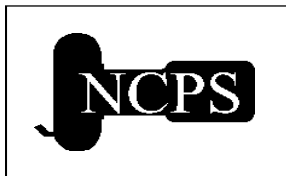


FOCUS



October 2009

Newsletter of North Cheshire Photographic Society

See Focus on the web at www.ncps.org.uk

Travel Panel – 1st meeting 8th September 2009

This opening meeting invited the 41 members present to summarize, in no more than six images, their latest trips or holidays. However in his opening remarks President Roger Dye first presented certificates; to Katie Garner for best intermediate worker; to Dorothy Redford for best Print worker, and to Alan Saunders for Clubman of the year 2008-2009. Phil Riley, best slide-worker of the year was sadly absent, and unable to receive his certificate.

Graham Johnston and Colin Pickles had print images to show us and we began with these.

Graham's first image was of an Irish sign warning of a fine of 1269.74 Euros for a driving transgression. He told of a car on the inside lane, opening the window and asking the way to Tipperary. When Graham explained that he was going that way and that the gentleman could follow him, the stranger replied that he was in a hurry and would go first! Later, in a café they were asked if they preferred tea or coffee; but when the jug was delivered it was hot water only. When they questioned this they were told that the tea bags and coffee were on the table.

Colin showed his interest in Trains and planes, and took us back to Cosford where he was a trainee Air Fitter. Whilst an early tea was being brewed Colin revealed his plans for a club visit to Venice on 4th to 7th May 2010. Apparently we have to book our own seats on the Jet2.com flight from Manchester.

After Tea the President exercised his prerogative by going first with the Digitally projected images. He had been on a modeling session with a blue eyed, brown coated, female with a bushy tail. He had managed to catch her in various poses, even eating nuts!

By contrast Brian Turnbull emphasized his virility by living in a Yurt on the Afghan border. We were particularly interested in his Latrine habits.

Joyce Streets demonstrated how broad a mind she had. She gave us an image of an undressed street performer, followed by an image of the Manchester Gay Parade. Her final Ragged Robin had us almost in tears!

Frank Hutchinson took us on a quick tour of Spain and France; whilst John Ade revealed that he came from Suffolk. He was fond of the Woodbridge Tidal Mill, and the 30 foot high Shell on the sea shore.

Jill Hargreaves left us to guess where she took her images. The Sale one, she told us about, but the last of the Whitby images, advertising Whitby Jet gave the game away for the others.

Tony Redford's images took us to Hong Kong and the harbour and boats, whilst Dorothy Redford reminded us of Lisbon – the Graffiti; the big canvas hiding a building site, and a pastel corridor.

The club will have to send Jon Allanson on a remedial Maths course- His 30 images of Malta, and the home of Pop-Eye were presented as a P-to-Exe file.

Initially Gordon Robson's disc of images relating to the Edinburgh Festival this year, would not play. But when it finally did we enjoyed his quick resumee of the several acts he witnessed – Marching Bands; Chinese on stilts; Scottish Dancing, and the Plane images projected onto the Castle walls.

Barry gave a quick presentation about the Club's website, and its working; encouraging members to get their updates by viewing it several times a week.

Colin Pickles finished the evening with his own presentation of images from Lisbon.

President Roger Dye thanked all those who had presented images; Thanked Barry for his talk; and commented that we had finished precisely at 10.00pm

Bill Chadband

Black & White – Pure Delight

This was the title of the talk by Alan Angel FRPS on Tuesday 15th September. In a scintillating presentation Alan argued the case for Black and White photography and its ability to emphasize Texture, Grain and Shape. He backed his case up with a variety of stunning images, 20 x16 inch in size with no edging board. Indeed, edging mount boards would likely have been a distraction to the strong images. And strength was the operative word for his first sequence of images showing the bodies of Fitness aficionados and Boxers. Using a home-made black background cloth Alan argued that a minimum amount of light, from one side gave form to the images. He emphasized the value of the triangular or diamond shapes in composition, and with the chin down and the subject

looking up; the “canoes” under the eyes gave added effect. In any facial image the eyes have to be perfectly sharp, since the eyes convey the expression.

