



NORTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION

Minutes of the 122nd Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 23rd March 2025 at Clara Vale Community Centre, South View, Clara Vale, Ryton NE40 3SY commencing at 2.00pm

25AGM/01

NOTICE CALLING THE 122nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President, Gerald Chamberlin, read the notice calling the 122nd Annual General Meeting to order. He welcomed 13 Delegates, 1 Past President and 12 members of the Retiring Executive Committee (6 of whom are also Past Presidents). 15 clubs were represented out of a total of 42.

25AGM/02

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Past Presidents: - John Cooper, Colin Hall, Cliff Banks

Incommunicado: Bryan Gilbert, Pax Garabedian, Alan McCormick

Delegates: - Alnwick CC, Amble PG, Ashington CC, Cambois CC, Carlisle CC, Castleside PC, Keswick PS, The Leica Fellowship, Richmond CC, Ryton & Dist. CC, Stokesley PS, Wear Valley PC

Incommunicado: Chester-le-Street CC, Consett CC, Darlington AP, Gallery PG, Gosforth CC, Guisborough PG, Hartlepool CC, Hexham PS, North Shields PS, Pen & CC, Penrith & Dist. CC, Ponteland PS, Stanhope PS, Stockton CC, Washington CC, Winlaton CC

PRESENT:-

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

RETIRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:- Gerald Chamberlin, Phillip Dove, Alan Wilson, Dave Coates, Joseph Duffy, Margaret Welsh, Jill Chamberlin, Jo Knight, Richard Speirs, John Fare, Jim Welsh, David Brown, Glen Lawson, Debra Taylor, John Smith, Alan Forster

SOCIETY and CLUB DELEGATES: - 24 Delegates, representing 15 Clubs.

25AGM/03

MINUTES OF THE 121st AGM HELD ON SUNDAY 24th March 2024

Acceptance was proposed by Howard Wilson and seconded by Richard Speirs and was agreed unanimously.

25AGM/04

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

25AGM/05

ELECTION OF NEW CLUBS TO THE FEDERATION

No nominations for new clubs have been received..

25AGM/06

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Gerald Chamberlin

It doesn't seem like 12 months since I took on the role of President of the NCPF. So much has happened during that time. I have been fortunate to visit a number of clubs and have been made welcome wherever I've been. The enthusiasm coming from the clubs is unbelievable and I believe now we have turned a corner after Covid and clubs are starting to flourish again and see their membership increase and become more active.

Unfortunately In December of last year, I attended the funeral of Jane Black. For a long time, Jane was the backbone of the Federation and was also a very strong supporter of the Royal Photographic Society, and the PSA. She was also a past President of the PAGB and organized and ran the NCPF International Salon. Her knowledge and skills will be greatly missed.

One thing that I have learned being President is just how much work the Executive Members put in to running the Federation and the events like the Club Championships, the Annual Competitions and the Presentation Day Awards.

This is all done by a small group of people and their supporters. These events would not take place without them.

Nearly all members of the Executive hold a number of positions, and a hearty thank you goes to all of them for the great work they do. The one person that stands out most is Margaret, our Secretary. Without her knowledge and dedication to the NCPF, as President I don't know how I would manage without her.

There are a number of subcommittees who do a tremendous amount of work in the background and I have seen just how much work and time they spend preparing for events. The Competitions Subcommittee has worked tirelessly over the past year preparing and organising various up and coming events. Thank you to John Fare, as Chairman of the Subcommittee for all the work he has done. Also, thank you to Phillip Dove for all the work he has put in to writing the new software we now use for the Competitions.

Thank you also to Richard Speirs for the multitasking roles he does, one of which is Chairman of the Judges Subcommittee and another as NCPF Representative to the PAGB which I know takes a lot of his time up.

After Covid a new subcommittee was set up, called the Development and Support Committee which was chaired by John Smith. This committee's task was to come up with ideas to help to support and encourage membership after the pandemic. After our last meeting we felt that we had taken this as far as we could and the decision was taken to 'hibernate' its role until a future date when it is felt that the support is needed again.

