



Club Support Newsletter



To all Club Committee Members

January 2023

It has been highlighted that since COVID many clubs are struggling to get back to their pre-pandemic numbers and are concerned about being sustainable organisations in the future. This is further affected by current inflation, with many clubs facing increased costs in hiring meeting rooms.

Also, as committee members change, many new club officials are not fully aware of what the Northern Counties Photographic Federation (NCPF) can do to help members.

This is why we have formed a new sub-committee within the NCPF with the aim of helping clubs through the current financial and economically challenging times.

We are the NCPF Club Support and Development Group, and we are here to help!

This is our first newsletter, and we hope it is one of many.

What is essential to us is that it is an interactive process and an exchange of ideas between clubs. Please tell us what you want from your Northern Counties Photographic Federation. To contact us with your thoughts, ideas and if you'd like to be involved, please email: clubsupport@ncpf.org.uk

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What the NCPF can do for you!

We'd like to start with what the NCPF can do for you. We are aware that many committee members are new to the role and a "back to basics list" about the NCPF we hope will prove useful not only for new officers, but as a reminder for those more seasoned committee members.

What we already do:

- We maintain the Directory of Clubs and Judges and Lecturers.
- We provide judges' training and development to club members who wish to become judges.

- We organise the regional inter-club competitions – the Club Championships and the Annuals Competition.
- We represent our member clubs with the national organisation, the PAGB and provide feedback.
- We organise an event in conjunction with Beamish Open Air Museum. This is an annual event which allows any member of an NCPF club to enter their work into a competition and showcase their work to the public at Beamish - and even sell prints.
- We maintain an informative website which contains, amongst other things, a news page for club events, links to club websites, informative articles, newsletters, and a catalogue of post-competition winning images. www.ncpf.org.uk.
- Affiliated clubs can avail themselves of preferential Public Indemnity, All Risks and Management insurance which has been negotiated by the PAGB. The Managing Broker for these policies is Hive Insurance Services. They can be contacted through this link: <https://stbinsurance.co.uk/pagb-apply/>.
- We promote and support club events using the federation-wide email circulation list and the website.
- We encourage and support members of affiliated clubs to improve their photography through undertaking qualifications and providing a mentoring programme.
- We produce a regular e-magazine – The Northern Focus – which is available for download free from the NCPF website.

We will provide more detailed information on these in future editions of the newsletter but do take a look at the website where a lot of information is already available.

The NCPF meets monthly throughout the main photography season and your club is represented by your area representative (see NCPF website for more details). Like many organisations we are also short of volunteers and committee members who will help so, if you would like to be involved, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The Club Syllabus

The Syllabus or Programme Secretary is one of the most demanding roles in a photography club - not only coming up with ideas week on week but also balancing the costs of inviting speakers to their club against increasingly tight budgets.

Below are some tried and tested ideas for interesting, affordable evenings for club members:

- Try looking at the National zoom register, (set up during the pandemic) where many clubs have enjoyed speakers from all over the country without having to involve

excessive travel costs: <https://zoom.clubsoftware.org/main.php> (Quite a few of the speakers only charge a small fee).

- Shared evenings with another club in the nearby vicinity.
- 2022 NCPF Portfolio & Awards & Alliance presentations have been created & sent out to clubs. Turn it into a critique evening.
- Each member is sent the same 3 raw images to process and maybe add their own creativity, and a couple of weeks later review the results. This suggestion was a great hit and much fun.
- Members evening, show and tell - Talking about a particular technique.
- The PAGB has several recorded lectures which, for a small fee, can be downloaded through their website: <https://pagbhost.co.uk/main/showlectures.php>.

New Member Recruitment

One of the best ways to ensure your future and financial stability is to recruit new members. We would love to hear what your club is doing to attract members and perhaps you would be happy to share your ideas in this forum so that together as a group of clubs under the NCPF banner we can find new ways to inspire people to join us.

In our next newsletter we will have a Q&A interview with someone who is trying to do just that...watch this space.

In the meantime, however some suggestions are:

- Running introductory sessions and open days for the public.
- Make sure your website is attractive and keep it current and informative.
- Search Engine Optimisation - If you are a member of the public looking for a camera club, would they find your club if they put in a general google search? We'll be sending out a bit more information on this soon.
- Local Exhibitions. Many clubs have an annual event to showcase your work, but could you show images in the local library, café, or sports centre? Make sure you include details of how to contact the club.
- Do you send articles and features to your local newspaper, Parish News or What's on guide?
- What would a person using a camera phone think about joining your club? Would they feel intimidated because they don't have the latest from Canon, or would they be welcomed as an equal, with something new to offer? Is your club embracing the increasing use of camera phones?



FOCUS ON...the PAGB

The PAGB is a membership organisation that co-ordinates activities for around 1,000 Photographic Clubs in England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland (including the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). It does this in collaboration with 15 geographical Federations of which the NCPF is one. Representatives from each of the 15 Federations make up the Alliance from which are elected an Executive Committee which meets three times per year to discuss and arrange events.

The PAGB has strong links with similar organisations. In the UK, it has cross-representation with the Royal Photographic Society and liaises throughout the world via its membership of FIAP (The International Federation of Photographic Art).

The PAGB organises photographic events for its Federations and Clubs. These include:

- The Inter-Federation Competition, The Inter-Club Print Championship,
- The Inter-Club Projected Digital Image Championship, The GB Trophy for Clubs (Prints) and The GB Cup for Clubs (Projected images)
- The PAGB Masters of Print.

It offers services such as Recorded Lectures and its own photographic distinctions, known as Awards for Photographic Merit.

The Alliance also maintains the National List of Speakers and Judges and facilitates Insurance Services for Federations and Clubs.

The PAGB main website is: www.thepagb.org.uk

Two particular things to note for use by Clubs are:

- the PAGB-e-news which provides a wealth of photographic information. Club Members can sign up for their own copy by using the following link: <https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/>.
- Also representing very good value for clubs is the list of Recorded Lectures, full details of which can be accessed directly: <https://pagbhost.co.uk/main/showlectures.php>.

And finally

Thank you for reading this newsletter. Please look out for the next one. If you've got experience of things that work to help reduce club costs or boost your membership numbers, please let us know and if you'd like to help with the NCPF please let us know.

Gerry Adcock, Ged Chamberlin, Alan Forster, John Smith (Chair),

Richard Speirs & Debra Taylor

NCPF Club Support and Development Group