MIDLAND COUNTIES
PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
www.mcpf.co.uk

Basic Requirements for Distinction Applicants for PAGB.

Entrants must have been active members of an affiliated club/society for a minimum of 2 years for CPAGB, 3 years for DPAGB, and 5 years for MPAGB. A retrospective period of 10 years may be considered. Applicants for MPAGB must have held DPAGB for at least 11 months on the date of application. The Federation Awards Officer will be pleased to afford any additional guidance. These criteria must be certified by your club/society Secretary on the applicants declaration form.

The Federation does not require you to prove the standard of your work – this is done by the PAGB at the adjudication day based on the images that you submit for consideration.
Applicants are also recommended to visit some of the many Club Exhibitions held throughout the Midlands area each year, many are National events which attract entries from throughout the UK and will give a prospective applicant an idea of the standard of work being produced in other Federations – and other clubs within our own boundaries. Where possible it is **recommended** the applicant attend an adjudication day prior to making their own submission, so that they can understand the level at which they will be judged – particularly those seeking DPAGB and MPAGB status. There are also recorded lectures on going for your awards (see PAGB website) and you could seek advice from judges who regularly adjudicate PAGB Distinctions.

Applicants who apply for resubmission in prints can resubmit in PDI or vice versa.

Credit of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (CPAGB)
The Standard is that of "Good Club Photography"

This is the most important of the three levels of Award and is designed specifically to recognise the "Good Club Photographer". If you consistently do well in your own Club, or if your work is selected for inter-club and MCPF competitions, you probably qualify to enter for this award. All we need is evidence from your Club(s) that you have actively supported them for at least two years

Distinction of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (DPAGB)
The Standard is that of "Open Exhibition Photography"

You can enter for this level without passing through the CPAGB stage (although this could be the route to take to avoid disappointment). If you have not entered and had acceptances in National Exhibitions (e.g. Solihull, Bromsgrove, Shrewsbury) you are strongly recommended to enter as this will be the level at which your work will be assessed. You will be required to show that you have supported your Club(s) for at least three years to apply to enter at this level.

Master of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (MPAGB)
The Standard is that of "the highest standard of Amateur Photography".
Images likely to be accepted and win awards in International Exhibitions.

This standard is the very best in UK photography. You will be aware this is a quantum leap and the assessors of your work will be looking for images that have not only been accepted in International Exhibitions but have won awards. (e.g. Smethwick International etc. See FIAP website for full list of International Exhibitions www.entryforms-fiap.net) You will be required to demonstrate support for your Club(s) over a period of five years and you must have held the DPAGB for at least eleven months before applying at this level.

Application procedure for Awards

Download an application form from the MCPF website www.mcpf.co.uk
Complete the form and send it back to the secretary.
Once the criteria have been verified the form will be signed and returned to you with the PAGB application form.
Send this form to the PAGB awards officer with the appropriate distinction fee.

Applicants are admitted on a ''first come, first served'' basis

MCPF PAGB Distinctions Secretary
David Venables DPAGB
10 Rushleigh Road
Shirley
Solihull, W. Midlands
B90 1DH
Email: apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk

Updated: Jun 2013

MIDLAND COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION

www.mcpf.co.uk

PAGB DISTINCTIONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT
APPLICANTS DECLARATION OF THEIR ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THEIR CLUB/SOCIETY
SEE ENCLOSED NOTES FOR MORE DETAILS

TITLE **NAME**		**DIST**
ADDRESS		
POSTCODE	**CLUB/SOCIETY**	
EMAIL address		**Telephone**

I WISH TO APPLY FOR A PAGB DISTINCTION IN *PRINTS, *PDI,
*please delete as appropriate.

***CPAGB** I have been an active member of my Club/Society during the preceding 2 years

***DPAGB** I was awarded CPAGB on _____ and I have been an active member of my club/society during the preceding 3 years

***DPAGB DIRECT** I have been an active member of my club/society during the preceding 3 years

****MPAGB** I was awarded DPAGB on _____ and since that date I have been an active member of my club/society during the preceding 5 years

NOTE **APPLICANTS FOR MPAGB IN PRINTS/DPI MUST HAVE HELD DPAGB FOR AT LEAST ELEVEN MONTHS ON THE DAY OF THE MPAGB ADJUDICATION

I CERTIFY TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THE INFORMATION GIVEN HERE IS CORRECT

Applicants Signature ..... Date .....

