

Masters of Print Hall of Fame

I have been Scuba diving for about 25 years with my wife, whenever time and money allowed, and in that time I have seldom gone underwater without a camera. Initially this was very much just to record what we'd seen. We started taking it more seriously after becoming digital and then joined Poulton Photographic Society in 2012. Underwater I use a Nikon D7000 with an Ikelite housing and lamps together with either a Tokina 10-17mm fisheye lens, a Nikon 16-85 mm or Tamron 90mm macro. You never know what you might encounter and the lens choice can be a frustrating limiting factor, which is why I usually go for the Nikon which gives me the greatest range. The pygmy Seahorse that featured in the **masters of print** was shot with the macro lens and took three dives, as it was about 24 metres deep. Their bodies are only about 10mm long and they live on large fan corals of exactly the same colour and texture, so finding one, even when you know where it is, uses most of your air. The lamps take several seconds to recharge, so one needs to pick the moment carefully, there is no motor drive option. We only get to go underwater for a couple of weeks in the year as we don't do cold water and most of our other time is spent chasing wildlife on land around the edges of Morecambe bay where we live. **Richard O'Meara**

