



## Photographic Alliance of Great Britain Awards for Photographic Merit



### **BPAGB - CPAGB – DPAGB – EPAGB – MPAGB**

Thinking about working towards a Photographic Distinction or think you may be ready to apply. If so, the SPF have two events for you coming up very soon!

#### **Event 1 is Online. Event 2 is In-Person.**

The SPF are due to host the PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit Adjudication in April 2025, so these two events are being run now so that anyone interested in applying has all of the information they require as soon as possible.

#### **Event 1 - FREE on zoom on Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2023 at 7pm**

This SPF online event is open to all SPF Club members and is FREE to attend.

This Presentation includes a selection of images in the passing range at each level together with information of use for all five levels. We will also illustrate the differences in quality and requirements between the various levels, using examples of the same subject.

Presented by Rod Wheelans, Chairman of the Awards & Libby Smith, SPF's PAGB Awards Officer.

**No pre-booking required.**

Zoom will open at 6.30pm

**Meeting ID: 829 4070 0228 - Passcode: 316330**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82940700228?pwd=Smhna1VXNTIMNnRBNk9JdWp3TjRCZz09>

Your Club Secretary or Competition Secretary will also have the zoom details or email Libby on [libby.neilsmith@btinternet.com](mailto:libby.neilsmith@btinternet.com) (asap please)

**Please share these details with your Club members.**

### **Did you notice that there are now FIVE levels of Award?**

See the following PDF link for full details of all 5 levels and SPF pre-qualification details.

[https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/sites/default/files/downloads/spf\\_pre-qualification\\_and\\_pagb\\_awards\\_general\\_info\\_june\\_2023\\_2.pdf](https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/sites/default/files/downloads/spf_pre-qualification_and_pagb_awards_general_info_june_2023_2.pdf)

or go to the SPF's dedicated PAGB Awards webpage for full information on the FIVE LEVELS – <https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-awards>



## FREE Event 2

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 at Victoria Hall, Dunblane starts 9.30 for 10am**

This event is being presented by the PAGB Awards Team and hosted by the SPF at our new venue in the Victoria Hall in Dunblane.

This presentation is primarily intended to introduce the PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit to club members looking for a new challenge but will also be of interest to those intending to apply or who have already applied.

## **This event must be pre-booked. Booking will open soon.**

If you are interested in attending please visit the following webpage for a booking form as soon as available

**<https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-awards>**

or email your details to Libby on [libby.neilsmith@btinternet.com](mailto:libby.neilsmith@btinternet.com).

**Observers are welcome but must also pre-book.**

**One-to-one feedback will be available from various assessors available on the day.**

Prints don't require to be mounted and PDI applicants will see their work projected.

This PAGB format event will allow you to gain an overview of the PAGB Awards scheme, with a presentation by the PAGB Chairman Rod Wheelans with lots of information. There will also be an opportunity for individuals to have their images critiqued with regard to the level of Award you may be ready to apply for now or in the future.

The PAGB team attending, will include Rod Wheelans, Gordon Jenkins, Richard Speirs & Libby Smith. Additional experienced SPF assessors will also be present on the day to give feedback on your work.

Tea/coffee making facilities will be available for a small donation. Bring your own packed lunch, or local vendors are available.



**See PDF Download from the link below for details of the venue and parking.**

**[https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/sites/default/files/downloads/victoria\\_hall\\_venue\\_and\\_parking\\_info\\_0.pdf](https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/sites/default/files/downloads/victoria_hall_venue_and_parking_info_0.pdf)**

Join us for the SPF Digital Championship in the Victoria Hall, Stirling Rd, Dunblane FK15 9EX.

**ADD THE DATE TO YOUR DIARY – SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

**CLOSING DATE – 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 - COMPETITION DETAILS COMING SOON ON OUR WEBSITE**

**<https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-digital-championship>**

## **Congratulations to recent SPF PAGB Awards successes at the PAGB Awards Adjudications held over the past year.**

Click on the names to visit the web gallery containing their successful PAGB Awards submission.

At the November 2022 PAGB Awards Adjudication held in Antrim, N. Ireland.

**Kevin Flanagan CPAGB Bon Accord CC**  
**Michele Campbell CPAGB Ayr PS**  
**Brian Cathie DPAGB Queen's Park CC**

At the April 2023 PAGB Awards Adjudication held in Aylesford, Kent.