My thanks go to Alan Wilson, the Editor of the Northern Focus, for the excellent job he does in producing the Northern Focus which is always well received.

Annuals Competition				
h	22-23/04/23		£933.42	-£933.42
e	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 (clubs)	£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

	Financial W/Off
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 said that last year's Accounts had been audited by David Mitchell, Auditor of Dalston PS, after the A.G.M. and they had been circulated to the Executive at the following meeting. She said that the current accounts would also be audited after this A.G.M. She explained in detail the movement of monies over the last year. Some of the obsolete equipment had been disposed of as it had either perished through lack of use or was no longer workable.

Iain Chambers of Cramlington CC asked why the NCPF had so much money in their accounts while clubs are struggling with increased costs. Jill said that the decision NOT to increase the club fees had been taken because of the amount the NCPF had in reserve. She explained that the NCPF still need money to pay recurring bills and yearly events. Dave Coates responded by saying that when this was set up it was to ensure that there was at least two years money in the bank to cover the Federation in times of trouble. Yearly outgoings and replacing equipment that is outdated isn't cheap. This is covered by maintaining a healthy bank balance. Jill said that as the accounts show we have spent approximately £1500.00 more this year than we have taken in from clubs. Gerald said that members of the committee use their own personal equipment to run the competitions etc. The Annuals require at least 3 laptops. The decision to purchase a new laptop for the Competitions Committee was taken to relieve the workload from their personal equipment. Most of the equipment used, such as the screen, laptops and sound system are personal property. If the Federation were to purchase their own it could cost £1000.00 to £2000.00. Other costs that have to be paid for are the hiring of the hall for our events. It may seem a lot of money in the accounts but it could soon disappear very quickly. John Smith said that this debate has been going on for 30 years.

There were no further questions for Jill regarding the accounts.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Glen Lawson, seconded by Phillip Dove. This was agreed unanimously.

25AGM/08

REPORT – COMPETITIONS CHAIRMAN – John Fare

I took over the Chairmanship of the Committee from Alan Forster in Autumn 2024. I would like to thank Alan for all the hard work that he has done in running the committee and the competitions. He gave me comprehensive handover documentation and has provided ongoing support.

The 2024 Annuals took place at Clara Vale in April 2024. The full results 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 Dalston PS runners up. The Bewick Trophy for the best club entry of colour prints was won by Keswick with Dalston PS runners up. The Myles Audas Memorial trophy for the best club entry of projected digital images was won by Keswick PS with Saltburn PS runners up.

The 2025 Annual Competitions will take place at Clara Vale over 12 / 13 April and the results will be available on the NCPF website shortly afterwards.

In the 2024 Inter-Federation Print Competitions the NCPF came 10th in the monochrome section with 167 points, 8th in the colour section with 174 points and 13th in the Nature section with 165 points.

The 2024 PAGB Inter-Club PDI Championship took place on 21 July 2024. The NCPF was represented by Keswick PS and Gosforth CC who scored 95 and 93 points respectively. These points 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 PAGB Inter-Club PDI Championship.

The 2024 PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship took place on 19 October 2024. The NCPF was represented by Keswick PS and Saltburn PS who scored 104 and 100 points respectively. These points 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 PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship.

The Awards Presentations for 2024 took place on Sunday 17 November at Clara Vale. The event was a success and enjoyed by those who attended.

The NCPF Club Championships for 2025 took place at Clara Vale on Sunday 19th February and were very well attended. 30 Clubs entered the PDI competition and 22 clubs entered the Print competition. These numbers are higher than last year. The PDI competition was won by Keswick PS with Saltburn PS in 2nd place. Both Keswick and Saltburn will be invited to take part in the next PAGB Inter-Club PDI Competition. Similarly the Print Competition was won by Keswick PS with Saltburn PS in 2nd place. Both Keswick PS and Saltburn PS will be invited to take part in the next PAGB Inter-Club Print Competition. Many thanks go to all the clubs who took part in the competitions and congratulations to Keswick PS and Saltburn PS on their success.

