

# Are You Interested in Going for a Distinction?

## WHY NOT TRY FOR A PAGB AWARD

### CPAGB, DPAGB, MPAGB

These distinctions are only available to members of PAGB Affiliated Clubs (all SPF member Clubs). If you are looking for a challenge, or you would like to see how your photography measures against others throughout the UK, then this is an alternative way to the RPS / BPE / FIAP for you to achieve some letters after your name.

You do not have to produce work as a panel, just have the required number of photos at the level you are applying for. You can enter in Prints or as Projected Digital Images. You only pay on applying and you don't require to pay membership to keep your Award once you have been successful. If you do well in your own club, or if your work is selected for Inter-club, SPF competitions, or you enter nationals/internationals then you're already part way there.

The SPF run FREE PAGB Awards Workshops at least twice a year to help you through this process. Please take the opportunity to attend one of these if you are interested in finding out more whatever stage you are at.

In conjunction with this document please see **PAGB Awards Leaflet 1** which contains full details and many common Q&As available on our dedicated **PAGB Awards** webpage at –

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

Recent examples at all levels can also be found on the **GALLERIES** area of the SPF Website <https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/galleries>

For even more examples visit – <http://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/pagb-apm-nov-2016-stirling>

## GAINING THESE AWARDS IS A FIVE STAGE PROCESS

**1 PRE-QUALIFICATION** in your own Federation (SPF - Scottish Photographic Federation) – To qualify to take part you have to prove that you are an **'active photographer'** taking part in your Federation events. This also helps give a gauge of the level of your work at a national level. See details of **SPF Pre-Qualification Requirements** below and a list of **SPF Qualifying Competitions** below. You do not need to have completed this stage to attend our **'SPF Workshops'** (See **Stage 2**). You should however be able to pre-qualify before you use the **'PAGB's Online Advisory Service'** this is taken on trust.

**2 ATTEND AN SPF PAGB AWARDS WORKSHOP** – **Recommended but not compulsory** – Receive advice on what level / medium / or when to apply. Also, bring along Prints/PDI and find out if your work is of the standard required, and hints to improve quality (run 2 or 3 times a year – approx. Jan & Aug/Sept Contact Libby for details.) Check out the Diary on the SPF Website for dates as available, or contact Libby on details below. You can also use the **'PAGB Online Advisory Service'** – See details supplied below

**3 CONTACT SPF AWARDS OFFICER** (Libby Smith) with your **SPF Pre-Qualification** details (This should include getting your competition secretary to confirm your entry into SPF competitions). You need to supply details of the level and medium you are applying in before the form can be completed. Please also supply your Name as you wish it recorded on any certificate, your Postal address, phone and email, and don't forget to say which Club you are entering through. **You will then be supplied with a signed PAGB Application Form.**

**4 COMPLETE THE PAGB APPLICATION FORM** this application form can be obtained from Libby as above, but only when you know the level and medium you wish to enter in. There are stiff financial penalties attached to withdrawal after this form has been submitted to the PAGB **so please ensure you are ready to apply** (See PAGB Leaflet 1 for details) and submit with your cheque to the PAGB Awards Secretary for a space on the next available **PAGB Adjudication** (run 2 or 3 times a year – always April & Nov) Spaces are on a 'first come, first serve' basis. Details will be sent to you of how to submit your entry and timescales (PAGB APM Leaflet 2 will tell you more).

**5 THE PAGB ADJUDICATION** – You then require to submit your work to the PAGB Adjudication you receive a space on (PAGB APM Leaflet 2 will tell you more). These are run by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. Six Judges will adjudicate your entry as outlined in PAGB Leaflet 1. You will be expected to submit your Entry Form and Digital Files approx. 4 weeks prior to the adjudication. For the April & Nov events you can attend if you wish. Extra events are sometimes closed.

The following explains the required criteria of being an 'active photographer' in your Club the -

## SPF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

It is not necessary pre-qualify to attend SPF Awards Workshops, but these requirements must be fulfilled before you can receive a signed Application Form (Stage 3) to submit an Application to the PAGB (Stage 4) above.

### CPAGB - Credit Award of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

You must have entered in a total of 3 of the SPF Qualifying competitions in a minimum of 2 of the last 10 years. This can include a particular event one year and the same event a different year.

### DPAGB - Distinction Award of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

You must have entered in a total of 5 SPF qualifying competitions for a minimum of Three Recent Years of the last 10 years. This can include a particular event one year and the same event a different year.

### MPAGB - Master Award of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

Applicants for the MPAGB must already have held the DPAGB for at least 11 months.

You will require your Club Secretary, Competition Secretary or President to provide a note to certify your participation in the necessary qualifying events – The Awards Officer can help out if necessary.

**THE SPF QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS ARE** - Please Note – You do not need to get acceptances only to have entered.

**SPF Annual Portfolios**

**Scottish International Salon**

**PAGB GB Cups & Trophy Competitions**

**SPF Representation at PAGB Competitions** (PAGB Inter-Federation Competition - PAGB Print Championship - PAGB Digital Championship) - No other National or International Salons count as Pre-qualifying events only the SPF's own Scottish Salon.