**Cathy Davies CPAGB Kirkcaldy PS**  
**Chris Briggs DPAGB Deeside CC**  
**Sandy Gilmour DPAGB Queen's Park CC**  
**Lorna Hayton DPAGB Ayr PS**  
**Ruth Hayton DPAGB Ayr PS –**  
**Peter De Marco DPAGB Eastwood PS**



**South Breakwater by Kevin Flanagan CPAGB**



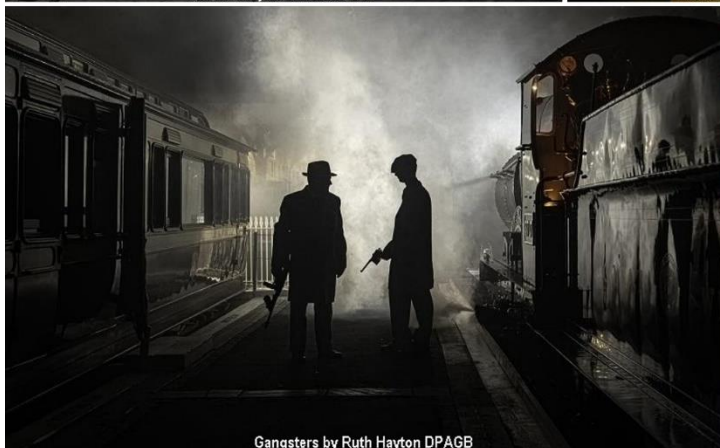
Abandoned by Cathie Davies CPAGB



Knit one, Purl one by Michelle Campbell



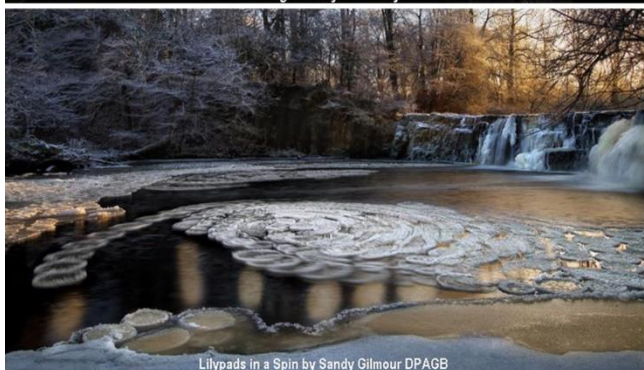
Kingfisher in the Rain by Lorna Hayton DPAGB



Gangsters by Ruth Hayton DPAGB



Brimleyvallur Footsteps by Brian Cathie DPAGB



Lilypads in a Spin by Sandy Gilmour DPAGB



lugworm Catcher by Chris Briggs DPAGB



Pip the Gentleman by Peter De Marco DPAGB



## ADVICE ON WHAT IS ALLOWED AND NOT ALLOWED WHEN ENTERING SPF COMPETITIONS - UPDATED JUNE 2023 DUE TO AI SOFTWARE ADVANCEMENT.

Due to the Recent Advancements in AI software. entries to all of our SPF Competitions must now comply fully with the 'ethos' contained in our guidance document '**Advice on What is Allowed or Not Allowed when entering SPF Competitions**' and this compliance will now appear as a 'Rule' for competitions.

Download a copy here –

[https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/sites/default/files/downloads/guidance\\_on\\_what\\_is\\_allowed\\_when\\_entering\\_spf\\_competitions\\_2023\\_3.pdf](https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/sites/default/files/downloads/guidance_on_what_is_allowed_when_entering_spf_competitions_2023_3.pdf)

This document has been put together to help you distinguish between what is allowed and what is not allowed when entering SPF Competitions. This document is based on questions that have been asked by SPF Clubs or their members.

- How can I distinguish between what is allowed and what is not allowed when entering SPF and PAGB or FIAP Competitions?
- Can I use a FILTER from within Photoshop to create a rain-drop effect say - is that allowed?
- Can I create something digitally in Photoshop like a non-existing planet - is that allowed?
- Can I create an Image using AI generator software - is that allowed?

“The SPF, PAGB and FIAP all have their own statements of what is allowed. The SPF and PAGB are currently the same with the following statement – Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer. Composite Images are permitted provided all component images meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks, textures and clipart are not permitted.”

Additionally the SPF now states that – **“The use of AI software is allowed provided all images used have been taken by you, and only your own photographs are used in the processing. No modifications are allowed based on AI generated text input or generated using images or elements not taken by the photographer.”** **“RAW files or jpegs (incl. neighbouring jpegs) may be requested if there is any doubt of the eligibility of the entry.”**

## **NATURE GENERAL RULE CHANGE FOR ALL SPF COMPETITIONS**

The only entries that should now be indicated as ‘nature’ when a Club uploads your entry to the SPF website are those that are eligible for the competition’s ‘Best Nature Award’ by complying fully with the stricter ‘SPF Nature Definition’ given on the below link. No other images will be eligible for the Best Nature Award and should not be marked. You should let your Club know the images that comply with this definition.