The Annuals Presentation Event will take place on 23 November 2025 at Clara Vale.

The entry systems for the Club and Annuals Championships are evolving and where possible we are aligning the systems. I appreciate the work done by the Competition Secretaries in ensuring that their club entries comply with the competition rules and the effort to put their entries into the correct format.

I would like to thank the numerous judges who have supported the various competitions over the year. I would also like to thank the Executive and Competition Committee Members and volunteers for their support during the year and ensuring that events have run smoothly. I would like to give a special mention to Margaret Welsh and Phillip Dove for their forbearance with the new Chairman.

To ensure that the NCPF continue to run the competitions successfully requires a Competitions Committee with a keen and dedicated membership. If you enjoy the competitions and want to ensure that they continue into the future then please consider joining the Competitions Committee and contact any member of the Competitions Committee or Executive Committee.

John Fare
Competitions Committee Chairman

There were no questions for John.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Joseph Duffy, seconded by Alan Porrett and agreed unanimously.

REPORT – BEAMISH REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – Joseph Duffy**NCPF Beamish Weekend 2024**

The Annual Beamish Exhibition took place over the weekend of May 11th – 12th 2024. 60 prints by NCPF club members from Blyth PS, Morpeth CC, Washington CC and Whickham PC were on display. The winning image from the Beamish Trophy Competition 2023 by Sue White of Richmond CC - Cup of Contemplation 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.

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 again this year for the display.

I would like to end by saying a big THANK YOU to the volunteers, Jim & Margaret Welsh and Susan and Joe Sheridan 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.

Over the years the enthusiasm and support for the Exhibition from the NCPF Clubs has waned. In short, I think it has run its course. All good things most come to an end and this year's Beamish /NCPF Exhibition Weekend will be the last one (unless anyone else wants to step in and take over).

The Beamish Trophy Competition will continue to be held as part of the NCPF Annual Competitions.

I will be standing down from the NCPF committee after 30 years of being part of the team. I'm going to dust down my box brownie and start to use it again.

Joseph Duffy LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB

Howard Wilson asked how the Beamish Competition would now be run. Margaret Welsh said that it would be exactly the same rules and format as before with the exception that the entries would now go to John Fare as Competitions Chairman rather than to Joseph Duffy. The NCPF won't be holding any more exhibitions at Beamish but Durham PS informed us that Julian Harrop will be organising an exhibition in conjunction with Beamish in May. Gerald Chamberlin said that it was sad that the Federation weren't able to continue with this event but it was good that an NCPF Club has been able to take the opportunity to fill this space to promote the Federation and themselves.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Alan Wilson, seconded by Pat Porrett and agreed unanimously.

REPORT – REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PAGB – Richard Speirs

I attended the most recent meeting of the PAGB Executive Warwick University on the 1st February and this report highlights the latest information.

The meeting opened with a minute's 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 a 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 club photographers.

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 the PAGB is to produce an overview on compliance.

Two new lectures are being produced for 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 2025 at Dunblane. The next adjudication will be hosted by the Surrey Photographic Association on the 22nd & 23rd November.

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 DPAGB Hon PAGB Hon NCPF

There were no questions from the floor for Richard.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Glen Lawson, seconded by John Smith. This was agreed unanimously.

25AGM/11

REPORT – EDITOR OF “NORTHERN FOCUS” – Alan Wilson

The 95th Northern Focus for Spring (60 page) and 96th Northern Focus for Winter (48 page) editions of Northern Focus were published with good return of positive comments.

Both editions included an advert seeking volunteers to take over Editor Role of *Northern Focus*.

To date – and to my knowledge - no volunteers have come forward. If (by the AGM) this remains the case and the NCPF Executive wish me to continue; I shall volunteer to continue in the role.