Verified by (Block Capitals) .....
(Secretary)

Signature ..... Date .....

Verified by ..... Date.....

PAGB Distinctions Secretary, Midland Counties Photographic Federation

Please return to: -

David Venables DPAGB
10 Rushleigh Road
Shirley
Solihull, W. Midlands
B90 1DH
Email: apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk

MCPF Ref No.

Updated: Jan 2012

Affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT

GENERAL DESCRIPTION, CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF APPLICANTS

The Rules and Conditions relating to the Awards for Photographic Merit may be obtained from your Federation's Awards Officer. The Rules are also published in the PAGB Handbook, but since they are still evolving and the PAGB Handbook is only printed every two years, you should check that they are still current. These notes are intended to supplement the Rules and to help you understand the Adjudication process.

Awards The Awards are open to all members of clubs affiliated to the PAGB through their Federations. They are at three levels:

Credit (CPAGB)	Certificate and Blue Badge
Distinction (DPAGB)	Certificate and Red Badge
Master (MPAGB)	Certificate and Yellow Badge

The Awards are normally held for life without any annual fee and holders are entitled to use the designated letters after their name.

The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

APM Secretary: Leo Rich DPAGB APAGB ARPS EFIAP/s e: leo.rich@btinternet.com

INFORMATION LEAFLET ONE

QUALIFICATION All applicants must qualify and apply via their Federations. Entrants must have been active members of an affiliated Club for a minimum of 2 years for CPAGB, 3 years for DPAGB and 5 Years for MPAGB. A retrospective period of 10 years may be considered. Applications for MPAGB must have held DPAGB for at least 11 months on the date of adjudication. Please contact your Federation Awards Officer for further guidance. *Entries will only be accepted for one Class and one Media in any single Adjudication*

PRINTS & PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGES (PDI) Print, and Projected Digital Image Adjudications will normally be held in April and November. Although the closing date for applications will be 31ST January and 31st August respectively, most Adjudications fill up much earlier. The minimum number of entrants for any one day is 30 and the minimum for each section is normally 5. The maximum number of prints and projected digital images to be adjudicated on any one day is approximately 750. Pictures will not be presented as panels but will be mixed with those of all other Entrants in the Section and judged as individual photographs.

ADJUDICATION METHOD

Adjudications in Projected Digital Images (PDI) and Prints are carried out by a panel of six judges, selected from the PAGB Approved List for their photographic skill and their extensive experience. It is impossible to totally eliminate subjectivity but they are carefully briefed as to the standard required in each section.

Photography is more art than science and judges will always be influenced by their emotional response to an image. As in any competition, you should be prepared for some pictures to score higher than you had anticipated and for some to score lower.

Even pictures which have been submitted to a previous PAGB Adjudication may score a little better or a little worse than before.

The Non-Voting Chairman of the Adjudication Panel observes closely throughout the proceedings and has the authority to review near misses on the day.

Each of the 6 Adjudicators is required to Vote on each photograph and their votes are recorded electronically using 'silent' scoring equipment. The leaflet explains how they are briefed to reach that decision, how they assess the work at each level and what each vote/score means.

In theory, if a photograph is not up to the required standard, it should receive 6 "NO" Votes = 2 points per judge x 6 = 12 or, if it is well up to the required standard, it should receive 6 "YES" Votes = 4 points per judge x 6 = 24. However it is unrealistic to expect complete unanimity between 6 different Adjudicators and most total scores will represent a compromise between these limits. Scores above 24 are relatively unusual but can be achieved by the very best images.

Applicants should be aware that Photographs which would be best displayed as a coherent panel may score less well as individual images.

