

Chairman's Report for 2013 AGM by John Royle

Our most significant development for the Club this year has undoubtedly been the opening of the **club website**. It presents a beautifully simple and appealing look for us, quite a delight compared to the jazzy confusing melee which hits you when you visit some sites. I hope you all agree and feel proud of the face we are presenting to World.

We have Ian McNab to thank for its design, management and development. He has also kept the Forum very much alive and active and some very interesting and dare I say erudite discussion has taken place on there. I know many of you view the Forum but don't enter into the discussion, but please consider doing so.

Every week (at least) the front page is updated and News items added and, of course, there is activity on the Forum. Members can make a gallery of their pictures or submit them for comment. Our results, programme, recommended links etc can be kept up to date.

Ian also keeps a very active Twitter going which provides a great insight to a wider world of photography. It is a delight to view these interesting and often great images, looking only at "Club" work helps but it can lead to a narrow viewpoint or, worse still, mimicry. You could find new inspiration.

In fact Ian has made a very considerable contribution in a relatively short time and we would like to mark our appreciation by awarding him a service medal....

PRESENTED MEDAL to IAN McNAB

Newcomers.

We can celebrate the successes of quite a band of new, or relatively new, members who have been like a breath of fresh air. Not only have they been successful in our competitions but their enthusiastic, lively and adventurous attitude to subject matter and style have been refreshing and inspirational. They are quick learners too and I look forward to seeing what they do next year.

Our Speakers

We have had some excellent talks this year but I think the most memorable were those of Margaret Salisbury and our own Ian McNab.

Margaret was wonderful because we all know her as a successful photographer in competitions and yet the emphasis in her talk was always on the emotional or narrative and not on the management of the picture elements and titivation that sometimes become too prominent in club photography. Such integrity.

Ian's talk was about the underlying compositional (and sub-conscious) elements in the work of Henri Cartier-Bresson. The talk was superbly well prepared and along the way Ian lead us all into a deeper appreciation of the photographs themselves as well as elucidating their geometric structure – that part had a resonance which I shall never forget.

At present it looks as if we will not be having an exhibition this year, though Sharon is still investigating possibilities. I hope we can find a new venue because the exhibition is a great advertisement for club membership and gives members some pride in seeing their work displayed.

Chairman's Choice

Every year I present this award to one person who I think deserves special mention. It will never be for anything directly linked to success in competitions – that brings its own reward. And it is only for one person each year – and that is difficult. The last thing it must be is divisive.

This year the award goes to someone who has immersed themselves enthusiastically into the club and proved themselves thoughtful in dealing with others, capable in originating a project and seeing it through, and has won respect for their determination and tenacity. On top of that they have also produced some remarkable work in what is a new area for CPS.

Chairmans Choice Award presented to Dolores Williams.



Now, on the subject of awards, we have a further one to make. **The Ron Smith Cup** was donated to be awarded for creative work. What does that mean? In a sense all our work is creative. Who came to mind? Well my first thought was for someone who has a long record of membership and can always be relied on to produce several remarkable images each year – and creative? Well, the first adventurous picture I ever saw submitted at CPS was by this person. It was back in the slide days. It is **Peter Robinson**

<John presenting the Ron Smith Cup to Peter Robinson

Now I would like to thank our Committee for serving you so well for another season, especially Tom and Mary Seaton who continue way beyond the call of duty. Their long experience is a boon to us. I once described them as the rock on which our club was built and that remains true. They are more than happy to let me stand in the limelight but I do lean on them.

Thanks to equipment manager Dave Lucas who does his job so diligently and so unobtrusively that I often forget to thank him.

Sharon for organising our Exhibitions and Dave for overseeing the attendance levy etc.

Ian Stevenson for organising the programme. This is quite a task and I was very grateful when he volunteered to take it over from me again.

Ian Whiston for his help with the external competitions, projection, the KO and advice on all manner of things.

Thanks you too to the members who provide that essential service – **making the tea**; Janis, Denise, Dot, Maureen and Mary.

At one point about this time Dolores stepped forward to make a surprise presentation, one in appreciation of Janis Royle.



Janis made it her business a few years ago to get the tea organised. What a boon that was! “The Tea” was always a painful process as we presganged or had a rota for tea making. Now the whole thing is a seamless and pleasant process. Janis is aided by Denise, Dot, Maureen, Mary and others as I’ve said before.

Janis was very touched that you had been so generous and so grateful!

<<<<<Janis with her bouquet

...And our new Committee Members. Thank you for volunteering, I hope you will enjoy making the club serve its members ever better.

Congratulations to all our trophy winners! Our success this season in keeping Crewe a real force to be reckoned with both locally and nationally has been down to you for producing the goods.

Here are some of them...



L to R; Denis Swaby, Bob Brown, Peter Robinson, Paul Hill, John Royle, Paul Compton (kneeling, he isn't really that short!), Meg Cumming, Martin McGing, Wallace Baxter, Kath Hill, Ray Hill and Ian Whiston.

Finally I hope we have at least a temporary solution to our accommodation problem (continuing at the Library, with a 7.30 start). It will cost more but I hope that we can absorb the extra cost or find some way of raising the money without asking for an increased membership fee or attendance fee – I appreciate that times are hard.

So, with assured accommodation and a buoyant membership I look forward to the 2013-14 season with confidence!

John Royle

April 2013