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

Thanks as always go to those who have contributed with interesting and informative Federation, club and personal stories.

Alan Wilson
NCPF Northern Focus Editor

Gerald Chamberlin addressed those present and said if anyone is interested in taking over as the Northern Focus Editor they should speak to Alan who will be willing to help them with the role. He asked that the delegates take this request back to their club members in the hope that someone may be interested.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Jim Welsh, seconded by Glen Lawson. This was agreed unanimously

25AGM/12

REPORT – JUDGES SUB-COMMITTEE – Richard Speirs

The current Judges' Subcommittee consists of Richard Speirs (Chair), Lynda Golightly (Secretary), Gerald Chamberlin (NCPF President), Keith Snell, John Fare, William Broadley and Arjun Nambiar.

During the last year we have held our Subcommittee meetings on Zoom which avoids the need for travel. We are grateful to Margaret Welsh for setting these up for us.

A Judges Refresher and Recruitment half day is planned for the 30th March 2025. This will be held in the Western Area where there is a local demand for additional judges. Operating for an afternoon only will still allow for the essential information and guidance to be covered and will give adequate time for the all-important delegate demonstrations at the end of the day. If the format proves to be successful it is hoped to organise a similar event, potentially at Clara Vale in the Autumn.

The selection of Judges for the 2026 Championships and Annuals Competitions will be made at the next meeting to be arranged following this AGM.

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.

Importantly, I sincerely thank the members of the subcommittee for all their valuable help during the year.

A great deal of thanks also goes to those on the Judges' List for their continued service to NCPF clubs. During the last year we have lost several judges through retirement and personal circumstances. Our appreciation goes to those who have left the list.

Richard Speirs DPAGB HonPAGB HonNCPF
Judges Sub-Committee Chair

Richard said that the Judge's selected for next year's competitions will be discussed at the next meeting.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Mike Allport, seconded by Peter Annable. This was agreed unanimously.

25AGM/13

REPORT – DATA MANAGER – Richard Speirs

The PAGB Central Management System (CMS) has undergone several revisions and minor improvements during the year.

Hopefully clubs are now getting more used to accessing the system for information. The major advantage being that the CMS allows clubs to find Judges and Lecturers beyond the boundaries of this Federation. It also enables programme Secretaries to make bookings on the Recorded Lecture Service. This now hosts an increased range of topics which clubs can easily order and download at a very reasonable price. This can be done at relatively short notice so can be useful if a planned speaker gives last minute apologies.

During the last 12 months I have received a few enquiries from club officers who are new to the system and have, so far, managed to resolve their problems. Once they have gained some confidence in using CMS the problems very much disappear.

The principal concern for the future however is ensuring that our Judges and Lecturers continue to update their details. The majority of other Federations now no longer produce Handbooks and from their experience it takes around 3 years for their clubs and officers to fully adopt and appreciate the benefits of CMS.

Richard Speirs DPAGB Hon PAGB Hon NCPF
NCPF Data Manager

Richard said that the CMS System extends the number of Judges/Lecturers over all areas. He said that two new lectures had recently been added to the system. Howard Wilson said that he always had problems accessing the system. This was partly due to the lack of use. He asked if it was possible to access a list of local Judges/Lecturers as a PDF document. Richard said that a PDF document of all Judges/Lecturers was downloadable from the CMS system. Glen Lawson suggested a zoom meeting for the clubs to talk them through the CMS system. Richard said that a comprehensive printable document had already been sent to all clubs explaining how to access the system.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Howard Wilson, seconded by Peter Annable. This was agreed unanimously

25AGM/14

REPORT – PORTFOLIO SECRETARY – Phillip Dove

The audio visuals from the Annuals competition were produced and distributed to clubs again in 2024. The format has continued to evolve, taking on board some suggestions from members of the NCPF.