PRINTS *Prints can be any size but* ***must be presented on 50cm x 40cm card*** *mounts. They may not be presented in sleeves or other covers.* ***A Projected Digital Image of each print entered must be submitted on CD-R*** *prior to the Adjudication. These will be shown to the audience as the print is judged and it is entirely the entrant's responsibility to ensure that they are numbered in the same order as the prints.*

MOUNTS Mounts should be lightweight of a type that will not damage other prints when stacked. Velcro or any similar material must not be on either side of prints. The title may appear on the front of the print but not the applicant's name or any other information. **The applicant's Name, Club and Federation should be shown clearly on the reverse of the print.**

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PDI For details of how to submit an entry, PDI Applicants must refer to the separate "Guidance Notes for PDI" leaflet downloadable from the PAGB Website or it is available from your Federation Awards Officer or the PAGB Awards Secretary.

MIXED PRINT AND PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGE entries are not permitted. The PAGB are still willing to run an adjudication for Slides provided there is sufficient demand. At least five entries at each level are required to make an adjudication viable and meaningful

AUDIO VISUAL Applicants may apply either singly or jointly for an Award in AV. Adjudications will be held as and when it is deemed appropriate and provided there is sufficient demand. Please see the separate leaflet dealing specifically with Audio Visual applications. This is downloadable from the PAGB Website or it is available from your Federation Awards Officer or the PAGB Awards Secretary. (PAGB is currently reviewing the criteria for APM in AV).

ENTRIES ***Prints*** *may be sent in advance or they can be delivered and collected on the Adjudication Day.* ***Projected Digital Images (PDI) and PDI of your Print Entry*** *must be submitted on CD-R at least 5 weeks prior to the Adjudication. Entries presented on any other media will not be accepted. Submission of CD's on the day of the Adjudication will not be permitted. The final date and address where to send them will be issued with the Entry Information Pack.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *All applications will be acknowledged with an Adjudication date as soon as possible and Information Packs for Entry will be issued two to three months prior to their Adjudication.*

WITHDRAWAL OF ENTRY *It is difficult to fill places in the event of cancellations and nearer the Adjudication it is almost impossible.* ***Therefore anyone withdrawing from the event after their initial acknowledgement letter but more than 13 weeks from the date of their Adjudication specified in the***

letter will have their fee refunded less a £25.00 Administration charge. Anyone withdrawing later than 13 weeks from the date of their Adjudication will forfeit their entire fee*. In either case, should the Applicant wish to take part in a future Adjudication they will need to complete a new Application Form, including the Certificate of Qualification by their Federation Awards Officer. The full fee, not the re-submission fee, will be payable.*

ADJUDICATIONS are normally open to spectators. Applicants receive one free ticket. Further tickets may be purchased from the organising Federation. Details will be included in the Entry Information pack.

RETENTION OF PRINTS AND CD All successful Print entrants are required to donate an image scoring in the passing range, chosen by the APM Chairman/Committee. This will not be returned. CDs of PDI and *the CDs with copies of the Print entries* will not be returned. Retained work will be used to demonstrate the passing standard to assessors and audiences at future Adjudications. They may also be used for APM Workshops and to promote the Awards, including publication on the PAGB Website or in e-news and possibly in the regularly updated Recorded Lecture Service CD. Copyright of these images remains with the Originator. *The PAGB will try to credit the photographer wherever possible but accepts no liability to do so*.

RESUBMISSION Entrants who fail to gain the award may make further applications at the same level for the resubmission fee stated under each level. A new application form has to be completed, including the Certificate of Qualification signed by their Federation Awards Officer
ALL REASONABLE CARE will be taken with entries, but no liability of any kind is accepted for loss or damage.

CHAIRMAN OF ADJUDICATORS The Permanent Non-Voting Chairman will brief the adjudicators beforehand and observe throughout to ensure a degree of consistency. He is authorised to review 'near misses' on the day and if appropriate, re-mark individual pictures which may result in a pass.

DECLARATION By completing the Application Form the Applicant confirms that they have read this Explanatory Leaflet and accept the Conditions for Entry and also confirm that all of the photographs entered are entirely the work of the entrant. Composite images are permitted provided all component images meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks and clipart are not permitted.