**SPF Digital Championship**

**SPF Entry to the Celtic Challenge**

**SPF 'Interim' Events**

**SPF Print Championship**

**SPF Entry to FIAP Biennials**

**PAGB Masters of Print**

## MORE ABOUT THE THREE LEVELS OF AWARD

**Credit Award - CPAGB** is specifically to recognize the 'Good Club Photographer'. If you do well in your own club in an Advanced section, and your work is selected for Inter-club/ SPF competitions then you can probably qualify for this award. You don't have to enter international\* Exhibitions or win gold medals, just turn in a good consistent standard of pictures and be 'active' in support of your club in SPF competitions. To achieve the CPAGB Award - you have to submit a set of 10 prints or 10 digital files of a good Club standard. These are considered by 6 adjudicators scoring between 2 and 5. The lowest score per picture is 12, the highest is 30, and you need a total of 200 for all 10 pictures to succeed.

**Distinction Award - DPAGB** which is judged at 'exhibition standard'. The Adjudicators are looking for photographs that, in their opinion, should be good enough to achieve a high level of acceptance in Open Exhibitions but, although there can be a much greater commonality of standard at exhibition level, there are still considerable variations. Some Exhibitions accept up to 40%, many accept around 20%. Some Exhibitions have experienced judges whom the PAGB would choose as Adjudicators, some don't. Some Exhibitions, particularly overseas\*, apply different criteria and standards. Not necessarily poorer but different. Exhibitions cannot therefore be relied upon to define a consistent "Exhibition Standard". You have to enter 15 prints or 15 digital files and, bearing in mind that the adjudicators are looking for international\* exhibition standard, you have to score a total of 300 points to get the award. \* *Please remember that this is a UK Award*

**Master Award - MPAGB** which is awarded for "the very best amateur photography". 20 photographs, a much more stringent adjudication standard and 450 points to succeed.

## THE NEXT PAGB AWARDS WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE SPF

Please Note – We are currently unable to run these workshops due to Covid but you can send Libby an email and she will add you to her e-mailing list so that you receive priority details as soon as they become available.

Scottish Awards Officer - Libby Smith, MPAGB EFIAP HonPAGB HonSPF, 34 Braemar Crescent, Carlisle, ML8 4BH. 01555 750737 Or email libby.neilsmith@btinternet.com

# THE PAGB's ONLINE ADVISORY SERVICE

The PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit (APM) Online Advisory Service is a way by which those who have applied for an award can get advice about their potential entry, and for those who are considering applying for an award to get advice on whether or not they are likely to meet the standard. Such advice is not an alternative to, or a bar to attending, Advisory Workshops in your Federation or beyond.

## About the Service

The service is offered by a number of volunteer advisors who have generously agreed to offer their time. All of the Advisers have some experience of the APM but some obviously have more than others. The PAGB does not moderate the advice given by an Adviser, which is entirely their personal opinion, although it will be well informed by their experience and knowledge of the APM. Advisers will be as honest and as accurate as possible but, on the day, the Adjudicators may not agree with them.

## Procedure

Each Advisee will be allocated to an individual Adviser. Each Adviser will determine how they give this advice, although usually the Advisee will be asked to send digital files of the images to the Adviser at up to 1600px wide by 1200px high. This is normally followed by a telephone conversation or an online session with both parties looking at the images on their own monitor. Some Advisers may wish to adopt a different procedure.

Those intending to submit in prints may have the option of sending unmounted prints to the Adviser. Prints can only be returned by prior arrangement and at the Advisee's expense. A number of courier companies offer the facility to pay in advance for both the sending and return of a package which can then be collected from both the sender and subsequently the person returning the package. We envisage that each advisee will receive up to two online sessions with the second session after the Advisee has completed any work suggested on the images or has new images to be considered.

## Eligibility

You must be qualified to apply for an award at the level for which you are requesting advice, where the conditions are set out in full in APM Leaflet One.

- you must be a current active member of a PAGB Affiliated Club
- the minimum duration of that membership is 2 years for CPAGB, 3 years for DPAGB and 5 years for MPAGB.

## Application

Before applying for advice please make sure that you have read APM Leaflet 1, including the Q&A section.

**The service can be accessed via the contact form on the APM Advisory Service page of the PAGB web site at - [www.thepagb.org.uk/awards/apm-advice-service](http://www.thepagb.org.uk/awards/apm-advice-service)**

The information entered on the form sends an e-mail to the Advisory Service Administrator and is not stored on the web site. You will receive a copy of the e-mail.

On the form you will need to give:

- your name and contact details.
- your club and federation.
- the level of award in which you are interested.
- your current status in the APM system (not yet applied/a current applicant/a previous applicant).
- whether your images are likely to be primarily Nature, as this may determine the advisor allocation, particularly at the higher levels.

The service availability is limited by the number of available Advisers. Applicants are not guaranteed a place for advice and may be allocated a less experienced Adviser or may be placed on a waiting list. If you are allocated an Adviser and no longer wish to receive their advice please inform your Adviser, and the Service Administrator at [apmonline@thepagb.org.uk](mailto:apmonline@thepagb.org.uk), so that someone else can be allocated.