



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 Thursday 04th June 2026 on Zoom.

The President, Phillip Dove, opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed two new members, Robert Bedson and Robert Butler, to the meeting as well as attending members of the Executive. Phillip also thanked Gerald Chamberlin for organising the APM Adjudications in April.

Appendix 1

Present: - Phillip Dove, Alan Forster, Gerald Chamberlin, Dave Coates, Jim Welsh, Margaret Welsh, Jill Chamberlin, Jo Knight, John Fare, Robert Butler, Glen Lawson, Robert Bedson, John Smith, Alan Wilson

26/06/01 Apologies for Absence: - Richard Speirs, David Brown, Linda McGregor

Incommunicado: -

26/06/02 The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2026 were approved and signed by the President.

Proposed by Jo Knight – Seconded by Jim Welsh

26/06/03 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

26/06/04 Correspondence

No correspondence received

26/06/05 Treasurer – Jill Chamberlin

Appendix 2a/b

Jill read her report. She outlined the accounts to date. There were no questions for Jill.

Margaret Welsh asked if the Rear Projection Screen could be removed from the equipment owned by the NCPF as it has been disposed of. Jill said she would remove it.

Report accepted and attached.

26/06/06 Reports

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

Appendix 3

John read through his report. He asked for approval from the committee to invite Tynemouth PS to self fund their entry to the PAGB Competition. This was agreed unanimously. He said that the 3rd club issue would need to be resolved before October and will be submitting a draft proposal at the August meeting regarding the distribution of the money issued to each club. Dave Coates suggested that we reduce the financing to £100.00 per club. John will suggest this as an option in his draft report.

A discussion regarding AI took place again. In version 27.7.0 of Photoshop the Remove Tool now has the capability to use Generative AI off line by selecting the Device option rather than the Cloud. The hardware requirements to use Generative AI on the Device are onerous so it will not be available if the hardware doesn't meet the minimum requirements. It was suggested that an updated guidance was sent out to the clubs as a reminder not to use Cloud based Generative AI. John said that he would send a copy of the guidance to Jo to put on the website.

Further to the proposal at the A.G.M. to discontinue issuing trophies at the Presentation Event and supplying a certificate with the trophy image and section won along with a memento, no final decision was made. Alan Forster suggested that the individual trophies could be photographed and the information posted on the website. To maintain accountability Glen Lawson suggested that a list of the previous winners could be printed on the back of the certificate. After discussion John asked the committee for their approval to implement this change. This was unanimously approved.

John then suggested that the trophies could be returned to the club or individual who donated them. Margaret said that the majority of the trophies were so old that traceability may be impossible. Alan and Pat Porrett, who donated the Diamond Trophy, had requested its return if the decision was made to cease distribution. The Joan Rooker Trophy, which came from Morpeth CC could also be offered back to them. It was agreed that the rest of the trophies would be returned to storage at Tynemouth until a final decision could be made. Alan Wilson said that the clubs would need to be advised of any decisions made regarding the traceability and disposal of the trophies for future reference and transparency. Margaret said that all decisions and outcomes would be recorded as part of the Competitions and Executive Reports. This was unanimously approved.

John said he was in the process of arranging a meeting between Phillip Dove and Gary Local to arrange support for Phillip with the competitions during his term as President.

The following are the dates for the forthcoming Competitions and Events:

Beamish Competition Closing date for entries 11 October 2026

Beamish Competition Judging complete 04 November 2026

Presentation Event 22 November 2026

Club Championships 28 February 2027

Annual Competitions 10/11 April 2027

Report accepted and attached.

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

Appendix 4

In Richard's absence his report was accepted and attached.

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

Appendix 5

Gerald outlined his report. He said that the APM Event had been a resounding success. He said that the 9 members who got awards will be presented with their certificates at the Presentation Event. The award winners will be contacted to see if they would display some of their panels at the Presentation Event.

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

Appendix 6

As outgoing Editor Alan read through his short report. He said the next edition will be issued in the next couple of weeks. Margaret asked Rob if he wanted to add anything to Alan's report as Incoming Editor. He said that Alan had covered everything in his report and they would be meeting in the next couple of weeks to finalise the handover. Report accepted and attached.