APPLY EARLY *but not before you are ready please as there is a cancellation penalty. Adjudications are usually oversubscribed well before the closing dates specified above. PAGB policy is to try to ensure that ever applicant is offered an Assessment date not more than 12 months distant.*

The Descriptive Guideline for CREDIT Award (CPAGB) is GOOD CLUB PHOTOGRAPHY

The entry fee is £60.00. Resubmission £50.00.

10 Prints or 10 PDI are required and the total score of 200 or more will gain the Award. This is an average of 20 per photograph but you do not need to score 20 for every photograph in your entry.

We have to put some descriptive label on the Award to give an idea of the standard you require to achieve but, in reality, there is no such thing as a consistent "Club Standard". The standard of photography varies considerably from club to club and what is 'Good' in one club may not be so successful in another one.

We cannot know the standard of work in your Club or in your Federation and, by the their sheer variety, there can be no consistent "Club Standard". It is our highly experienced Adjudicators who define what "Good Club Standard" is.

Our Adjudicators have judged at a great many Clubs and they are well equipped to do this, plus we have in place a permanent team and careful briefings to ensure that this is as fair and consistent as is humanly possible.

VOTE "YES" Should do well in the Average Club in domestic competitions or in Inter-Club competitions. Could be chosen to represent the club in Federation competitions. **This merits a vote of YES which is recorded as 4.**

VOTE "NO" In the opinion of our Adjudicators, not up to the required standard. May have some merit but does not meet the criteria for a pass. No better than average club photography. **This merits a vote of NO which is recorded as 2.**

VOTE "NEAR MISS" Only used when the Adjudicator is not quite sure or where the photograph has just missed the standard - **only very close misses would be marked as 3**. Remember that FOUR Adjudicators voting NEAR MISS and TWO Adjudicators voting YES is recorded as a passing score of 20. (3+3+3+3+4+4 = 20)

VOTE "NEXT LEVEL" Well above the standard required. Likely, but not of course guaranteed to score 4 at the DPAGB level. This merits the best vote possible indicating that the photograph will be satisfactory at the NEXT LEVEL and that Adjudicator would vote Yes at the DPAGB level. **This is recorded as 5.**

The Descriptive Guideline for DISTINCTION Award (DPAGB) is OPEN EXHIBITION STANDARD PHOTOGRAPHY

The entry fee is £75.00. Resubmission £65.00

15 Prints or 15 PDI are required and a total score of 300 or more will gain the Award. This is an average of 20 per photograph but you do not need to score 20 for every photograph in your entry.

Application can be made for the DPAGB Award without first gaining the CPAGB provided the applicant meets their Federation requirement.

The Adjudicators are looking for photographs that, in their opinion, would be likely to achieve a high level of acceptance in Open Exhibitions but, although there is a much greater commonality of standard at exhibition level, there are still variations. Some Exhibitions accept up to 40% of the entries, many accept around 20%. Some Exhibitions have high class judges who the PAGB would choose as Adjudicators, some don't. Some Exhibitions apply different criteria and standards. Not necessarily poorer but different.

Exhibitions cannot therefore be relied upon to define a consistent "Exhibition Standard". Other bodies, such as FIAP and PSA award distinctions for a high number of exhibition acceptances but the PAGB Award is given based on an assessment by an expert panel of Adjudicators. The pictures do not need to have been previously entered in any Open Exhibition but success at this level is obviously a good guide. Conversely, a high number of acceptances in exhibitions for a photograph does not necessarily guarantee a high mark in the PAGB Adjudication.