I am indebted to the Portfolio selectors, Glen Lawson, John Tillotson and Dave Best for providing their comments for the portfolio section.

The 2025 AVs will be distributed to all clubs towards the end of the Summer, and in time for member clubs to use them in their 2025/26 program.

WeTransfer has been used as the preferred method of distribution in recent years. Unfortunately, they have now introduced charges for the volume of transfers that we require. Suitable alternatives to WeTransfer are being discussed so that the AVs will continue to be distributed at no cost to member clubs. This may also have the added benefit of a longer timeframe for downloading the files. It has occasionally been necessary to make further file transfers due to recipients being unavailable in the short time that WeTransfer has allowed for the downloads.

**Phillip Dove CPAGB, LRPS
NCPF Portfolio Secretary**

Phillip was thanked for the time he puts in to produce the AVs and distributes them to the clubs.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Alan Wilson, seconded by Glen Lawson. This was agreed unanimously.

25AGM/15

REPORT – MERIT AWARDS OFFICER – Gerald Chamberlin

In May last year the NCPF, along with the PAGB, held an introduction to the Awards for Photographic Merit Workshop. Over 35 people attended the event.

On 11th May we are running part two of this event where people can bring along their work to get advice and help on how to go forward for their APM (See future events report for more details)

If anyone would like to come along on the 11th May please contact me or come and speak to me after the meeting,

In the past year 3 members of NCPF clubs have gain awards from the PAGB APM.

Congratulations go to the following people: -

David Brown from Gosforth CC who gained a DPAGB in prints

Les Ayres from Penrith & District CC who gained a CPAGB/AV in audiovisual

John Tillotson, also from Penrith & District CC also gained a CPAGB/AV in audiovisual

In April this year the SPF (Scottish Photographic Federation) are hosting the APM adjudication. Several members of the NCPF have submitted work to this event, and we wish them all good luck.

25th to 26th April 2026 will see the NCPF host the PAGB APM adjudications.

**Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP
NCPF Awards Officer**

Gerald outlined the requirements for the new APM Awards that can be applied for.

Acceptance of the reports was proposed by Joseph Duffy, seconded by Richard Speirs. This was agreed unanimously

25AGM/16

REPORT – CLUB SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT – John Smith

Since the inception of the NCPF Club Support and Development Sub Committee in December 2022 we have endeavoured to look into ways and means of the remit given to us to look into and investigate in the ways and means of helping clubs and societies in the NCPF to enhance and aid them in setting their syllabus, affordably, to be attractive to their own club and society members as well as to attract potential new members. Since Covid we have recognised that the NCPF, and especially the clubs themselves, have experienced the effects of this time. To offset this the NCPF Executive agreed to take on board the idea, by Debra Taylor, to set up a Club Support and Development Sub Committee to set in motion to try and help with ways, means and suggestions to get the best out of the NCPF through the ideas and methods of what has been successful to other clubs so that we could pass them to those throughout the NCPF.

Since the commencement of the Sub Committee, we have tried to fulfil this term of reference and many ideas have been raised and have been passed on. This was done through the Sub Committee's Newsletter with good effect. There has been much thought and discussion put into the Newsletter before sending out.

The Sub Committee has been vigilant over the past 3 years to what has been going on in the NCPF and photographic circles in general but have now come to realise that we have come to a point when we feel that at this present moment we have gone as far as possible in the aims that were set out and feel that this is an appropriate time to close down, but not disband or shut down, the Club Support and Development Sub Committee altogether. It will remain an agenda item on the NCPF Executive meetings so that if anything does transpire, and that the Sub Committee is needed, we can revive the Sub Committee to take on the challenge.

Please, if you or your clubs have any ideas which might be good and help others do not hesitate to let us know.

I must pass on my thanks to a well-deserved team, over those three years, of Debra Taylor, Alan Forster, Gerry Adcock, Richard Speirs, Gerald Chamberlin and Jo Knight.