Alan preferred film to digital since he felt it gave him more latitude and in particular gave him more detail in the shadows. He used FP4 120 sized film in his Hasselblad camera, though he would also use his 35mm film camera

After the tea break Alan showed a variety of Manchester Buildings, pointing out how, for the buildings chosen, the Black and White image produced the effect that he sought. His three passions were the three F's – Fotography, Fitness, and Football and his most recent project was to capture the image of the stars of his favourite team – Manchester City. Here he found a soulmate in Colin Pickles, and they discussed the whereabouts, in the new stadium, of their respective season seats.

Alan now represented Ilford, using only Ilford papers and developers. Colin used to work for Ilford – another bond between them!

Alan kept his audience amused with a variety of anecdotes. His most memorable one related to the time when his car broke down, and although he is a motor mechanic he couldn't fix it. Being near to a Monastery at the time and desperate to get the car fixed he called for assistance from the Monks. The sequence of events which followed is too great to record here, but can be recounted to absentees by any of the audience present! (a tale well worth discovering!)

In his Vote of Thanks Tony Redford commented that he was not a good Black and White photographer. Like Alan, he was keen to visit the Gym, where he found the Double Diamond effect worked wonders. The jokes were good but were outclassed by the quality of the images. He found it easy to propose a vote of thanks to such an entertaining speaker. Alan's strengths were clearly in the Black and White league. Tony was tempted to give Alan hints on the use of Colour, but now that he knew Alan was an official Monk, Tony was forbidden from doing so!!

Bill Chadband

1st Print Competition Tuesday 22nd September 2009

Tillman Kleinmans ARPS EFIAP DPAGB of St Helens Camera Club was the popular judge for this competition. Tillman is enthusiastic about all images, endeavouring to see what the photographer had in mind when capturing the image, before pointing out any deficiencies that hold the image back. He notes that photography is a means of communication and that if the image 'speaks' to the viewer then it has worked. He is always anxious to point out that he is giving his own personal impressions of an image and that another judge might have a completely different approach. This was some comfort to those of us who

received only 14 marks for a print! The number of prints per person was reduced to three to make the evening manageable at 72 prints. Tilman judged the three intermediate prints first, then went through the advanced prints once, either giving them a mark up to 16, or saving them for later consideration after the interval. In the second half he commented that all these retained images were excellent, but it was his job to separate them. He ended up with two prints; Reflection by Martin Currie, and Hellebore by Jonathan Bawden. He gave them both 20 noting that he preferred the “Reflection” print as his personal choice, but suggested that “Hellebore” pipped it to the post as the Best photographic print.

In his vote of thanks president Roger Dye thanked Tillman for valuable comments on all the images, for keeping us entertained throughout, and for keeping us guessing until the very end. And his finishing at 9.50pm again set a new record for judging at the club.

Bill Chadband

Intermediate Worker results

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Score</u>
Footbridge in Bluebell Wood	Brian Adams	16
Tuppence for Charity	Brian Adams	20
The Mini Meg Cannon	Brian Adams	15

Advanced Worker results

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Score</u>
Painted Lady	John Ade	15
Neck and Neck	John Ade	17
Gozo Corner	Jon Allanson	15
The Courtyard	Jon Allanson	15
The Red Aygo	Jon Allanson	16
Hellebore	Jonathan Bawden	20 Best
Cuckoo Flowers	Jonathan Bawden	16
Senorita Blanca	Jonathan Bawden	17
Funky Fungi	Bill Chadband	14
Sunrise at Red Wharf Bay	Bill Chadband	14
The Guardian of Hades	Roy Cheetham	14
Entrance to Hades	Roy Cheetham	14
Stairway to Trains, Lisbon	Roy Cheetham	16
Images of Napal	Martin Currie	16
Early Morning at Pushkar	Martin Currie	17
Reflection	Martin Currie	20
Fire Horse	Roger Dye	16
Red Squirrel	Roger Dye	16
Aerobatics	Roger Dye	15
Waiting	John Garner	16

