

SC SOUTHERN COUNTIES PF PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2026

It is spring already and the prospect of outdoor photography once again feels appealing. It also means that the SCPF AGM and Finals Day is right around the corner – Sunday 10th May. So now is the time to suggest motions that you would like to put forward through your clubs. We still need to fill the roles of Secretary, Publicity Secretary and Print and PDI Championships Secretary so now is your opportunity to throw your name into the hat!

With the Championships done and dusted for another year, you can find the results and highlights here.

We are still looking to recruit more appraisers and will be running a training forum in June. We also want your help identifying inspiring presenters to help club Programme Secretaries with the perennial problem of filling a season with entertaining and informative content.

And this month we meet Viewfinders of Romsey Camera Club.

Stewart Lacey

President and newsletter editor

SCPF Print and PDI Championships 2026

The Championships were held on 22nd March at Littleton Memorial Hall. Winchester Photographic Society did a fantastic job hosting the event. A huge thanks to Gordon Brown and the large team for setting up the hall, flawlessly running the print room and print handling, catering and logistics.





We were proudly supported this year by Fotospeed. Tim Jones, their Technical Manager, ran a stand where he was offering advice on printing and paper selection, and gave a generous 25% discount on the day for Fotospeed products. They also generously donated the paper for the certificates.

Peter Terry did a splendid job throughout the day running the competition software and keeping score.

The Championships wouldn't happen without the massive efforts of our Championship Secretary, Suzie Kirkby. There is so much that happens behind the scenes before, during and after the event, to make it the success that it is. Suzie will be taking over the presidency of the SCPF at the AGM in May and we still don't have a successor for her. So, we must make another plea – we really need someone to step up as Championship Secretary for next season. The willing volunteer will, of course, receive all necessary training and support.

We were pleased to see an increased entry over last year with 41 clubs entering 600 PDIs and 22 clubs entering 299 prints

A huge thanks to our three judges who had a really hard job going through almost 900 images. They were:



Our judges – Sandie Cox, Eddie Hyde, Ralph Snook

Sandie Cox EFIAP ARPS DPAGB from Western Counties Photographic Federation

Eddie Hyde FRPS from Surrey Photographic Association

Ralph Snook EFIAP/s ARPS DPAGB from Western Counties Photographic Federation



Overall, the judges were really impressed with the quality of prints presented to them, with five of them scoring 5s from all three judges. The standard of photography in PDIs was also felt to be high, but they felt that many were let down by overprocessing. This was reflected in the fact that only the eventual gold winner scored 15.

Here is the part you have been waiting for, the results...

Individual Awards, PDIs

Highly Commended

Ron De'Ath (Havant CC) - Early Birds

Tony Cowburn DPAGB BPE4* (Winchester PS) - Leap of Faith

Peter Davidson ARPS ABIPP (Basingstoke CC) - Bereft

Barbara Beauchamp (Southampton CC), - Jellyfish Dance

Julia Wainwright EFIAP FRPS MPAGB BPE5* (Chichester CC) - Polar Bears at Play

Brian Pain (New Forest CC) - Organza

Silver medal, chosen by Ralph Snook

Mark O'Leary (Overton PC) - Dancing Dandelion Seeds



Ralph selected this image because of the beautiful pictorial quality of it. It just struck him as soon as that image came up. He thought it was beautiful - simple but it has a delicacy about it that is just appealing.

Silver medal, chosen by Eddie Hyde
Sharon Bolt (Newbury PC) - As the Meadow Stills



Eddie thought that horse has been captured in a beautiful moment of movement. He described it as "a work of art, as well as being a beautiful picture of a horse. The light is just gentle, but vibrant. And the whole thing has just got a ton of atmosphere about it as well. So, an absolutely stunning image".

Silver medal, chosen by Sandie Cox
Valerie Griggs (Horndean CC) – Liberty



Sandie said that the image is completely out of her comfort zone, with intentional camera movement. She noted that, as you look at it you first see the Statue of Liberty, and then it draws you round through buildings that are out of focus and disappearing into the clouds. And then you come and stop on the right-hand side with the taller buildings and with the different colours. The feeling it conveyed just appealed to her.