John Smith
Chair Club Support and Development Sub Committee

John and his committee were thanked for their input into this useful project.

Acceptance of the reports was proposed by Phillip Dove, seconded by Howard Wilson. This was agreed unanimously

25AGM/17 **REPORT – WEBMASTER – Jo Knight**

The Federation's website continues to be well used. In the last year 45 news items have been posted on our front page by a variety of authors and we have had over 4,600 visitors from 54 countries and nearly 16,400 individual page views.

The most read post was the Annuals Results for 2024.

We have 63 followers who are notified via email of new posts on the website. This is a disappointingly low number considering the amount of members we have within the Federation, however visitors to the site routinely share posts on both Facebook and Twitter which reach a wider audience.

The most downloaded items were the Club Championship rules, closely followed by the rules for the NCPF Annuals. Editions of Northern Focus are also very well read.

The website continues to be tweaked in response to comments from users. The Honours page has been expanded to include all past NCPF Presidents and Secretaries – thanks to Jill Chamberlin for providing me with this information.

The website hosting was renewed for another year with Wordpress.com at a cost of £43.20. The domain name of ncpf.org.uk was renewed for another 12 months with Easily.co.uk at a cost of £8.26. We still have another 9 months to run on our email contract, which expires in November 2025.

Jo Knight
Webmaster

In her absence, Gerald Chamberlin thanked Jo for all the hard work she is doing in keeping the NCPF website up to date and accessible to everyone.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Peter Annable, seconded by Alan Porrett. This was agreed unanimously.

25AGM/18 **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE**

Jill Chamberlin said that the NCPF Subscriptions would remain at £70.00 for the coming year.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Dave Coates, seconded by Howard Wilson. This was agreed unanimously

25AGM/19 **NCPF ROLL OF HONOUR**

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

25AGM/20 **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

At this point in the proceedings Dave Coates asked the President for permission to read out a citation for an APAGB nomination. He said that this person had been known to him for over 25 years which takes him back to his time as General Secretary. The Federation struggled a little during times of change with the loss of some members of the Executive, in particular, The Social Secretary and the Courses Secretary. A new joint Courses and Social Subcommittee was formed and a certain gentleman agreed to head this team. Also appointed to this team was a Social Secretary, which we had never had. This person worked quietly in the background and the Social Subcommittee became a success and remained so for a decade until my retirement as General Secretary and President. There then followed a period of unrest and tumult where the Competitions Subcommittee fell apart. Things were difficult and the Courses Subcommittee took on the work and this faithful secretary carried on holding the work together. This was followed a few years later by a period when the General Secretary resigned. We were in desperate need of a new Secretary, and sure enough, despite the other commitments at club level and background work, they stepped forward to take on the role of General Secretary. At this time Cliff Banks was President. I'm sure that by now you all know who I am referring to. I well remember Margaret when you took over as General Secretary. You were uncertain and concerned about getting it right. You need not have worried. You stepped into the role and within a year or so you had it in the palm of your hand. We found a real diamond and after 10 years you are still in post, holding down the job with the longest stint since World War II! The Federation has you to thank for the way you've carried out your secretary roles, often supporting the inexperienced and occasionally knocking heads together, but always without causing offense. I honestly believe that without some of

your efforts this Federation would have been in considerably more difficulties than it was. Thank you for all you have done for us. It doesn't end there because for much of this time and to this date you were also performing one or more roles for Blyth Photographic Society sometimes with roles overlapping – Social Secretary, General Secretary and Treasurer. (and wife). I will also say that I do know the value of having a supportive spouse. I'm not sure how supportive yours is but he's always by your side. In summary you've committed a quarter of a century of unbroken service to the NCPF and your club. I don't think I can conclude this citation better than this way. Normally when we put a citation forward to the PAGB you receive a letter stating whether it is granted or failed. I have had a few of them in the past involving citations but this time I got an extra sentence on the end. 'Thank you for making such a deserving nomination. We shall be proud to add Margaret Welsh's name to the APAGB Role of Honour'.