VOTE "YES" In the opinion of our Adjudicators, up to the standard that is likely to do well in Open Exhibitions, achieving a high rate of acceptance. **This merits a vote of YES which is recorded as 4.**

VOTE "NO" Not likely to be accepted very often in Exhibitions and will probably, in the opinion of our Adjudicators, be rejected more often than it is accepted. **This merits a vote of NO which is recorded as 2.**

VOTE "NEAR MISS" Only used when the Adjudicator is not quite sure or where the photograph has just missed the standard - **only very close misses would be marked as 3**. Remember that FOUR Adjudicators voting NEAR MISS and just TWO voting YES is recorded as a passing score of 20. (3+3+3+3+4+4 = 20)

VOTE "NEXT LEVEL" Well above the standard required. Likely, but not of course guaranteed to score 4 at the MPAGB level. This merits the best vote possible indicating that the photograph will be satisfactory at the NEXT LEVEL and the Adjudicator would vote Yes at the MPAGB level. **This is recorded as 5**

The MASTER Award (MPAGB) seeks to recognise the HIGHEST STANDARD OF UK AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY

The entry fee is £95.00. Resubmission £85.00.

20 Prints or 20 PDI are required and a total score of 450 or more will gain the award. This is an average of 22½ per photograph but you do not need to score 22½ for every photograph in your entry.

Applicants for MPAGB must have held DPAGB for a least 11 months on the date of the adjudication

The Adjudicators are looking for a very high standard of photography, images which, in their opinion, would enjoy a considerable level of success in International Exhibitions, including consistent and frequent acceptances. Pictures do not require to have been entered or accepted previously in any International but must be of an exceptional standard.

As an applicant for MPAGB you will probably have submitted to many exhibitions and you will be aware that even your most successful pictures sometimes fail if, for example, a particular image has achieved 40 acceptances in 50 attempts that still represents a 20% failure. A large number of Exhibition acceptances indicates the probability of a high Adjudication score but does not guarantee it.

Some images, such as record photographs, are not particularly successful in some International Exhibitions, but they will be given due and fair consideration by our Adjudicators.

VOTE "YES" In the opinion of our Adjudicators, up to the standard that has a high probability of being accepted into Open Exhibitions and could win an occasional award. **This merits a vote of YES which is recorded as 4.**

VOTE "NO" Does not have a high probability of a high acceptance rate in Open Exhibitions . May achieve acceptances but will also be rejected. **This merits a vote of NO which is recorded as 2.**

VOTE "NEAR MISS" Only used when the Adjudicator is not quite sure or where the photograph has just missed the standard **- only very close misses would be marked as 3**. To obtain the passing average you require just ONE Adjudicator to vote NEAR MISS and Five to vote YES, which is recorded as a passing score of 23. (3+4+4+4+4+4 = 23). You can afford TWO Near Miss Votes for perhaps half your entry.

VOTE "PROBABLE AWARD WINNER" Well above the standard required. Will not only be accepted into Open Exhibitions most of the time but also very likely to win awards. **This really is the very best photography and merits the best vote possible which is recorded as 5**.

AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT ...
Volume 3
PHOTOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN
AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT Volume 3 Sep 2013
What is required to achieve CPAGB
Issue 1. Jan 2012
What is required to achieve CPAGB & DPAGB
Photographic
AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT Volume 2 Feb 2013
What is required to achieve CPAGB and DPAGB
There are now Three Recorded Lectures outlining the requirements to achieve the CPAGB and DPAGB. Volume 3 covers the CPAGB only and all are profusely illustrated with recent successful entries
www.pagb-photography-uk.co.uk
PAGB RECORDED LECTURE SERVICE
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AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT

PDI NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

APM Secretary: Leo Rich DPAGB APAGB ARPS EFIAP/b e: leo.rich@btinternet.com

APM INFORMATION LEAFLET TWO

Update of Leo's e-mail address

The Awards Committee of the PAGB wish to ensure that the images you submit are projected as accurately as possible.

To achieve this aim please ensure your images are submitted in accordance with the following rules. Any divergence may mean that your entry will be excluded.

1. Mode: Files must be in **jpeg** format, RGB mode (for both colour and monochrome images) and in the sRGB colour space.