Gold medal

Pete Whieldon ARPS DPAGB (Winchester PS) - Totally Focussed on His Prey



This was the only 15 in the PDIs and clearly impressed all three judges. The judges noted that cat is not looking directly into the camera saying “you don't always need your subject looking directly at you, and especially with wildlife, because it gives the feeling that you're not actually there”.

The judges enjoyed the texture of both the cat's fur and the snow and the pleasing sky helps to make the animal stand out really well. The little bit of shrubbery on the right-hand side, they felt, was just enough to show its environment. They observed that the photographer hadn't gone in tight, which is sometimes a fatal mistake with wildlife. The cat is also strongly positioned on the diagonal in the frame.

Club Results, PDIs

Pos	Club	Total
1	Newbury Photography Club	182
2	Winchester Photographic Society	181
3	Chichester Camera Club	179
4	Basingstoke Camera Club	176
5	Highcliffe & Infinity Photography Club	176
6	Hailsham Photographic Society	173
7	Havant Camera Club	171
8	Beaulieu Camera Group	171
9	Yateley Camera Club	171
10	New Forest Camera Club	170
11	Guernsey Photographic Club	170
12	Wimborne Camera Club	170
13	Lymington Camera Club	169
14	Fordingbridge Camera Club	169
15	Jersey Photographic Club	168
16	Aldershot, Farnham & Fleet Camera Club	168
17	Bracknell Camera Club	168
18	Hayling Island Camera Club	168
19	Southampton Camera Club	166
20	Wareham Camera Club	165
21	Alton Camera Club	165
22	Farnborough Camera Club	165
23	Salisbury Photography Club	165
24	Cricklade Camera Club	164
25	Horndean Camera Club	163
26	Spectrum Guernsey	163
27	Overton Photographic Club	162
28	bh photography club	160
29	Littlehampton & District Camera Club	159
30	Gosport Camera Club	158
31	Storrington Camera Club	155
32	Reading Camera Club	152
33	Focus - Ryde Imaging Group	150
34	Middleton Camera Club	148
35	Niton & District Camera Club	148
36	Isle of Wight Photographic Society	145
37	Boundary Camera Club	143
38=	Oakley Camera Club	142
38=	Witterings Camera Club	142
40	Ordnance Survey Photographic Society	82
41	Burghfield and Mortimer Photo Club	55

Individual Awards, Prints

Highly Commended

Andrew Holmes (Alton CC) - Little Beach, Isle of Harris

Tony Smith ARPS DPAGB (Winchester PS) - Boy in Alcove

Rebecca Hitchcock (Havant CC) - Going for a Treat

Christine Cranford (Yateley CC) - Lone Trees at Fleet Pond

Simon Merryman (Winchester PS) - Sami Kota and the Northern Lights

Peter Le Cointe (Lymington CC) - The Crypt, Winchester Cathedral

Silver medal, chosen by Ralph Snook

Norman Wiles LRPS DPAGB (bh pc) - Taj Photographer



Ralph felt this image was a bit different. He loved the way that the single photographer just stands out at the bottom of the image. And then as you drift through that image, you realize what you're looking at. He applauded the fantastic treatment for a familiar subject, something we all know, the Taj Mahal. And the idea of including the photographer in the frame is just an outstanding idea.

Silver medal, chosen by Eddie Hyde

Ferg Cowhig EFIAP/b DPAGB BPE5* (New Forest CC) - Reflected Silver Birch



Eddie commented that “this is just a beautiful, gentle landscape with a simple composition that works. The print quality was superb, and the choice of paper really enhanced the image. A vibrant and bright print with a simplicity that appealed greatly”.

Silver medal, chosen by Sandie Cox

Richard Sheldrake LRPS DPAGB BPE2* (Southampton CC) - Arctic Fox Waiting Patiently



Sandie chose this image because of the way it draws you in. She felt that the orange eye of the fox really pulls you in. She observed that the subject is not completely in focus, the hair under its chin going down its chest is soft, and perhaps the ear that's furthest away from us is just also slightly soft and disappearing into the background. But she liked that aspect.

She didn't consider it to be a true record of the fox. It's more of an interpretation or impression of a fox, which she found appealing. It is on a diagonal, walking into the picture from the top right corner going down to bottom left, which she thought contributed to a strong composition.