Margaret received her badge and certificate from Dave. She said that Dave was half way through the citation before she realised it was her he was talking about. She said that this award was unexpected and she was honoured to receive it. She thanked all those involved in applying for the award.

Gerald Chamberlin then stepped forward and read out another citation for someone who has served the Federation for so long, undertaking multiple tasks. This person never stops working. If they can't answer a query they will find the answer. They just keep going. The award in question is Honorary Life Vice President of the NCPF. The requirements for this award were created in 2003. The highest honour the NCPF can bestow with very strict conditions laid down by the Executive. The award is for Exceptional Service which must include 40 years in a club and a minimum of 20 years to the Federation. It is my pleasure to present this award to someone who has done an outstanding amount of work in multiple roles for both his club and the Federation. He invited Richard Speirs to come forward and receive his award. Gerald congratulated Richard. He said he just keeps going. This is a very well deserved award. Richard said it was a great honour to receive this award. He thanked everyone for his award.

25AGM/21

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISTINCTIONS/AWARDS

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

DPAGB	David Brown	Gosforth CC
CPAGB/AV	Les Ayres	Penrith CC
	John Tillotson	Penrith CC

Congratulations were given to everyone who had received awards..

25AGM/22

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING EXECUTIVE

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

As reported by the **Competitions Chairman, John Fare**, we are continuing to streamline the entry system for the Club Championships and the Annuals Competitions. This is down to the sterling efforts of Phillip Dove and Alan Parker. Hopefully, your Competition Officers are finding it easier to submit your entries into the NCPF Competitions.

Our President, Gerald Chamberlin, has put in quite a number of miles during his first term of office, visiting clubs with his talks and judging competitions. **As the PAGB Merit Awards Officer** he has organised a workshop to help and advise photographers who are interested in gaining a PAGB award. This will be held on Sunday 11th May at the Victory Hall, Dalston.

Our Treasurer, Jill Chamberlin, has streamlined the banking system and brought it into the 21st Century. Thank you Jill.

Jo Knight, who is our Webmaster, does an excellent job keeping the NCPF website up to date. Anyone sending information to her for publication will find it is immediately uploaded.

Since **Alan Wilson** took over as **Editor of the Northern Focus** he has turned it into an interesting and informative publication. Alan would like to retire from this role but as yet, no one has come forward to take over. Alan has volunteered to continue until a replacement is found. If you are interested please speak to him after the meeting.

As a member of the Executive for the last 30 years, **Joseph Duffy** has undertaken numerous roles during this time. He is retiring as the Beamish Representative and as a member of the Executive at this A.G.M. Thank you for your service Joseph. We will no longer hold the Beamish Weekend but the Beamish Competition will continue under the umbrella of the Competitions Committee.

Richard Speirs wears many hats on the Executive. As the **PAGB Representative** he is the link between the **PAGB and the NCPF**.

As Data Manager for both committees he is the 'go to' man for any help or information needed by club officers to navigate their way around the **PAGB CMS** system. This is not a task for the faint hearted!

Richard is also the Chairman of the Judges Subcommittee and has organised a **Judges Recruitment Day on Sunday 30th March at Victory Hall, Dalston**. The current list of NCPF judges is very low. Hopefully, this may encourage some of those attending to join the ranks. If you are interested in becoming a judge but haven't yet applied please speak to Richard after the meeting.

The NCPF is broken up into SIX areas. Each area has an elected Representative. This person is your clubs voice on the Executive. Any issues or compliments you would like addressed by the Executive can be brought to the table by them. **You need to know who your Area Representative is!** Sadly, we are losing **Debra Taylor**,

who is the **Wear Area Representative**. I would like to thank her for the work she has done while in this role. Good luck for the future Debra. As yet, we don't have a replacement.

