



## Chairman's Blog

### August 2020

This has certainly been one of the most eventful six months that any of us can remember. The start of lockdown in March seems so far away now. Things that were unthinkable then have become second nature, like wearing masks and talking at arm's length to friends and family.

In many ways, photography has been a good hobby to have in these difficult times as it is something that you can do on your own. But keeping a social organisation going like a Photographic Society is more challenging. Like most other photo clubs, we will be running our programme on line for the foreseeable future. This has necessitated some changes to the organisation of our league competitions – most obviously that all submissions will be as projected images. So instead of having Print and PI leagues we will have three PI leagues as follows:

1. Colour images
2. Mono images
3. Set subjects with the following topics

**Round 1.** Landscape (urban or countryside or garden or coastal or sky). Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Sept (Submit by Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Sept)

**Round 2.** Flora (natural or cultivated) or fauna (wild or captive or farm or pets).

**Round 3.** Technology, e.g. architecture or transport or any other artefact - big or small.

**Round 4.** People, posed or candid, solo or a group of any number. Including also street photography.

**Round 5.** Artistic, e.g. any still-life arrangement, or any abstraction comprising colour/form/shape/line/texture from a real scene, or any transformation made by processing reality into an impressionistic or abstract image.

There will therefore be 5 rounds of Colour PIs, 5 rounds of Mono PIs and 5 set subject rounds.

We have put people into Groups for Colour and Mono based on this year's print/PI performance. Similarly, for the Set Subjects, people have been put into groups based on this year's P.I. League performance. **You can find your Group on the website under the 'Competitions' tab**

If we were able to move back to face to face meetings, we could convert the colour and mono PI leagues to prints and retain the set subject league for PIs.

Meetings and talks will be held using Zoom and we are working with speakers to sort out the logistics. Keep an eye out on the website for details of the programme as it is finalised.

A further rule change agreed at the AGM was the abolition of the 5 year rule for images submitted to league competitions. It was felt that many members may have older images which could be revisited and improved with new techniques. The existing rules still apply that **no image may be submitted more than twice and if it was in the top three in any league it cannot be submitted again in any league competition but can be entered in 'Special' competitions.** So, you will have to keep good records of images you have submitted and their placings! Please also take a moment to have a look at the website for the new on-line entry forms which will make it easier for the Competition Secretaries to process your images.

The full programme is available to view on the website.

**Don't forget to enter your best 'Lockdown' images taken since 1 March 2020 by 21 August for viewing at our first meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September.**

I am delighted to announce our new media logo, which you can see at the top of the page, which has been designed by John Humphrey. We will be using this to launch our new Facebook page for Photo Club Hemel and other promotions.

The Committee is actively thinking about how we get more people involved in the running of the Club. As in any voluntary society, it often falls to a small number of members to keep things going. Please can you have a think about how you might help out. The more people who take an active part in the Club the less there is for everyone to do.

Best wishes

Mike Mitchell

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