2. Image Size – **maximum** dimensions of submitted files must be 1400 pixels horizontal, by 1050 pixels vertical. (Please note **NOT** 1400 pixels vertical). Images larger, in any dimension, than this will be disqualified. Entrants are free to make whatever use they choose of the area within these dimensions. (BUT SEE 4 BELOW)

   The native resolution of the projector we use is 1400 x 1050 so these dimensions will give optimum viewing. You are welcome to send smaller images which may appear smaller on the screen using a default Black or Dark Grey background or you may arrange the image on your own choice of background provided that the total size is then exactly 1400 px horizontal by 1050 px vertical

3. The PAGB organisers are not permitted to alter/adjust any image or submission in any way.

4. An image will be disqualified if it shows on screen the title or the name of a federation, club or the entrant.

5. The Digital Images will be projected on a Canon XEED SX7 calibrated and profiled projector with PC/Laptop running Windows.

6. We will project in sRGB and you are advised to convert from any other Colour space. (See 1 above)

7. You must write your images onto a 'CD-R', not a rewriteable disc nor a DVD, and ensure that the 'session is closed' Do not put your images in a Folder. Load them separately using the file format specified. Mark your CD, using an indelible pen, with your **Name, ID Number, telephone number and e-mail address Please also write the adjudication you are entering as shown on your Entry Form (top right)** (e.g. Wilmslow Nov 2010). Please do not stick any labels on your CD.

8. Each image should be allocated a file name to correspond with the Entry Form***** and shown **PDI number_Personal ID number_Title**.

The personal ID number will be shown in your Entry Pack, and on the Entry Form* which will be sent to you by the Awards Secretary approx two to three months before the Adjudication.

For example, if Joe Bloggs has a Personal ID number of CE999 and his first image is Summer Sunset the file name should be **01_CE999_SummerSunset** If image number 10 is Blue Butterfly the file name should **10_CE999_ BlueButterfly** The use of "No title" or Untitled" is not allowed.

Please ensure you use an **UNDERSCORE** as a separator **not** a Hyphen (this is the same key but Underscore is accessed by the Upper Case Key) and place a Zero (0) before any single digit number (eg 06, 08) Please make sure there are no spaces anywhere in the Title.

The title part of the filename (which can be in capitals) must be limited to 20 characters maximum and must not include your name (or part thereof) - any that do will be disqualified.

If it is absolutely necessary to shorten the title then there must be enough information to allow us to accurately check the title with the entry form. This shortened title is only for the file name. **You should show the full title on the Entry Form itself and this is what will be announced to the adjudicators.**

9. Please ensure there is no virus present on your CD. A check will be carried out on CD's when received and any suspected of having a Virus will be rejected. There may not be time for you prepare and submit another. We will acknowledge receipt by **e-mail** if you show your email address on the outside of the package as this may not be opened immediately it arrives. Telephone confirmation will not be provided due to time and cost restraints. You can track postal delivery if you use the Recorded Delivery Service.

10 You are strongly recommended to have your images projected with properly calibrated equipment prior to submission. If this is not possible you should, at the very least, run the CD on a properly calibrated monitor, other than the one used to load your Entry, to make sure the images display correctly.

11. We need to check and pre-load Entries into the software prior to the Adjudication so it is essential that you adhere to the deadline dates for submission set out in the Entry pack issued to you by the Awards Secretary. Late entries may be disqualified. Digital Entries cannot be accepted on the day of the Adjudication.

12. CD's will not be returned and the PAGB reserve the right to use your images in future Adjudication "Warm Up" panels and for other PAGB publicity purposes in relation to the APM including Advisory days, display on our Website, publication in e-news and inclusion in a Recorded Lecture. Copyright remains with the Author.

13. Whilst every effort will be made to safeguard your entry the PAGB cannot accept any liability for lost or damaged CD's, failure of them to run on the equipment we use nor for any use of any of the images not authorised by the PAGB.

14. Each entrant will be required to sign the Entry Form confirming that all the work submitted complies with the PAGB Definition of acceptable images.

AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT

FREQUENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

APM Secretary: Leo Rich DPAGB APAGB ARPS EFIAP/b e: leorich2002@aol.com

Q17 renumbered to Q18 and new Q17

Q1. Why has one of my pictures scored lower than it did in a previous Adjudication?

