st January and the following report highlights the significant discussion points which arose.

Treasurers Report

2.1) The new PAGB Treasurer, Gordon Jenkins, presented his first report. He identified that, as of 31st December 2025, there were 830 affiliated clubs 31 fewer than in 2024. The Federation finished the year with a surplus of £8479, however, without the sponsorship receipts this would have been a deficit of £16,441. The Treasurer stressed that event organisers must ensure that they operate within the new budgets proposed for the current financial year to minimise the risk of overspends. The meeting agreed to recommend to the AGM that there should be no increase in the subscription rate for 2027 and that it should stay at £41 to minimise inflationary costs for clubs.

2.2) The PAGB budget still holds a sum in reserve to host a FIAP Biennial. Federations are being asked to consider if this fund should continue to be ring fenced or if it should form part of the broader FIAP budget. This could then be used to allow the PAGB FIAP delegate, Howard Tate, to attend future Congress and Annual Meetings.

Insurance

3.1) It has been identified that the Employers Liability Policy does not cover Discrimination which is potentially one of the main risks for camera clubs. The principal cover is for personal injury which is a much lesser risk. The Management Liability cover does include Discrimination and clubs should consider if the Employers Liability Policy is appropriate for their needs.

Competitions

4.1) The increasing hire cost for venues is being addressed. The Interclub Print Championship, on the 24th October will no longer be held at Blackburn, moving instead to Harper Adams University, Newport, Staffordshire. The venue is slightly smaller but significantly cheaper and is more centrally located with easy access by road and rail.

4.2) The PDI Championship, on the 19th July, will again be held at Warwick School with tickets at £15 as per last year. To encourage additional interest and attendance Federations can now send up to 3 clubs for the contest.

4.3) The April Awards for Photographic Merit hosted by the NCPF in April is completely full and is the first to be so for several years. The November Awards are being hosted by the East Anglia Federation in Colchester.

Recorded Lecture Service

5.1) New titles are available and clubs are encouraged to make use of this service. The latest lectures are available for £20 with the older ones remaining at £15.

5.2) Prints from the Inter Federation Exhibition are available for Federations to hire for their events. The three boxes can also be distributed to Federation Clubs either in total or as single boxes.

5.3) The RPS delegate reported that RPS Educational Lectures are now available for non-members of the Society but without the 25% available for members.

The PAGB will be present at the Photo and Video Show which is being held from the 14th to the 17th of March 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 9th April. The subsequent Executive meeting will take place on Saturday 11th April

Richard Speirs

Northern Focus Editor Report – 16th February 2026

Appendix 4

Please accept apologies for absence at Clara Vale, I am currently abroad.

97th Northern Focus for Winter 2025 (57 pages) was published with good return of positive comments from Committee, clubs and individual members.

98th Edition of Northern Focus shall be published April/May as the Spring Edition, including updates from AGM, autobiography from Honorary Life Vice President Dave Coates, report from Club Championships, club and other news.

Rob Butler – Introduction and Nomination for next Northern Focus Editor

Rob Butler of Whickham Photographic Club has volunteered interest in the role of NCPF Northern Focus e-magazine Editor which includes a seat on the NCPF Executive Committee.

Rob will be known by many as a popular NCPF (C list) judge and current WPC President. Rob completes his 2-year tenure as WPC President this April allowing time to progress the editor role, he is currently studying with the OCA (open college of arts) run by the OU, the course being "BA (Hons) Photography".

Unfortunately, Rob is unavailable to attend committee meeting on 16th Feb or Club Championships on 22nd.

If voted in at NCPF AGM on 29th March a full handover shall be provided following his return from an extended holiday in Spring/Summer.

A friend through our membership of Whickham Photographic Club I recommend Rob without hesitation. His details:

robbutler2907@gmail.com Mob: 07530 100800

As (probable) outgoing Northern Focus Editor I shall continue collecting stories and photographs as support toward Robs first Edition (99th) due circa Autumn/Winter 2026.

Regards

Alan Wilson ARPS AFIAP

Editor Northern Focus

Judges Subcommittee Report 16th February 2026

Appendix 5

I will be arranging a meeting of the subcommittee shortly to select Judges for the NCPF Competitions for next year.

I have received an enquiry about the potential for a Judges Recruitment event before the summer, preferably to be held in the Northeast. At least two competent photographers are known to be interested at present.

I would request the Executive consider such an event and, if in agreement, authorize the subcommittee to make the necessary arrangements for a half-day event.

Richard Speirs

NCPF Judges Subcommittee Chairman

Data Managers Report 16th February 2026

Appendix 6

Since our last meeting I have only received a single enquiry regarding the CMS.

Fortunately, this was able to be resolved with a quick email.