Gold medal

Dennis Gilman BPE4* (Lymington CC) – John



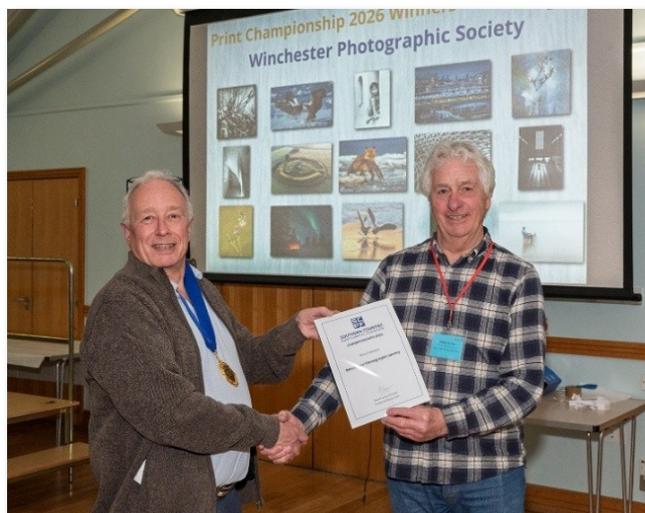
Eddie, speaking on behalf of the judges said “the print had a richness and a depth to it. The blacks were black, and the whites were white. It's a shame we couldn't see more of the dog collar, just to show the gentleman's profession. But once you've seen it, you know. And he's got such a characterful face. The expression that has been captured just looks beautifully natural and relaxed. But there's a great thoughtfulness to him. There is quality in the focus and the exposure, both eyes, are beautifully sharp. There's a great depth of feel to it. It grabs you when you look at it”.

Club Results, Prints

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11	Lymington Camera Club	164
12	Salisbury Photography Club	163
13	Highcliffe & Infinity Photography Club	162
14	Bracknell Camera Club	162
15	Fordingbridge Camera Club	161
16	Cricklade Camera Club	157
17	Gosport Camera Club	155
18	Overton Photographic Club	152
19	Storrington Camera Club	148
20	Isle of Wight Photographic Society	64
21	Focus - Ryde Imaging Group	59
22	Witterings Camera Club	36

The countback rule was applied to clubs on equal points, which is reflected in the final placements

The PAGB have changed the entry criteria for the inter-club championships, allowing us to put forward 3 clubs instead of 2. So, Newbury, Winchester and Chichester will be representing the SCPF in the PDI Championships and Winchester, New Forest and Yateley in prints.



Thanks to everyone who took part and attended and congratulations to the photographers who achieved awards.



Video highlights of the day will shortly be available on the [SCPF YouTube channel](#).

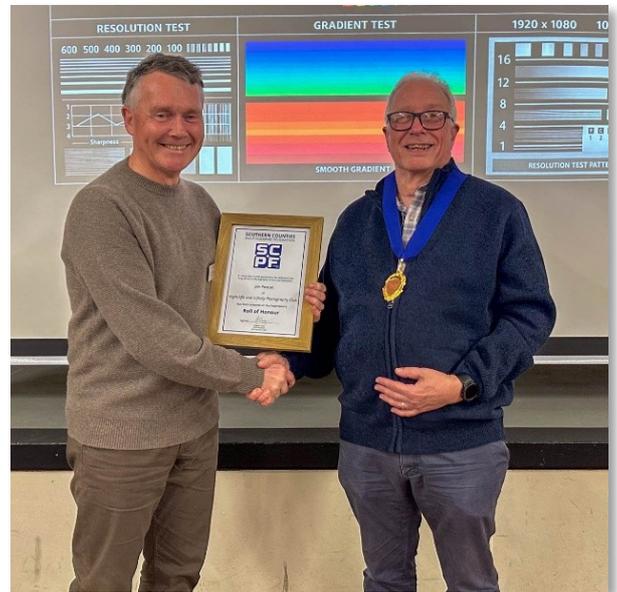
Three additions to the SCPF Roll of Honour

It was my great pleasure to recently visit three clubs to present well deserved Roll of Honour awards



Kerry Turner of Farnborough Camera Club has previously put other members of the club forward for recognition, but this time it was his turn. Kerry is the longstanding secretary of the club and has also served as print secretary, handbook supervisor and federation representative. I was informed that he was usually the first to arrive and the last to leave on club nights and, sure enough, he was already there when I showed up early. It was great to recognise his hard work and commitment

Many of you will know Jim Pascoe of Highcliffe and Infinity Photography Club – he has possibly visited your club as a SCPF level 3 judge. Jim has been Chairman of the club multiple times and is currently the club's federation representative. Beyond his obvious leadership, he is generous in sharing his skills as a working photographer of 25 years. This takes the form of workshops, particularly his popular portrait sessions as well as taking time to help fellow members with advice and support. Jim's award was long overdue!