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

Appendix 7

In Richard's absence his report was accepted and attached.

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

Appendix 8

In Richard's absence his report was accepted and attached.

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

Phillip had no written report as Portfolio Secretary. He said that everything was in place for November. He said that as President he would not be able to do the narration and presentation of images as he will be fulfilling his duties as President. He said that this would be discussed and sorted out at the next Competitions Subcommittee Meeting.

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

No Report.

26/06/06-9 Webmaster – Jo Knight

Appendix 9

Jo's short report was discussed. She said that the domain name had been renewed and the details will be added to her next report. Report accepted and attached.

26/06/07 Area Reports

26/06/07-1 Northern – Jim Welsh

No Report

26/06/07-2 North Tyne – David Brown

No Report.

26/06/07-3 South Tyne – Glen Lawson

Appendix 10

Glen read his report which outlined the dissatisfaction of a club member in his area regarding the low scoring and lack of 15's at the Annuals Competitions. After a lengthy discussion regarding the content of the report it was decided that John Fare would respond to the query. Report was accepted and attached.

26/06/07-4 Southern – Phillip Dove

No Report.

26/06/07-5 Wear Area – Robert Bedson

Robert said he had started contacting the clubs in his area after receiving their contact details from Margaret. He is trying to organise a club and venue to hold a Wear Area Battle.

26/06/07-6 Western – Gerald Chamberlin

No Report.

26/06/08 Any Other Business

Jo Knight said she'd received a query through the website regarding insurance and asking if the NCPF had their own insurer or did they use the PAGB. Jill Chamberlin said that we use the PAGB Insurer's. Jo said she would put a link on the website to direct them to the PAGB Insurance.

Jill Chamberlin said she would be sending out the paperwork for the Club Directory update information.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Future Meeting Date:-

Wednesday 19th August 2026 @ Clara Vale – 7.30pm (confirmed by Clara Vale)

Monday 12th October 2026 – Zoom – 7.00pm

Friday 04th December 2026 – Zoom – 7.00pm

Tuesday 16th February 2027 @ Clara Vale – 7.30pm (confirmed by Clara Vale)

Sunday 04th April 2027 - A.G.M. - Clara Vale - 2.00pm (confirmed by Clara Vale)

President's Report – June 2026

Firstly, I would like to thank all the members of the Executive Committee for continuing in their roles. We have an enthusiastic, experienced, and highly capable team, and I am confident that, working together, we can continue to move the NCPF forward. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Robert Bedson and Robert Butler as they join the team, and to welcome back Linda McGregor.

My first official duty as President was to attend the Awards for Photographic Merit event in Carlisle. I must admit that I arrived with a slight sense of imposter syndrome, following in the footsteps of Gerald, who, along with his team, has devoted an enormous amount of time and effort over many months—and indeed years—to make the event such a success. The smooth organisation and professionalism displayed throughout the weekend were a testament to that hard work. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and I was proud to be there representing the NCPF. My congratulations and sincere thanks go to everyone involved in delivering such an excellent event.

I would also like to congratulate the following NCPF members on achieving their Awards for Photographic Merit:

Louise Brown (Penrith & District Camera Club) – Badge Award
 Robert Kenny (Gosforth Camera Club) – Credit Award (PDI)
 Lynda Golightly (Consett & District Photographic Society) – Credit Award (Prints)
 Fiona Haughton (Ryton & District Camera Club) – Credit Award (Prints)
 Kevin Wheatley (Dalston Photographic Society) – Credit Award (Prints)
 Lesley Hughes (Gosforth Camera Club) – Credit Award (Prints)
 Morgan Stephenson (Gosforth Camera Club) – Credit Award (Prints)
 Anil Doshi (Gosforth Camera Club) – Credit Award (Prints)
 John Tillotson (Penrith & District Camera Club) – Distinction Award (Prints)

These awards represent a significant achievement and reflect the dedication, skill, and commitment of the recipients. Well done to all.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Exhibition Preview and Presentation of Trophies at Tynemouth Photographic Society. The standard of photography on display was exceptional, and the sheer volume of high-quality work was truly impressive. It was a wonderful showcase of the talent that exists throughout our federation and a reminder of the strength and vibrancy of club photography within the NCPF.