A1. Even judges are human and 6 acting together cannot be as precise as one alone. This variation is seen at club level when pictures are entered in different competitions and becomes even more noticeable if the picture is entered to several exhibitions. Over the longer term these fluctuations should even out

If they look at a picture which is borderline then they have to decide to vote for it (4) or declare it a near miss (3). This can be a tiny movement but if two or more judges move from 4 to 3 then the score drops by 2 points or more. A shift of up to 6 points is not unusual.

Neither judging panel is wrong, nor is either panel necessarily correct. Perhaps the first panel averaged out a little high and the second a little low. The photograph is still borderline - sometimes it will get a passing score, sometimes it will not. We have observed that re-submitted prints sometimes score higher the second time around but that has never elicited a complaint.

We work very hard to ensure consistency and our judges are the best there are but photography judging is not a science. There are no real objective criteria to assess against and nobody is pretending that there isn't a little bit of luck involved. If your total entry is borderline, you have at least as much chance of passing as you have of failing.

Q2. What can I do about these fluctuations?

A2. Where you have a high score and a low score for the same picture it is probably borderline and the Adjudicators shaded their marks up or down to your benefit or disadvantage. You probably need to improve your entry. However, the fact that the same people have conducted the Review for many years ensures that these observed fluctuations in scores are taken into account.

Q3. How can a photograph with a number of Exhibition Acceptances not be up to the "Exhibition Standard" that the DPAGB requires?

A3. We have to put some descriptive label on the Award to give an idea of the standard you require to achieve but, in reality, there is no such thing as a consistent "Exhibition Standard". Some Exhibitions accept up to 40% of the entries, many accept around 20% and one, at least, only accepts 7%. Some Exhibitions have high class judges who the PAGB would choose as Adjudicators, some don't. Some overseas Exhibitions apply different criteria and standards. Not necessarily poorer but different and not in line with UK camera club work. Most active exhibitors have experienced the variation between Exhibitions. A medal win at one and being rejected from another is not unusual.

By their sheer variety Exhibitions cannot be relied upon to define a consistent "Exhibition Standard". Other bodies, such as FIAP and PSA award distinctions for a high number of exhibition acceptances but the PAGB Award is given based on an assessment by an expert panel of judges and acceptance/s into an Exhibition/s does not guarantee that the PAGB will agree it is of the required standard.

It is our highly experienced Adjudicators who define what "Exhibition Standard" is and we have in place a permanent team and careful briefings to ensure that this is as fair and consistent as is humanly possible.

Q4. How can an exhibition medal winner score poorly?

A4. Regular exhibitors know that there is no such thing as a guaranteed acceptance and that a medal winner at one event can be rejected from the next. We cannot know what the standard of entry was or the expertise of the judging panel at any particular exhibition. Some are much more exacting than others and exhibition judges will often seek to commend pictures which are outside the normal run - "something a bit different". Such images run the risk of not appealing to other judges at other times against other competing images. Being accepted into an exhibition and even winning a medal at an exhibition does not necessarily mean that the image meets the general standard of exhibition pictures.

Q5. I am a member of a good club and my pictures do well in their competitions and in inter-clubs. Why have they scored lower than 20 for the CPAGB?

A5. We have to put a descriptive label on the Award to give an approximate idea of the standard you require to achieve but, in reality, there is no such thing as a consistent "Club Standard". We cannot know the level of work in your Club or in your Federation nor can we know the expertise of the judges you use. It is our highly experienced Adjudicators who define what "Good Club Standard" is and we have in place a permanent team and careful briefings to ensure that this is as fair and consistent as is humanly possible. If the Award was made just for success in your Club we wouldn't need you to submit work to our Adjudicators.

Q6. Is the standard rising all the time?

A6. The PAGB is confident that we have maintained the standard at the same level but perhaps the external bench mark has risen. For example, "Good Club Photography" is much better than it was when the APM started. There are also fashions change and there are subjects and styles which would score lower today than in earlier years.

Q7. If I don't want the PAGB to take the print they choose can I change it?