Trevor Morecraft of Winchester Photographic Society has been an active member of the club almost from the day he joined. Over the years he has been Newsletter Editor, Vice President, President and Past President. He is also the club's technical expert and a driving force behind many of the society's key activities. Trevor took WPS online during lockdown so that they only missed one week as a result. As well as his technical support he is a co-leader of the Society's Improvers Group.



All three of these recipients epitomise what the SCPF Roll of Honour is all about. Have you got a Kerry, Jim or Trevor in your club? Why not nominate them?

A Call to Inspire: Help Enrich the SCPF Speaker Programme



Sue Sibley, recently presenting at Winchester PS

Many clubs across the SCPF region share a common challenge: building a varied, engaging programme that keeps members inspired throughout the year. Securing high-quality external speakers is not always easy—and for many smaller clubs, the cost can be a significant barrier.

But within our own community lies an untapped resource.

Every club has members who have delivered talks that inform, entertain, and inspire. Perhaps you've seen a presentation that captivated your

audience—one that deserves to be shared more widely. Or maybe *you* are that presenter, with a story, a project, or a body of work that others would value.

We are seeking to refresh and expand the SCPF Speakers Register—and we need your help.

Could You Be Part of the Solution?

We warmly invite photographers and presenters of all experience levels to come forward and join the register. Whether you've given dozens of talks or just one well-received presentation at your home club, your contribution could make a real difference.

In particular, we are keen to hear from individuals who:

- Are willing to present to other clubs in the region
- Would consider offering talks without a fee
- May even be open to waiving travel expenses to support smaller or nearby clubs

Your generosity could help ensure that every club—regardless of size or budget—can enjoy a rich and varied programme.

Help Us Keep the Register Up to Date

If you are already listed on the SCPF Speakers Register, we would also appreciate you taking a moment to review and update your details. Accurate and current information helps programme secretaries plan with confidence.

A Valuable Backup: Recorded Lectures

We would also like to remind clubs of the excellent recorded lecture service offered by the PAGB. This resource can be a lifeline—whether you're looking to supplement your programme, manage costs, or deal with unexpected last-minute changes. It's a flexible and reliable way to ensure no club night goes to waste.

Get Involved

If you would like to be added to the register—or update your existing entry—please get in touch with the SCPF with details of your presentation(s), availability, and any terms you wish to set.

By sharing your knowledge and passion, you'll be helping to strengthen the photographic community across the region.

Let's work together to inspire, support, and connect our clubs—one presentation at a time.

Judges' Forum - You're all invited



I'm delighted to announce a Training Forum, open to new and existing appraisers alike. The day is designed not only to train new judges, but also to provide a valuable refresher for those with experience. It will also be of interest to anyone who would like to better understand what appraisers look for when evaluating and judging your images. Above all, the forum will be an inclusive and supportive opportunity to build on our strong foundations and continue developing our skills year on year.

I'm hoping to add some different thoughts and ideas of how we can improve delivery and become more united with our critique.

It is also a fantastic opportunity for me and the advisory team to meet with you all and help you with any problems you may have and give you any feedback from the online forms.

Looking forward to seeing you on 14th June.

Sue Sibley

SCPF Judging adviser

Meet Viewfinders of Romsey Camera Club

Origins: Viewfinders began life in Southampton in 1969 before moving to Romsey in 1973. As the club grew, we moved to our current home at Jubilee Hall in Timsbury in 1982. Today we have around 45 members and are proud to be part of the Southern Counties Photographic Federation.

Our Aims: We are a small, friendly and welcoming camera club where the emphasis is very much on enjoying photography and having fun. Our aim is to encourage and support members of all abilities through shared interest, learning and creativity.

We offer a varied programme of assessments, competitions, guest speakers, tutorials and practical activities. Whether you are picking up a camera for the first time or have years of experience, you will find a relaxed and supportive environment here.