Richard Speirs

Portfolio Secretary's Report 16th February 2026

Appendix 7

Since the distribution of the 2025 Annuals AVs there has been no further activity required in this post.

As ever I am open to suggestions on how the presentations could be improved. Some suggestions were taken on board for the last set. Unless any further improvements are suggested, then the 2026 Presentations will follow the same format as last year.

Phillip Dove

NCPF Portfolio Secretary

Website Report 7th February 2026

Appendix 8

All is running smoothly with the website and there is very little to report this meeting.

Website traffic since the last meeting consists:

December 2025: 541 visitors and 1200 page views

January 2026: 953 visitors and 2300 page views

Our visitor numbers for January are our highest recorded to date, possibly due to the release of the latest edition of Northern Focus which was the most viewed article on our website by far that month, demonstrating how valued the magazine is by our members.

Northern Area Report 16th February 2026

Appendix 9

The Northern Area Print Competition was held on Thursday 22nd January 2026. The host club was Blyth PS and the judge was Glen Lawson.

The winning club was Alnwick CC with an overall score of 206. In 2nd place was Blyth PS with 204, 3rd place was Amble PG with 201, 4th place was Ashington CC with 196, 5th place was Cambois CC with 194, 6th place was Morpeth CC with 188 and 7th place was Wooler CC with 183. The scoring was very tight and Alnwick CC beat Blyth PS into second place by 2 points. Six prints scored 30 points. The three prints in the Mono section were Puffin Portrait and Heart to Heart both by Alison Leddy of Blyth PS and My Friend John by Karen Broom of Wooler CC, The three prints scoring 30 points in the Colour section were Storm Brewing by Richard Turnbull of Ashington CC, The Commander by John Archer of Cambois CC and Pressed Geum Flower by Paul Appleby of Morpeth CC.

Alnwick CC were congratulated on their win and received the trophy. The members of Blyth, Ashington, Cambois, Morpeth and Wooler were congratulated for their success in gaining 30 points for their respective prints in both sections of the competition. Thanks were also given to Glen Lawson for judging the competition. Glen's comments were constructive, well detailed and complimentary.

The event was very well attended by all clubs and the host club held a raffle and provided refreshments at the end of the competition. All who attended had a very good evening.

The 4 Way Interclub Competition between Blyth, Cambois, Cramlington and Whitley Bay was hosted by Cambois CC on 11th February 2026. The judge was Alan Wilson.

The scoring was as follows:-

1st Place – Cambois CC – 272 points, 2nd Place – Blyth PS – 263 points, 3rd Place – Whitley Bay PS – 262 points
4th Place – Cramlington CC – 248 points

The Competition Secretary, John Archer, was presented with the trophy by Jim Welsh.

The competition was very well attended and Cambois put on a lovely spread afterwards.

The President thanked those club members who had attended and the judge for his constructive comments.

The final Interclub Competition for the Northern Area will be the Interclub PDI Theme Competition. This will be hosted by Ashington Camera Club on 19th March 2026. The judge will be Alan Porrett.

Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB, HonNCPF

Northern Area Representative

South Tyne Representative Report 7 Feb 2026

Appendix 10

South Tyne Area Print Competition 2025

On the 3 February 2026 we held the South Tyne PDI Competition hosted by South Shields PS. A copy of the article sent for publication on the NCPF Website is listed below for your information.

“Hosted by South Shields Photographic Society on Tuesday 3rd February 2026. Judged by: Stuart Skelsey.

All six clubs of the South Tyne Area, Gateshead CC, Hexham & District PS, Ryton & District CC, South Shields PS, Whickham PC and Winlaton & District CC gathered at St Bede's RC Church Hall on Tuesday, 3rd February 2026. After much shuffling and shifting around to get a good vantage point, we were ready to begin the inter-club PDI competition, with many club members keeping an eye on the proceedings and updating the tally on their score sheets.

It certainly was a night to remember. Each club had submitted 10 images with a mixture of mono and colour covering a wide range of subjects. Stuart's comments and suggestions for improvements were informative, and his positive critique showed the work that he had applied to the task at hand. There were some tense moments and then that silent pause whilst the scores were worked out - it was pretty close.

1 st	Gateshead CC	269 points
2 nd	Winlaton CC	261points
3 rd	Ryton & District CC	256 points
3 rd	Hexham & District PS	256 points
5 th	South Shields PS	251 points
6 th	Whickham PS	244 points

The John Smith EFIAP, PPSA, APAGB, Hon NCPF South Tyne Best PDI Salver award was won by Brian Denham of Gateshead CC for his image “Snow Smasher Train” that scored 30 points.

I would like to thank all clubs for their entries, Stuart for judging and finally, our hosts South Shields PS who did a fantastic job on the night and made sure the evening was a success.”

Regards,
G. Lawson