

# External competitions unravelled.

You have done well with your work in the local club Quarterlies and gone to considerable effort to print and /or make a digital image for projection. What do you do with it now?

## JOINT FYLDE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETIES

One of the first stepping stones is the local competitions run by the Joint Fylde Photographic Societies. This organisation is made up of Poulton, Lytham and HASSRA clubs. Our External Competition Secretary will invite you to submit your work for selection to represent Poulton. Your work is now competing with some of the best workers in the Fylde area. The competitions range from very competitive serious affairs to others (eg The Digital Image Match) that are plain bonkers but good fun, with plenty of banter between the audience, the club teams and the judge.

## L&CPU

The Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union (to which we are affiliated) holds various competitions, including an Annual. All entries must be submitted via our Society. A selection of work from the Annual is circulated throughout all the clubs in the L&CPU area. They also hold a list of Judges and Lecturers so if you have a burning desire to go on the road visiting other clubs to judge their work, or show yours to others, they will add you to the list. It is run as a non profit making venture and you are expected to claim expenses in accordance with the set rules.

## PAGB

The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain is an organisation that co-ordinates specific activities for photographic clubs in England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland. It does this through 15 geographical regions known as Federations. As an affiliated member you can apply for awards, which if obtained, entitle you to use letters after your name. They denote that a certain standard has been achieved. The 3 main awards are:-

### **CPAGB**

This is called a CREDIT. Images are submitted and scored. The standard is that of 'Good Club Photography'.

### **DPAGB**

This is a DISTINCTION. Application can be made for the DPAGB Award without first gaining the CPAGB. The standard is that of 'Open Exhibition Photography'.

### **MPAGB**

The top award is MASTER. Applicants for MPAGB must have held DPAGB for a least 11 months on the date of the adjudication. The standard is that of 'The Highest Standard of Amateur Photography' - images likely to be accepted and win Awards in International Exhibitions.

SEE--- [www.pagb-photography-uk.co.uk](http://www.pagb-photography-uk.co.uk)

## B.P.E.

Next come the British Photographic Exhibitions and these are organised by local clubs. Currently there are 15 of these National Competitions and our members are regular entrants. They cover all mediums and usually have a number of categories you can enter. They are followed by an exhibition of the accepted work and offer CD's for sale so you can brush up on what gets in and what wins.

There is an award scheme which is free to apply for once you obtain the required number of acceptances.

The awards are called Crowns and are given as follows:-

BPE 1 Crown---25 points

BPE 2 Crown---50 points

BPE 3 Crown---100 points

BPE 4 Crown---200 points

BPE 5 Crown---300 points

SEE [www.b-p-e.org.uk](http://www.b-p-e.org.uk)

## F.I.A.P.

The next step is the international competition arena. This is the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique and numerous clubs around the world are affiliated to FIAP. They, too, give photographers a chance to gain letters after their name by collecting acceptances at the various competitions. They are:-

**AFIAP**---ARTISTE. You have to have gained a set number of acceptances and awards to apply.

**EFIAP**----EXCELLENCE. A larger number of acceptances and more awards are required. This is where it used to stop when I did mine but now they have extended the award so you can add BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD and PLATINUM.

**MFIAP**---MASTER. This is the top award given and, as with the MPAGB, it is very, very difficult to get to the standard required. It is limited to give it real credibility and you have to be exceptional.

SEE <http://webplaza.pt.lu/public/suyswill/M2010.htm>

## P.S.A.

The PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA also sponsor numerous international competitions. They often provide awards /medals. If you do well in the Internationals they sponsor, you can apply for STAR RATINGS. These are based on your acceptances and awards.

SEE [www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org)

## R.P.S.

Finally we return home to the Royal Photographic Society, one of the longest established Photo clubs in the World. Membership is not cheap at £99.00 per year so visit their Web page and decide if it is good value or not.

They also have a set of qualifications: again, you have to submit your work for assessment. You can then achieve the following:-

**LRPS**----LICENCESHIP----shows a good standard of basic photography.

**ARPS** ---ASSOCIATE----you have to show a high standard of expertise and creativity.

**FRPS**---FELLOWSHIP----your panel must show exceptional standards of photography and ability.

SEE [www.rps.org](http://www.rps.org)

A number of our members are regular entrants to these competitions and in recognition of their achievements we now have a gallery to show some of the accepted images. Each quarter I will update the acceptances.

If you wish to discuss any matters see Geoff Smith, Tony/Denise Collier or Phil Hodson.

This year we are also, as a club rather than individuals, entering the Glennie Nature Interclub exhibition. Last year some 97 clubs from around the world entered. Our neighbours, Chorley PS, did quite well with their entry.

CHECK OUT [www.glennie-exhibition.com](http://www.glennie-exhibition.com)

Keep on clicking and good luck.

Phil Hodson EFIAP, Ext Comp Sec