Aberaron	John Garner	15
Ferrari F430	John Garner	16
Winning Beetle	Katie Garner	16
Sea View	Katie Garner	15
Gelateria	Katie Garner	15
The Bridgestones	Gerald Hallworth	15
Tideswell Church	Gerald Hallworth	15
Sign of the Times	Gerald Hallworth	15
Bow and Mooring Line	Frank Hutchinson	17
St Malo Beach	Frank Hutchinson	14
The Harpist	Frank Hutchinson	13
Holly Man	Graham Johnston	14
Haystacks and High Crag	Graham Johnston	18
Reflections of Liverpool	Graham Johnston	18
Dawn Over the Empire State	Paula Martin	16
French Spiderman Montage	Paula Martin	16
Old and New, Hong Kong Harbour	Paula Martin	17
Carmen	Dave Osborne	15
Its On My Wish Llist	Dave Osborne	18
Lights in the Park	Dave Osborne	14
Wild Cabbage, White Butterfly	Barry Pearson	19
Singing in the Street	Barry Pearson	18
The Jogger	Barry Pearson	16
In the Round House, Barrow Hill	Colin Pickles	16
The Rescue	Colin Pickles	15
Alexander von Humboldt	Colin Pickles	15
Courtyard Tree	Dorothy Redford	16
Head-Turner	Dorothy Redford	16
Targeted Bell Flower	Dorothy Redford	14
Constructors Break	Tony Redford	16
Back Steps	Tony Redford	17
Girl on Balcony	Tony Redford	18
Duplicity	Geoff Robinson	18
Wartime Gossip	Geoff Robinson	17
Zoe	Geoff Robinson	18
Allium Seed Head	Jackie Robinson	18
Dorset Sunset	Jackie Robinson	17
Mist Dawn	Jackie Robinson	19
Aldburgh Fisherman	Gordon Robson	18
Edinburgh Military Tattoo	Gordon Robson	16
Torrential Downpour	Gordon Robson	17
Reflections	Trevor Rogers	16
Twenty Trees	Trevor Rogers	16
Frosty Morning, Hayfield	Trevor Rogers	17

Praying Mantis on Lavender	Tony Rosevere	15
Awaiting the Tide	Tony Rosevere	14
Puffin – Isle of Lunga	Alan Saunders	18
Grey Seal with Pup	Alan Saunders	18
Whooper Swan in Flight	Alan Saunders	19

Interclub Competition with South Manchester CC

On Tuesday 29 September 2009 NCPS hosted a new form of Projected Digital Image competition with South Manchester Club whereby members of each club were allowed to provide no more than two images to the 30 images per side. The Judge for this occasion was Adrian Lines from Wigan. Adrian introduced himself as a recent photographer who began photography in the Digital age. He told of his almost accidental introduction to judging through having attended an L&CPU judging seminar, one that he very nearly missed! He refused both the £5 sweetener from S M/Cr club and the counter offer of £10 from NCPS. Adrian proved to be a level headed and thoughtful judge who had both sides commending him at the end of the close contest. The standard of images was very high and Adrian commented that, inevitably, a judge's preferences would be crucial here. There were no great technical issues to be raised over the images, so small things like hair covering a subject's eye would be deciders. He kept back 13 of the 60 images for later consideration, giving marks from 14 to 17 for the others. Eventually four images were selected for 20 marks each, and when pressed to produce a best image Adrian plumped for "Gannet in Flight" by Alan Saunders. When the marks were totaled the final score was NC PS: 499 ; South Manchester CC: 502. Given the known uncertainties in marking NCPS considered this an honorable draw.