Membership: Our members have a wide range of skills and interests, from complete beginners to experienced photographers.

There are two classes within the club:

- **Primary** for those developing their photography
- **Advanced** for those who have progressed to a higher level

Some of our members have also gained distinctions with well-known photographic institutions, but just as importantly, many simply enjoy photography as a hobby and a chance to socialise.

Club Meetings: We meet most Tuesday evenings from September through to July at 7:30pm at Jubilee Hall, Timsbury.

Each month includes a mix of talks, assessments, trophy competitions and informal members' evenings

Talks: Throughout the year we invite guest speakers to present on a wide range of photographic subjects. Our 2025–2026 programme includes 17 talks covering portraiture, macro, landscapes, nature and much more.

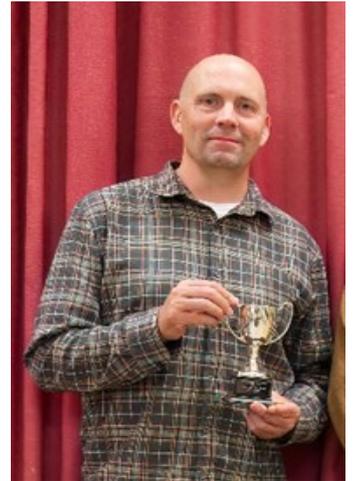
These evenings are designed to inspire, inform and motivate photographers of all levels.

In March we also hold a special fundraising evening to support Jubilee Hall. This year, Robert Harvey entertained us with his talk *"Patagonia and Penguins"*. The event includes an entrance fee and raffle, with all proceeds going towards the hall.

Assessment Evenings: Like many camera clubs, we hold regular assessment evenings where an independent judge reviews members' images and provides constructive feedback.

The aim is not only to award points, but to help everyone improve their photography in a supportive and encouraging way.

Points gained in the Primary Class contribute towards promotion to the Advanced Class, while Advanced members' scores count towards the Photographer of the Year award.



Stuart Bennett - Chair

Trophy Competitions: We hold a number of friendly internal competitions during the year, open to all members. Most include both print and projected digital image categories, often with a specific theme.

These include Scape, Nature, Panel and the Les Fredericks competition, along with awards for Print of the Year and PDI of the Year in both classes.

We also run a popular creative photography competition judged by members themselves (by voting with washers!). This is always a fun, lively and sometimes surprising evening that encourages everyone to try something new.

Members' Evenings: Members' evenings are among the most enjoyable parts of the club calendar. These relaxed, hands-on sessions give everyone the chance to experiment, learn and have fun together.

Past activities have included food photography, still life, portrait sessions with steam punks, pirates and medieval re-enactors, astrophotography and even indoor owl photography.

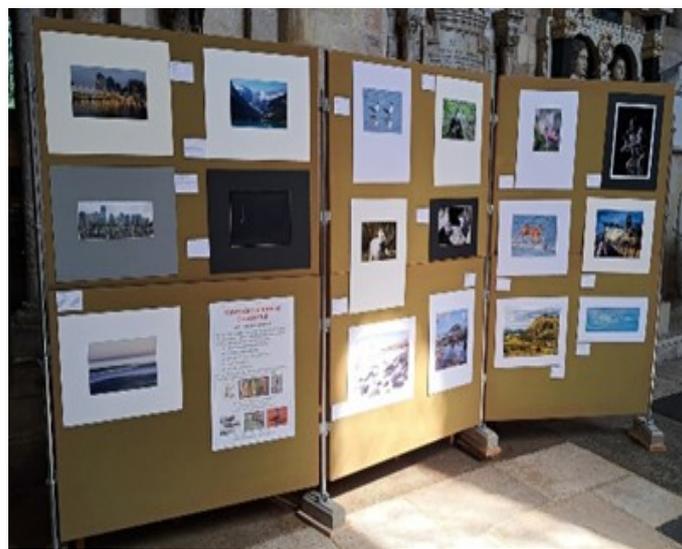
We also organise occasional local outings for those who enjoy photographing on location.





Annual Exhibition: At the end of each season in July, we hold our annual exhibition in Romsey Abbey, which coincides with the Romsey Festival and is open to the public.

This is a wonderful celebration of members' work and a chance to share our photography with the wider community.



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