



Club Support Newsletter



Issue 4

To all Club Committee Members

March 2024

Welcome to the spring edition of your club support newsletter from the NCPF.

Isn't it wonderful that spring is finally here! The snowdrops, crocus and daffodils are looking particularly pretty this year and are calling out to be photographed.

The focus of the newsletter continues to be offering practical advice and ideas to clubs in challenging times regarding costs and membership numbers. With that in mind, this edition of the newsletter is looking at three particular areas:

- Firstly, the PAGB recorded lecture service. This can be the basis of an excellent club evening and typically prompts lots of discussion from the videos and is quite informative as well.
- Secondly, both the NCPF and several clubs have advised of problems with banking. Many local branches are either closing or have closed and access to online banking services for small organisations and clubs can sometimes be challenging. Our treasurer has written a very useful article about the NCPF experience.
- Last but by no means least we would like your help in giving us feedback about club membership and your view of future numbers.

PAGB Recorded Lecture Service

For Clubs looking to complete their 2024/25 programmes at an affordable price it is worth checking out the PAGB Recorded Lecture Service.

The PAGB has built up an extensive list of Recorded Lectures which are available to download for no more than £15 for all clubs in the NCPF. (Some of the lectures are cheaper and some are free).

Subjects are as varied as “Low Light and Interior Photography” to “Svalbard, Kingdom of the Ice Bear”.

You can see all the available lectures, and their cost by following this link:

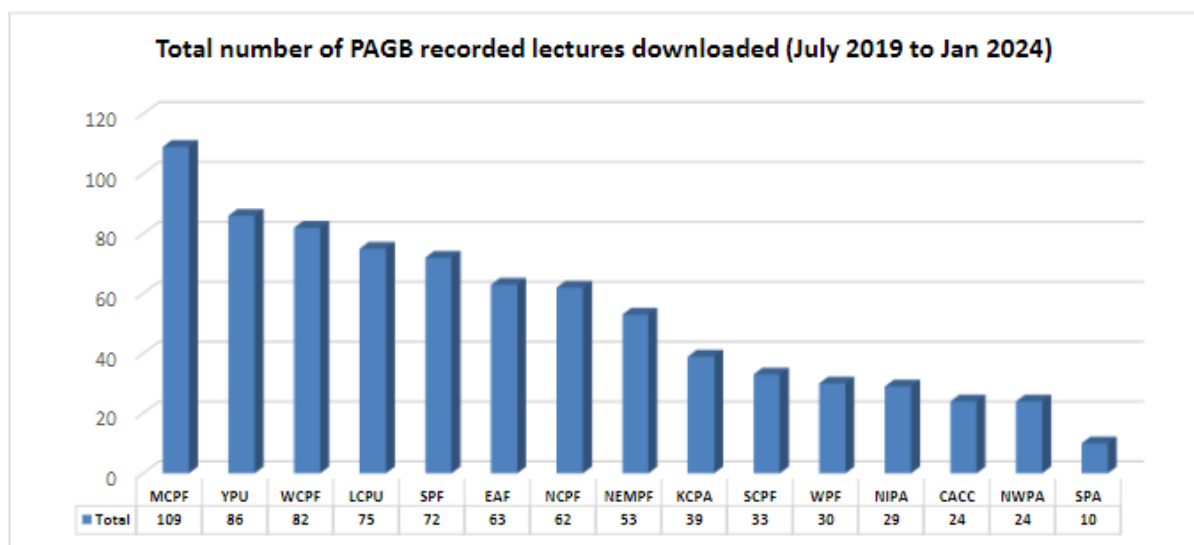
<https://pagbhost.co.uk/main/showlectures.php>

If you decide to book one you will need to be registered on the PAGB Central Management System (CMS). NCPF Clubs are already on the system so you just need to either get one of your club's registered officers to log in or you can register as a club member to start the process.

The following link will take you to the relevant part of the website:

<https://pagbhost.co.uk/main/main.php>

The table below shows the number of lectures downloaded by each Federation in the last 4 years. As you can see some are making much greater use than others and that the NCPF affiliated clubs have used the service 62 times.



Club Banking

The NCPF have recently transferred their bank account to Lloyds bank.

Lloyds Bank has a business cheque account called the Treasurer's Account which is designed for non-profit organisations such as clubs or societies. The account has no monthly fee.

The account can be set up online, there is no need to visit a branch.

Once the account is set up the bank will initiate the Current Account Switch Guarantee if you ask for this service when you set the account up. This means Lloyds will close your old bank account and switch the balance to your new Lloyds account. Any transactions, whether money in or out from your old account after it is closed will then be automatically sent to your Lloyds account, so you don't need to worry about outstanding cheques or payments being lost in the closed account.

The Treasurers account enables you to:

- Pay by cheque.
- Pay by BACS (online payments).
- Set up Standing Orders and Direct Debits.
- Debit cards can be applied for if required.

An app is available for smart phones which gives you access to the account on the go. Cheques can be paid into the account using the app so no need to visit a branch.

Cash will still need to be banked at a branch or by using the Post Office.

Barclays Bank also offers a similar service.

Membership Survey

We are keen to find out about your views on membership numbers – how many members are there in your club and how do you see this changing in the coming years? Are you positive about club membership increasing? Please complete our very short online survey about your club and your view on club membership numbers. The link is:

<https://ncpf.org.uk/membersurvey2024>

We'll let you know the results of the survey in our next publication.

And finally

That's all from us for now. Please provide your feedback and ideas.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and 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 and if you'd like to help with the NCPF please let us know.

Gerald Chamberlin, Alan Forster, Jo Knight, John Smith (Chair),

Richard Speirs & Debra Taylor

NCPF Club Support and Development Group