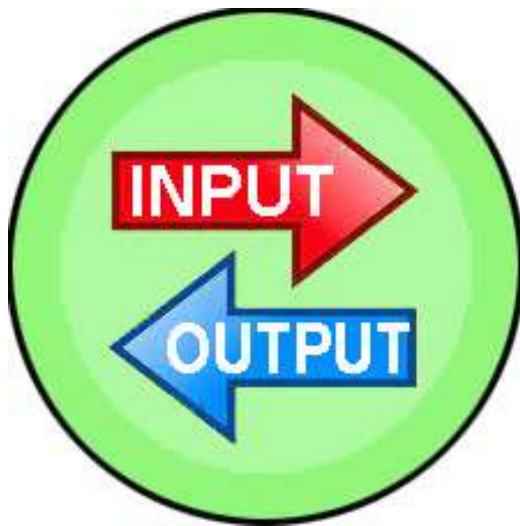




The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

ONLY YOU CAN KNOW



As e-news editor, I have received several communications, verbally and by e-mail, and I have followed many discussions 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, because they have not previously seen the same quality of work from that person.

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 photoshoots 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?

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? You may have won a medal but where is the personal satisfaction if most of the credit is due to someone else?

Be honest with yourself ...

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.

Rod Wheelans. Editor