The Executive also has TWO Elected Members – John Smith and Alan Forster - who both play an active role in the running of the NCPF. **John** set up a **Support and Development Committee** with the intention of helping clubs after the Pandemic, with ideas and suggestions to help them recruit new members. **Alan** retired as Competitions Chairman but still remains an active member of the Competitions Committee. There is a **THIRD** vacancy available for anyone who would like to be nominated onto the Committee. Nomination forms are available if you are interested.

Last, but not least, I would like to mention our prestigious **Secretary, Margaret Welsh**, who works tirelessly to ensure that all the T's are crossed and the I's are dotted. She is a person of enormous energy. She is the link bonding the NCPF together and is a font of knowledge regarding anything NCPF related.

On that note, can I ask everyone to put their hands together to show their appreciation for all the work that has been done over the past year to keep the NCPF functioning.

25AGM/23 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND AUDITOR

Margaret Welsh said that 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. The Representative for the Wear Area, Debra Taylor, is resigning at this A.G.M. To date we have no nominees to take over the post. A seconder was required for these positions. The positions of Non-Executive Archivist, Equipment Caretaker and Auditor only required a vote of either For or Against by the attending delegates.

The following Officers were confirmed for 2025/2026

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

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

25AGM/24

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JUDGES HALF DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP – 30TH MARCH 2025

Venue : - Victory Hall, Dalston, Carlisle starting at 1pm

Contact : - Richard Speirs NCPF Judges chairman.

NCPF ANNUALS COMPETITIONS - (this is a closed event not open to club members) - 12th -13th April 2025

Venue : - Clara Vale, Ryton

Contact : - John Fare NCPF Competition Chairman.

PAGB 2025 MASTERS OF PRINT EXHIBITION - 2nd to 17th May 2025

Venue : - Wilkinson camera shop, Carlisle city centre.

NCPF, PAGB AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT ADVICE WORKSHOP - 11th May 2025

Venue : - Victory Hall, Dalston, Carlisle starting at 1pm

Contact : - Gerald Chamberlin NCPF Awards Officer

NCPF AWARDS PRESENTATION & THE 2024 MASTERS OF PRINT DISPLAY - 23rd November 2025

Open to all club members to attend.

Venue : - Clara Vale, Ryton

Contact :- Margaret Welsh NCPF secretary

NCPF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS (open to all club members to attend) - 22nd February 2026

Venue : - Clara Vale

Contact : - John Fare NCPF Competition Chairman.

NCPF AGM - 22nd March 2026

Venue TBA

NCPF Annuals Competitions (this in a closed event not open to club members) - 11th -12th April 2026

Venue : - Clara Vale, Ryton

Contact : - John Fare NCPF Competition Chairman.

NCPF host the PAGB MERIT AWARDS ADJUDICATION - 25th to 26 April 2026

Venue : - Caldew School, Dalston, Carlisle.

Contact : - Gerald Chamberlin NCPF Awards Officer

If your club is hosting an event and you wish to advertise it please pass on details to Jo Knight the NCPF Webmaster

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alan Wilson informed everyone that there was a card going around for Roy Elwood's 100th birthday. He said Roy had been a member of Whickham PC for a very long time. Whickham PC will be hosting an exhibition or his work on April 4th 2025. Roy's 100th birthday is on April 1st 2025. Roy will be opening the exhibition and everyone will be welcome to attend.

Durham PS will host an Exhibition entitled 'Focus on the Museum' using images of Beamish Museum on 7th & 8th June 2025.

25AGM/26

VOTES OF THANKS BY THE PRESIDENT

The President, Gerald Chamberlin thanked everyone present for attending 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 and to attend the next A.G.M. You never know what's going to happen at an A.G.M. (Do you Margaret and Richard). They both agreed. Gerald concluded by requesting that clubs contacted Jo Knight with any events they had coming up and she would put them on the website. Alan Wilson is always looking for events and information to put into the Northern Focus.

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

25AGM/27

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The President declared the meeting closed at 3.45pm

Signed

Date