**Download a copy here –**

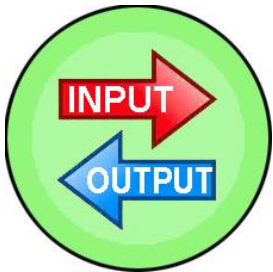
[https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/sites/default/files/downloads/nature\\_definition\\_and\\_spf\\_competitions.pdf](https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/sites/default/files/downloads/nature_definition_and_spf_competitions.pdf)



When entering SPF Competitions, Clubs must include anything that ‘looks like nature in their Club’s quota of allowed Nature entries, no matter what manipulation has been done. I.E., these are considered as pure nature or modified nature as defined in the ‘PAGB Nature Eligibility’ criteria which are also contained in the document linked above.

**Both of these documents and more info are available on our website at -**  
<https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/competitions-guidance>

# only you can know



As **e-news** editor, I have received numerous communications, verbally and by e-mail, and I have followed many discussions, sometimes confusing, on social media about how much effort a photographer should put into an image to make it their own.

Many have claimed that they know of instances involving Remote Shooting, Nature Hides, Studio Workshops and Organised Photographic Events where the photographer has had no input at all, except to press the shutter. Many have never been involved in such activities but assume that there must have been lots of help, perhaps because they have not previously seen the same quality of work from that person.

There are also frequently expressed concerns about processing tools and techniques. exacerbated now by the perceived effect of Artificial Intelligence. How much of the final image is down to the work of others writing clever algorithms and how much did the photographer contribute?

The PAGB has no rules to define how much help you can have and, indeed, we accept entries which have been printed by someone else, even into the Masters of Print. We take the view that the entrant has ultimate responsibility for the image.

Amateur Photography, as practiced through Camera Clubs, is a social activity and Members are encouraged to learn from each other and to help each other improve their Art and their Craft. Most Club Members have benefitted from assistance in their Club and many, many Members have been willing to help - from advising on camera settings in the field or in the studio, helping with composition and exposure, helping to process and print images to constructively criticising the final product and showing how it could be improved. Such activity is the very essence of most good Clubs!

**If you haven't  
made the INPUT,  
can you claim  
the OUTPUT?**

Most organised events and photoshoot require the full participation of the photographer and, as a well-known organiser once said to me, "I give you the ingredients, but you have to make the cake". If you weren't there, please don't be quick to judge.

It may well be true that some photographers have very little input to the images they have taken and may not do much to process them later. If you haven't made the INPUT, can you claim the OUTPUT? When it comes to post processing the PAGB already requires the entrant to have shot every element of an image and this, whilst more complicated, will not change with AI or other processing tools. In the end, whilst organisers may find it difficult to detect, you will know if you have gone too far.

**ONLY YOU CAN KNOW.** Do you believe in your heart that you have contributed enough to feel that you own this image? If you don't feel that way, and you are successful in competitions with it, then what have you won?

**Be honest  
with yourself**

You may have won a medal but where is the satisfaction if most of the credit is due to someone else? Your name may be on the medal, but YOU know that it should be someone else being recognised. Be honest with yourself and you will gain much greater satisfaction from your photographic successes.