A7. We have to have a suitable print exactly reflecting the standard but there may be room for negotiation. Talk to the Chairman at the end of the day. You can provide a duplicate mounted copy if you wish – say because there are important labels on the back – but all postage and packing is your responsibility. We will not allow you to take your print away on the promise of a replacement. This has happened several times in the past and no replacement has ever arrived. (We keep the entire CD of PDI.) The photographs are used for workshops and for our Recorded Lecture CDs – see A18.

Q8. What is the Review?

A8. After every section of every Awards Adjudication the Chairman of the Adjudicators, together with other experienced judges, reviews the "near miss" applications. This is not an attempt to undermine the work of the Adjudicators but recognises that the system of scoring can lead to excessive swings in scores. The PAGB has maintained a solid level of experience and continuity in the Review personnel since 1994 when the Awards commenced.

Q9. At what score will an entry be reviewed?

A9. In setting the level at which this review is conducted note is taken of the general trend in scoring in any given section as well as the individual scores awarded by each Adjudicator. Usually we will look at entries scoring 190 or more for Credit, 285 for Distinction and 440, perhaps 430, for Master.

Q10. How is the review conducted?

A10. A very sympathetic stance is taken. We look at every picture which has scored less than the average required and upgrade whenever possible without compromising the integrity of the Awards. We never mark any picture down even if it seems to have scored better than we might have expected.

Q11. Can I appeal against failure?

A12. You can write to the Chairman of the Adjudicators but he can only consider an appeal if there is evidence of incorrect judging not dealt with by the Review process. This has only happened once and it is very unlikely to recur with our current procedures.

Q13. Can I discuss my unsuccessful entry with someone from the PAGB?

A13. We regret that it is not normally possible to discuss your personal entry afterwards. This would only be possible with the pictures to look at and would have to be done face to face. It would be just too time consuming. However, the Adjudicators often make themselves available at the end of each day and will be happy to look at your work.

Q14. How can I improve my entry?

A14. Take as much advice as possible from qualified people. Preferably people who have acted as Adjudicators at previous events or people who have been successful at the level you hope to achieve. (Please note that we advise Adjudicators already empanelled to avoid detailed discussion with prospective entrants prior to the event).

Q15. Are there any suitable workshops?

A15. Federations often run such workshops and the PAGB Handbook has details of the assistance that the PAGB can give. At least one Federation has a 1:1 Mentoring Scheme. Rod Wheelans MPAGB & Anne Greiner MPAGB or other members of the organising committee can be invited to attend Federation Workshops to show photographs from previously successful panels and to advise applicants individually. To facilitate their own workshops, we have made available a CD to your Federation with photographs of the required standard for CPAGB and DPAGB. Contact your Federation PAGB Awards Officer.

Q16. Has anyone failed who should have passed?

A16. Those involved in the Review process are confident that it ensures that nobody has ever failed who should have passed. Since we do not review pictures scoring above average we cannot say that nobody has passed who should have failed.

Q17. How are the judges selected and wouldn't it be better to have the same judges every time?

A17. The judges are chosen each year by the PAGB Judges Sub-Committee from the best in the UK, those who have been appointed to PAGB List of Approved Judges. These are then approved by the PAGB Executive. We try to keep a measure of continuity with at least one or two taking part in the subsequent Adjudication but this is not always possible. We also work hard to create a balanced group representing different genres of photography. For example we strive always to have a Nature specialist although this is not always possible either. As the APM are held each time in a different Federation we also have to take account of travelling distances and we like to ensure that the Host Federation is represented on the panel. Although we cannot keep the same judges for every Adjudication, which may lead to small variations in scoring, we have in place the personnel and the procedure to ensure as much continuity as possible.

Q18. What other information can the PAGB provide?

A18. This and other guidance leaflets are available from the PAGB Website. A generously illustrated CD describing the standard required for CPAGB and DPAGB is available for clubs to rent from the PAGB Recorded Lecture Service - **stephanie.cook@btinternet.com.** New information about the APM and all the other PAGB events and activities is published in our free e-mail newsletter. Register for e-news and see back issues at **www.pagbnews.co.uk**

... and finally, please be assured that, if you are planning to apply for the first time or to re-apply after an unsuccessful attempt, your entry will receive as fair an assessment as we can possibly achieve.