Ray Grover from the Manchester Club proposed two votes of thanks; one to NCPS for proposing and organizing the competition; and one to the judge for doing a superb job, with measured comments and with humour

Bill Chadband

Results: In Presentation order

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>NCPS</u>	<u>S M/cr</u>
Pushkar Camel Fair	Martin Currie	17	
Adder	Graham Coull		17
Atina	John Nightingale		19
Cheeky	Joyce Streets	15	
Between a Rock & a Hard Place	Phil Portus		17
Lola Lamour	Jon Allanson	14	
Dorset Sunset	Jackie Robinson	17	
Boarded up House	Nick Berentzen		15
Brothers in Arms	Andrew Wood		16
Spire in the Mist	Jackie Robinson	18	
Face to Face	Tony Redford	16	
Charlotte	Phil Platt		17
Coming Alive at Dusk	Graham Currey		17
Gazania	Jill Hargreaves	14	
In Tune	Tony Redford	18	
City of Arts & Science	Nick Jackson		16
White Pelicans	Jon Allanson	16	
Chelsea	Nick Entwistle		16
Cornish Tin Mine	Louise Croak		17
Reflections	Dorothy Redford	19	
Cuban Cigar	David Tunbridge		14
Felt Tips	Ray Grover		15
Downpour	Jonathan Bawden	16	
Foggy Football	John Fryer		17
Grace	Andrew Wood		18
Greeting the Light	Liz Beattie		18
Lance Armstrong,			
7 Times Tour de France Winner	Katie Garner	15	
Flamingo	Barry Pearson	16	
Holy Island Crossing	Louise Croak		17
Lily	Joyce Streets	19	
Indian Lady	Tom Bowett		17
Contemplation	Geoff Robinson	19	
Kimmeridge Rocks	Martin Malies		16
Millennium Bridge, Newcastle	Gordon Robson	15	
Loose Ball	John Coles		19
Waiting	John Garner	16	
Dolomite Vista	John Coles		16
Sacre Coeur, Paris	Colin Pickles	16	
Motocross Sidecar	Martin Malies		16
Bikers Journey	Roger Dye	17	

Nice Try	Phil Platt	16	16
Faded Splendour	Brian Turnbull	16	
Wartime Gossip	Geoff Robinson	16	
Pansies	Nick Berentzen		14
Pushkar Chef	Brian Turnbull	15	
Gannet in Flight	Alan Saunders	20	Best
Red Kite	John Nightingale		17
Lines and Curves	Graham Johnston	17	
Rugby Hold	John Fryer		16
Cruising	David Hockin	16	
Wild Red Fox	Alan Saunders	17	
Modern Art	Dorothy Redford	16	
Sandpiper	Graham Coull		20
Sidecar Tussle	Ray Grover		20
Soll	Harvey Bell		17
Sunrise at Red Wharf Bay	Bill Chadband	16	
Dawn over Empire State	Paula Martin	17	
Temptation Behind the Cathedral	Phil Jenkins		15
Dawn Tai Chi	Martin Currie	20	
The Pride and the Passion	Nick Jackson		17

Committee Meeting Wed 30 Sept 2009

President Roger Dye welcomed members to Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club and announced that a “remote Mouse” had been purchased for the Shuttle computer, to allow speakers to control digital slides from “front of house”. Richard Scaife reported on 6 CD’a of images from the recent Poynton Show. Bill Chadband noted that judges Tony Pioli (Ann Exhn); John Cartledge (Inter-club prints) and Tony Dudley (Interclub PDI) had been appointed. Possible performers for the Friday Night Music night had been approached but no response as yet. Jill Hargreaves reported a total of 58 (members plus life members), and noted that some apparent members had still not paid. Agreed that as non-members these folk would have to pay visitors subs on the night until they joined as members, and could not enter competitions until they were paid-up members. Bill Chadband noted that another Focus was imminent. 28 members had indicated they didn’t need the paper Focus; 13 members did want it; 2 members preferred an emailed version. Colin Pickles noted that 20 members had signed up for Venice, but no Hotel prices were yet available. Agreed that next Session would begin on 14th September 2010 and that we would meet on 21st December 2010. This met Graham Johnston’s concerns re the syllabus

Bill Chadband