Phillip Dove
 NCPF President

Finance report

30 May 2026

Expenditure

- Tynemouth Photographic Society have been paid £20 for equipment storage
- 3 lever arch files have been purchased for 3 years accounts and file dividers £17.59
- The Empire School of Boxing has been paid £20 for archive storage
- 2 months of ink contract for Secretary's printer £26.98
- Renewed Microsoft 365 £104.99
- 2 months Bank service charges £8.50
- Domain name for website £13.63
- The Annuals Competition cost £1,276.03 (£636.65 in 2025-26 accounts), Clara Vale cost £535.50, Judges cost £585.53, the Buffet £130.00 and damage to Amble's prints £25.00
- North Tyne Area AGM cost £20.00
- Ticket sales for the PAGB APM's event at Dalston raised £578.42. Tickets via the CMS system used PayPal and there was commission to pay. If bought via NCPF we received the full £15.00.
- Catering for the PAGB event was reimbursed by the PAGB
- My instant ink contract was increased to cover the additional paperwork required by Gerald as Receiving Officer and event organiser for the PAGB event £13.49
- Candidates who needed their boxes returned paid £10.00 so that Gerald could arrange delivery
- Gerald was asked to collect and return print stands to Dumfries Camera Club, mileage was paid £65.00
- As John Gravett was our official photographer at the event we were able to produce a commemorative book £76.11

Community Account

Balance at AGM £2,094.31

Transfer from

Instant Access a/c

Expenditure -£473.25

Subs 2027/8 £0.00

Community Account	AGM	23/03/2026	£2,094.31
	Expenditure		-£473.25
(from Fixed Savings a/c)			£0.00
	2027-28		£0.00
	Balance	26/05/2026	£1,621.06
Commercial Instant Access A/C			£2,066.15
Transfer to Current a/c			£0.00
Interest			£1.79
		26/05/2026	£2,067.94

**Lloyds Bank Account Balances
AGM 2026**

Community Account

2025-26

23/03/2026

-£775.69

2026-27

£2,870.00

£2,094.31

Commercial Instant Access A/C

Interest

23/03/2026

£2,047.61

£18.54

£2,066.15

Fixed Term Savings A/C

23/03/2026

£16,440.00

Competition Sub Committee Report June 2026
Appendix 3

The last meeting of the Competition sub-committee was held on 28 April 2026 with the next meeting due to be held on 6 October 2026.

Since the last Executive meeting both the Club Championships and Annual Competitions have been held.

The results of the Club Championships were

	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Print Championship	Keswick PS	Saltburn PS	Tynemouth PS
PDI Championship	Keswick	Gosforth CC	Richmond CC

Due to a change in the PAGB Inter Club Competition rules the number of clubs that the NCPF can nominate to represent the NCPF at both competitions has been increased to 3 clubs. It has been agreed that the top three clubs in the PDI Championship will represent the NCPF at the PAGB Inter Club Competition being held at Warwick School on 19 July. Regarding the PAGB Inter Club Print Competition, at the AGM it was proposed that whilst the 1st and 2nd Place clubs would be nominated and given £200 funding the 3rd Place club may be given the option to self-fund. The Executive Committee should consider approving the self-funding option at this meeting so that when the NCPF receive the PAGB invite for nominations Tynemouth PS can be nominated providing they agree to self-fund. The date for nomination of clubs has still to be given but the next meeting Executive meeting is 19 August and the final date for nominations will be about the end of August.

For future years it is uneconomic for the NCPF to provide £200 funding for 3 clubs to each of the PAGB Inter club competitions and it was proposed that a note should be sent to all clubs with options on how clubs could be funded in the future. The clubs will be invited to select their preferred options and suggest other options. Since the Club Championships Rules will be formalised by November 2026 the note needs to be ready for issuing early September with return by mid October. It is proposed to issue a draft note for consideration at the August Executive committee meeting.