# SPF Diary

DATE	TITLE	LOCATION
<b>17th Sep</b> 2023	<b>SPF PAGB Awards Assessment Day</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-awards">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-awards</a>	Victoria Hall, Dunblane
<b>2nd Oct</b> 2023	<b>PAGB Awards Presentation event held on Zoom</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-awards">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-awards</a>	Online - zoom event
<b>29th Oct</b> 2023	<b>SPF Annual General Meeting</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/services">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/services</a>	Online
<b>9th Nov</b> 2023	<b>SPF Digital Championship 2023 Online Closing Date</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-digital-championship">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-digital-championship</a>	Online
<b>18th Nov</b> 2023	<b>CPAGB DPAGB MPAGB - A Day All About the PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-awards">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-awards</a>	Victoria Hall, Dunblane
<b>19th Nov</b> 2023	<b>SPF Digital Championship 2023</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-digital-championship">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-digital-championship</a>	Victoria Hall, Dunblane
<b>3rd Dec</b> 2023	<b>PAGB Masters of Print Online Closing Date</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-gb-cup-gb-trophy-and-new-masters-print">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-gb-cup-gb-trophy-and-new-masters-print</a>	Online
<b>9th Dec</b> 2023 to <b>10th Dec</b> 2023	<b>7th PAGB Masters of Print Judging and Selection</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-gb-cup-gb-trophy-and-new-masters-print">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-gb-cup-gb-trophy-and-new-masters-print</a>	TBC
<b>7th Jan</b> 2024	<b>PAGB GB Cups and GB Trophy Closing Date Online</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-gb-cup-gb-trophy-and-new-masters-print">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-gb-cup-gb-trophy-and-new-masters-print</a>	Online
<b>20th Jan</b> 2024	<b>SPF Print Championship Closing Date for receipt of Prints to Drop-Off points</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-print-championship">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-print-championship</a>	To Drop-Off Points
<b>3rd Feb</b> 2024	<b>PAGB Masters of Print Exhibition Opening</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/6th-masters-print-exhibition-opening-scottish-successes">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/6th-masters-print-exhibition-opening-scottish-successes</a>	St. Martin in the Bull Ring, Birmingham
<b>5th Feb</b> 2024	<b>SPF Print Championship Online Entry Closing Date</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-print-championship">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-print-championship</a>	Online
<b>10th Feb</b> 2024	<b>SPF Print Championship Final Close for Receipt of Prints Direct to Carluke</b> <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-print-championship">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-print-championship</a>	Carlisle
<b>18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup></b> Feb 2024 TBC	SPF Print Championship Event Judging – Date and Venue TBC very soon <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-print-championship">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-print-championship</a>	TBC
<b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b> 2024	SPF Annual Portfolios Closing Date <a href="https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-annual-portfolios">https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/spf-annual-portfolios</a>	Online and to Drop-Off points

For Diary updates visit <https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/diary>

# MASTERS OF PRINT

sponsored by CEWE and Online Paper

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

### THE SEVENTH MASTERS OF PRINT

IS NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES

CLOSING ONLINE ENTRY	03 DECEMBER 2023
RECEIPT OF PRINTS BY	06 DECEMBER 2023
JUDGING & SELECTION	9/10 DECEMBER 2023
ACCEPTANCES PUBLISHED	15 DECEMBER 2023
GRAND OPENING	03 FEBRUARY 2024



Read the Rules and Conditions at  
<http://www.thepagb.org.uk/competitions/pagb-masters-of-print/>

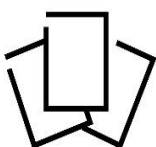


We can accept your Masters of Print entries at the Inter-Club Print Championship on 21 October in Blackburn but remember to enter online and download the labels for your prints.



## TWO SPONSORS AND TWO IMPORTANT CLUB AWARDS

**ONLINE PAPER**  
PAPER SPECIALISTS



## GOLD CLUB AWARD

This award is designed to recognise the Club who makes the most effort to support the MASTERS OF PRINT and will be calculated as 1 point for each print submitted plus the average score per print multiplied by 10.

**cewe**  
we love photos

## DIAMOND CLUB AWARD

This award is designed to recognise the most successful Club in the MASTERS OF PRINT and will be calculated by the average score per print multiplied by 10 plus 10 points for each Print accepted to the exhibition.

# e-news from the PAGB.

You can download past and current issues by clicking on any issue shown below.

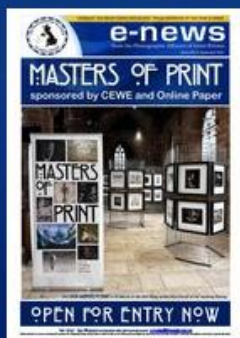
Issue 340

15 Sep 2023



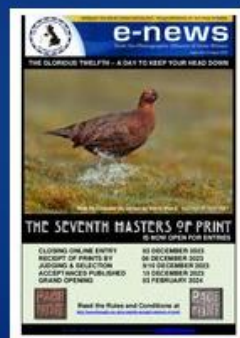
Issue 339

1 Sep 2023



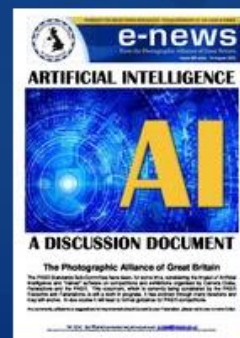
Issue 338

12 Aug 2023



Issue 338 extra

11 Aug 2023



Issue 337

29 Jul 2023



Issue 337 extra

28 Jul 2023



Issue 336

15 Jul 2023



Issue 335

27 Jun 2023



Issue 334

15 Jun 2023



Issue 333

3 Jun 2023



Issue 332

15 May 2023



Issue 332 extra

14 May 2023

