

## Distinctions by John Royle 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013

As you get into club photography and begin to enjoy some success in club competitions you may start to think about getting some distinctions. These are the letters that our visiting speakers, judges and some members of the club use after their names.

There are two types of distinctions. The first type are ones such as the BPE, PSA and FIAP, gained through getting your pictures accepted into suitable competitions; nationally or internationally. The second type is gained through an examination of your work (PAGB and RPS distinctions).

If your work is the kind which gets fairly readily accepted into nationals and internationals then you may well get into the former kind. If your acceptance rate is low then it is a hard (and expensive) slog and many find the PAGB or RPS adjudications are more suitable for them.

The PAGB distinctions are CPAGB, DPAGB and MPAGB. The RPS ones are LRPS, APRS and FRPS. They are very roughly similar in standard but I would say that if your work is doing well in our club competitions then you should be able to get CPAGB or LRPS.

The difference is the way in which the assessment is made. For the PAGB awards (C, D and MPAGB) your work is shuffled in with everyone else's going for the same award and marked by 6 judges. If your total score for your pictures (prints or PDIs) is high enough, you get the award.

The background standard for PAGB APMs is informed by club work. For the RPS award things are centred on you. You present a panel of work and the judges decide if your standard is good enough. The genre you work in may be one which is not so popular in club competitions; then I would suggest the RPS is perhaps for you.

One difference though is that the PAGB APMs are held for life and with nothing further to pay (after assessment costs). The RPS ones are also held for life but if you cease to be a member of the RPS you must stop using the distinction, though you may take it up again. You can also get the RPS awards by gaining things such as an "A" level in photography or a degree.

If you are interested talk to Wallace or Martin McGing about the RPS distinctions or Ian Whiston or myself about the PAGB APMs.

Further information:

- Guides to all distinctions, with the full details of requirements: <http://www.lcpu.org/lcpu/downloads.php#docs>
- PAGB website for booklets etc: <http://www.thepagb.org.uk/merit.htm>
- L&CPU Mentoring Scheme for PAGB APMs: If you are ready but want expert guidance and help the L&CPU have an excellent mentoring scheme. See <http://www.lcpu.org/lcpu/downloads.php#lcpuapm> and/or EMAIL Christine Widdall <mailto:Lecturersandjudges@lcpu.org.uk>
- RPS Distinctions: <http://www.rps.org/distinctions-introduction>