At the Annual Competitions Keswick PS won the trophies for PDIs and Monochrome Prints whilst the Colour Trophy was jointly won by Keswick PS and Gosforth CC. The individual winners are identified on the NCPF website. Congratulations to all the individual winners and special congratulations to Keith Snell of Keswick PS for winning the Joan Rooker Trophy for the Best of All Trophy Winners with Snow Monkey Warming Up.

The NCPF entries for the PAGB Inter Federation Print Championships have been submitted to the PAGB. The championships will be judged on 20 June.

At the Competitions subcommittee meeting on 28 April the committee reviewed the operation of the Annual Competitions. The review highlighted that the handling of prints requires a small change to prevent damage to some mounts. Many thanks for those who supported the Competitions which were very successful.

The list of potential judges for upcoming competitions has still to be provided by the Judges subcommittee. The next meeting of the Judges subcommittee is on 14 June.

The next Competitions subcommittee meeting to be held on 6 October will concentrate on the arrangements for the Presentations at Clara Vale on 22 November 2026.

A Guidance note has been issued to clubs prohibiting the use of Generative AI in entries for NCPF Competitions. The article 'AI – A challenge to photographic truth?' in PAGB e-news issue 406 includes a list generative tools to be avoided which aligns with the Guidance note. However, since the latest version of Adobe Photoshop provides the option to use Generative Remove locally rather than using Adobe servers do we need to consider the impact on the Club Championship rules?

At the AGM there was no decision taken on replacing trophies with certificates. Do we need to progress?

Since Phillip Dove is now the President there is a need for some help in running the Club Championships and Annual Competitions. At the last Competitions subcommittee it was agreed that John Fare would set up a meeting between Phillip and Gary Local from South Shields regarding support. This meeting has still to be arranged.

The following dates have been agreed for events run by the Competitions subcommittee.

Beamish Competition	Closing date for entries 11 October 2026
Beamish Competition	Judging Complete 4 November 2026
Presentation Event	22 November 2026
Club Championships	28 February 2027
Annuals Competitions	10 / 11 April 2027

John Fare

Chairman, Competitions sub committee

PAGB Representative's Report 04th June 2026

Appendix 4

I attended the meeting of the PAGB Executive at Warwick University on the 11th April. As this was the first meeting of the Executive since the AGM on the 9th April the meeting was primarily to consider Executive issues for the next 12 months. Consequently, there are few items relevant to Federations and Clubs.

Treasurers Report

2.1) The PAGB Treasurer, Gordon Jenkins, presented the yearend figures which indicated that further savings would need to be made to cover for the continuing reduction in the number of sponsors. This is no reflection on the PAGB, merely a clear indication that the current economic downturn in the UK is having a significant effect on sales in all sectors.

The savings so far identified and established are having a beneficial effect and will, if continued during the year, noticeably strengthen the balances.

2.2) The PAGB budget still holds a sum in reserve to host a FIAP Biennial. Federations were asked to consider if this fund should continue to be ring fenced or if it should form part of the broader FIAP budget. All Federations who responded echoed the decision of the NCPF that the money form part of the broader FIAP budget as opposed to allowing it to "disappear" into the general funds. This was agreed by the Executive as it could in future be used to allow the PAGB FIAP delegate to attend Congress and Annual Meetings to represent the UK.

Insurance

3.1) Federations should have received the insurers rebate at the end of January or early February and should be checked by Federations to verify that it has been received.

The insurers "Hive" request that each Federation sends them a list of all their clubs as of the 1st January 2026. This is to ensure that only Federated clubs receive the discount benefits arranged by the PAGB.

The next meeting for the PAGB will be held at Warwick University on Saturday 3rd October.

Richard Speirs

Appendix 5

Merit Awards Officer's Report June 2026

The APM adjudication took place at Caldew School, Dalston nr Carlisle on the 24th & 25th April 2026. The host for this adjudication was the Northern Counties Photographic Federation where a team of members from the Western Area local NCPF clubs, working alongside the PAGB team, worked enthusiastically all weekend to make this event run like clockwork from start to finish.

