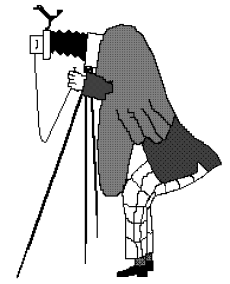


Focal•Point

**HARROW
CAMERA CLUB**

NEWSLETTER



NO: 127 MAY 2009

EVENTS

Sunday 10th May. The Chilterns Finals Day will be held at Drake Hall, Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham HP6 5AH. Doors open at 1pm for viewing. Start at 1.30pm, and continuing until about 7.30pm. Free attendance for these three events.

The **Print Exhibition** with 6 prints each from 14 Clubs, and an award for Best Panel based on scores obtained at the Print Championship in April.

The **Audio-Visual Trophy**, where we will be entertained by 16 varied presentations including some of the country's top authors.

The **Rosebowl Final** closes the season with a flourish, showing images from the twelve finalist Clubs. Harrow is amongst the finalists.

The start times of individual events cannot be guaranteed, and you are recommended to attend the whole event to avoid disappointment. Tea/coffee is provided, but bring your own food for the main afternoon break.

RESULTS

Chilterns Print Championship

The Print Championship was held at Amersham on 5th April, with 14 Clubs taking part, each with 15 prints. In a generally low scoring session, top was Amersham on 169 points out of 225. Second was New City with 157 points, and those two Clubs are invited to the Photographic Alliance Club Championship at Connah's Quay in October. Third was Field End (154), fourth Oxford (153), and Harrow came fifth with 149 points.

The best print was won by 'Wasps vs Treviso' by Janet Osborne Williams of Amersham. Our highest score was 13 for 'Fighting Wildebeests' by John Draper. Selected prints from the Championship go forward to the Exhibition on May 10th.

Chilterns Projected Championship

The Projected Championship was held at Amersham on 5th April, with 11 Clubs taking part. Top was Oxford on 172 points. Second was Amersham with 171 points, and Harrow was third with 164 points. These three Clubs are invited to the Photographic Alliance Club Championship at Warwick on July 11th. The best image was won by 'Kingfisher Portrait' by Derrick Leather of Field End. 'Stag Bellowing' by John Draper won a judge's award. Our other highest scoring images were 'Mycena Fungus' by Dave Martin, and 'Kingfisher at Fishing Post' by Bill Greenwood.

Chilterns Strictly Digital

The Strictly Digital competition was held at Amersham on 5th April with patronage from the Photographic Alliance. There were 193 images, each from a different author in the region. The PAGB Gold medal was won by 'Waterloo Escalator' by David Pearson of Amersham. Silver and Bronze medals were awarded along with three PAGB ribbons for commended entries. Again, the scoring was low overall with nothing higher than 13. Our highest scoring entries were 11 for 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles' by Avril Candler, and 'The Race' by Bill Greenwood.

Strictly Digital has been compiled into the Chilterns Hundred Exhibition, and we will show this at our Club meeting on September 1st.

PROGRAMME

Our programme of projected image competitions has now completed, and the emphasis turns to prints. Beside the monthly competitions in May, June and July, there are three annual events coming up.

At the end of May is the Panel of Prints competition. A Member may enter one panel having a maximum width of 7 feet, and on either 1 or 2 rows. In practice, that means between 3 and 8 prints. Panels are assessed on their layout as well as on the individual prints.

At the end of June we have the first round of the Ron Wake Trophy, which is an inter-Club event for which we will need prints for selection. Prints must be under 1 year old ie, not shown in the Club before July 2008, and also never shown outside the Club. In the Club's entry, each print must be by a different author, so we need lots of authors to submit.

In July is the Panel of Small Prints. A member may enter up to two panels. The panel size is a maximum of 2000sqcm eg, 40x50cm but not limited to this aspect ratio. A panel may have any number of small prints, each no larger than 17.5x12.5cm (7x5"). Top panels will be later be shown in the Annual Exhibition.

WORKSHOPS

Following the suggestions in the last newsletter, we have some priorities for the workshop topics.

Favourites include: Print mounting. File sizing. Preparing an image for digital projection.

Close behind are: Print critique. First steps in digital image processing.

Followed by: Camera functions. Projected critique. Downloading, file storage and backup. Night photography and unusual lighting.

There are volunteers to learn digital projection, and these will be managed by personal tuition.

A workshop on 'Teas' has also been suggested.

At the moment, there is some pick and mix planning for May and June to cover the most wanted topics using available leaders. Depending on progress, topics will be chosen later for August and December.

PROJECTION SIZE

The Chilterns Association has decided that the standard size for projected digital images will increase from 1024x768 pixels to 1400x1050 pixels. The Photographic Alliance (PAGB) and the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) already use the larger standard, and the NWLondon Federation is likely to follow. What does this mean for us, as our projector runs at the smaller of these sizes?

With two sizes of image and two sizes of projection, there are four possible combinations. If the image size and the projection size are the same, then there is no issue, so we only consider the combinations where there is a mismatch.

When a smaller (1024x768) image is presented on a larger (1400x1050) projector, then the image is not enlarged, and just remains small on the screen. This is no different from a masked slide. Provided the authors and Clubs don't mind, then nothing has to be done about this.

When a larger image is presented on a smaller projector, then the image is shrunk to fit. An image shrunk by projection software is softer than the same image sized to fit and sharpened properly in Photoshop. This can only affect Clubs normally using larger images in their internal events, which does not include Harrow. Affected Clubs will need to know the projection size when they submit to outside events, and they may choose to resize their images and check sharpness before submission.

In summary, Harrow does not need to do anything about the new size standard adopted by all these outside organisations. We have already submitted to the PAGB Great British Club Cup using images in the smaller size, and we can do the same at the PAGB Club Championship (Warwick) in July.

PAGB PROJECTED CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday 11th July. At the Arts Centre, University of Warwick. Start 10.15am. Tickets must be purchased in advance using the form and contact information on the PAGB web site. Cost £8. Catering on-site, or take a picnic to eat on the lawn. (Not quite Glyndebourne, but it's cheaper!)