A WARNING TO ALL CLUBS!

This can happen to any Club who has a website or a social media presence! Make sure you know what you're publishing and where it came from.

Image Copyright Problems

A Club in the NCPF had a member who lasted less than a season about 6 years ago. He loaded an image, which was subsequently identified as plagiarised, onto the club's members gallery.

A web-trawler from an image library (who represent the true author) picked this up and sent the club an invoice for several thousand pounds (reduced to around £1300 if paid within14 days) for 'use of a licensed image with no record of payment'. The NCPF checked the claim using 'Copyright Aid' https://copyrightaid.co.uk who have identified for similar cases that it was "Perfectly legal but morally questionable."

The image library in this case is just one of several who are currently web trawling specifically to find unlicensed images from their stock collections and they can represent a large number of photographers. If clubs are caught using a licensable image, they may face substantial claims.

Advice from The PAGB is available HERE, together with a variety of other useful documents.

Advice (+)

- Club Constitution/Rules
- Child Protection
- Health & Safety
- Data Protection
- Data Protection – Writing a Policy
- On-Line Safety
- Recordings of Meetings
- Images of People – Opinion
- Links to the PAGB website
- Standards for Projected Digital Images
- RPS Nature Group Code of Practice

The links referred to in the above PAGB e-news extract is
https://thepagb.org.uk/library/

where the below new document has been added October 2026
https://thepagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/guidance_image_publication.pdf

You can also find more guidance on the SPF website under the following areas including the new document

https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/competitions-guidance

https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/general-guidance