The NCPF team appreciate all the positive feedback that we have received saying how smoothly everything seemed to go over the weekend. 9 members for the NCPF clubs gained their awards - 1 BPAGB, 7CPAGB & 1DPAGB.

I have now received all of the certificates for the members that gained their awards, which I hope we can present in November along with an exhibition of some of their images.

The APM adjudication for November is now full. Several NCPF members have been successful in gaining a place in November.

Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP.

NCPF APM Secretary

Outgoing Northern Focus Editor Report – 04th June 2026

Appendix 6

97th Edition of Northern Focus issued January 2026.

98th Edition shall be published early-June 2026 (to include any items of note from this meeting).

This shall be final edition from AW. (8 editions since 2021)

I have created a Guidance Document on USB (with Draft Job Description) for incoming NCPF Northern Focus Editor Rob Butler, including material / hints-tips / layout / logo's / contacts prior to Rob's first Edition (edition 99) as Northern Focus Editor.

Publication will be due Autumn/Winter 2026

Regards

Alan Wilson ARPS AFIAP

Editor Northern Focus

Judges Subcommittee Report 04th June 2026

Appendix 7

As Gerald Chamberlin has now taken up the role of Chairman, this is by way of a hand over report.

A meeting arranged for the 19th April was cancelled due to the unavailability of key subcommittee members. This has subsequently been arranged for the evening of 14th June to select Judges for the NCPF Competitions for next year.

Since the last meeting of this Executive clubs were circulated regarding interest for a half day Judges Recruitment event, provisionally to be held towards the end of September this year. To date I have received 10 expressions of interest, primarily from the eastern side of the Federation. This would suggest that, depending on availability, Clara Vale be used as the venue. The date and choice of venue will also be decided at the June meeting of the subcommittee.

Richard Speirs

Data Managers Report 04th June 2026

Appendix 8

Since our last meeting I have not received a single enquiry regarding the CMS.

The only issue to report is that the PAGB is developing a new Host for the Management System. It will have increased capacity and should have a cleaner, more user friendly appearance when completed.

Richard Speirs

Website Report 01st June 2026

Appendix 9

Contributions to the website have been few since our last meeting, all is running smoothly and there is very little to report.

Website traffic since the last meeting consists:

February 2026: 881 visitors and 2500 page views

March 2026: 731 visitors and 1800 page views

April 2026: 923 visitors and 2500 page views

Jo Knight

Webmaster

South Tyne Representative Report 21st May 2026

Appendix 10

All clubs in the South Tyne were asked at the end of the season if there were any items that they wished to be brought to the attention of the NCPF.

The only item was from Gateshead CC and was in relation to the scoring at the annuals as in relation to the lack of any 15s. The individual who put forward the query went into some depth, and I attach a copy of his email.

"My questions would as always be relating to the baffling way that marks are awarded in these competitions. Standard distribution curves, bell jar curves, use of the full range of marks available etc all seem alien to those judging. The mechanics here are that three judges score an image out of 5. If each of the three score an image at 3 then the total is 9. If each judge scores at 4, then the total is 12. This seems to mean that out of the around 750 images 738 were scored somewhere between 3,3,3 and 4,4,4. Scores allocated bear sometimes little resemblance to awards made with regard to the same images in the other NCPF competition, so my questions would be why is this the case? If it comes down to the whim of the individual judges, then is this a process that has enough going for it to make it valid, or should we just not bother encouraging them (ie judges)? The least that might be expected would be some kind of report - like a GCSE or A Level examiners report - that seems to at least throw light on, if not justify, the outcomes that have been determined and published. With the kinds of outcomes that also throw sharp distinction between what clubs as to what judges think are their six outstanding images one wonders what is really being assessed. And that's before we understand the seeming gap between the higher reward of bird/ wildlife images as opposed to others. If there is any objective justification to this, then let's be able to read it from a published report of the judge's determinations.

Without a concrete outcome to this, I for one will be joining the majority of members of Gateshead in choosing not to submit any images to this competition in the future."

Phew.

Regards

G Lawson