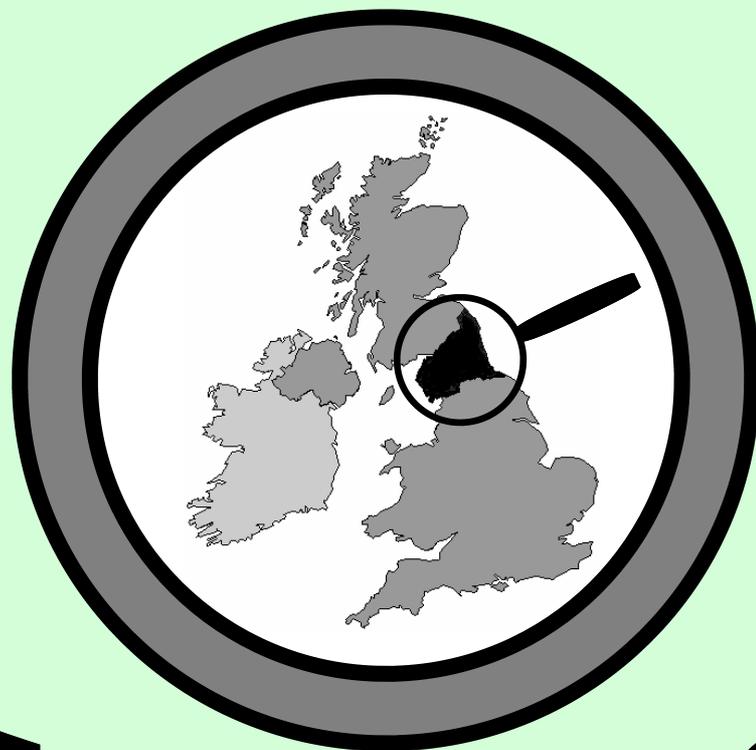


NORTHERN



FOCUS

THE MAGAZINE OF
NORTHERN COUNTIES
PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION

(www.ncpf.org.uk)

Spring 2011

EDITION No. 078

Diary

2011

Feb

- 13 N.C.P.F.; Annual Club Championship at Washington
25 N.C.P.F.; South Tyne Area Print Competition at Whickham PC

Mar

- 7 N.C.P.F.; Tyneside Digital Group at Whitley Bay PS clubroom
13 N.C.P.F.; Annual General Meeting
21 R.P.S.; “PG Tips—Fiddling and Diddling” (Prints) by Peter Gennard MFIAP,EFIAP/p at Methodist Church Hall, Brompton, Northallerton at 7.30pm.
22 R.P.S.; “PG Tips—My Way” (PDI) by Peter Gennard MFIAP,EFIAP/p at Lockart Room, Moothall, Market Place, Hexham at 7.45pm.
23 R.P.S.; “PG Tips—My Way” (PDI) by Peter Gennard MFIAP,EFIAP/p at Quaker Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Penrith at 7.30pm.
24 R.P.S.; “PG Tips—My Way” (PDI) by Peter Gennard MFIAP,EFIAP/p at St. Oswald’s CC, Gladwin Road, Grindon, Sunderland at 7.15pm.
25 R.P.S.; “PG Tips—Fiddling and Diddling” (Prints) by Peter Gennard MFIAP,EFIAP/p at Harraton CC, Bonemill Lane, Washington 7.45pm.

April

- 17 R.P.S.; Distinctions Workshop at Backworth Hall, NE27 0AH.
Advance booking essential.

(Continued on Inside Back Cover)

NORTHERN FOCUS

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Serving the North of England.

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Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official view of the Federation.

Material for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to the editor by the 3rd of June 2011 at the latest.

Web version of magazine available at www.ncpf.org.uk

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

I know it is often said that as you get older, time flies by with increasing speed. On that basis I must be a lot older than I feel, but probably no older than I look, as it seems no time at all since I wrote my previous piece for Northern Focus and here I am a few weeks away from the end of 2010. It has in many ways been a momentous year, sadly we have lost several well known and appreciated photographers in the Northern Counties and we commiserate with their families and friends.

In other ways it has been a year of successes, several photographers in the NCPF have gained awards and distinctions at local, national and international levels. To celebrate many of these awards we held a well attended Presentation Event in November which for the first time was free of charge and appeared to be greatly appreciated by the winners and their guests. The event recognised many of the awards gained in the 2010 NCPF International which has gone from strength to strength. Without the dedication of NCPF Executive members and a group of loyal volunteers neither of these events could have taken place and I must put on record my personal appreciation for all the unsung work which has taken place this year. On this point can I also recognise the sterling work which the Vice President, Pat Porrett, does in producing this magazine. The Photographic Society of America has recently given two awards to the NCPF for the quality and content of Northern Focus, good to know that the hard work is recognised internationally.

As President I have received invitations from several clubs during the year and I have appreciated the warmth, and dare I say tolerance, which has been shown to me. In particular can I single out South Shields where I had the pleasure of attending their Annual Dinner, and they had to listen to me making a speech which doesn't seem a fair exchange for their hospitality. Anyway the highlight for me was meeting one of their members, Jack Johnson, who at the age of 100 regularly attends club meetings and obviously still derives great pleasure from the company of fellow photographers. Speaking to Jack confirmed my feelings that we are fortunate to belong to enthusiastic clubs and societies where we can regularly meet up with colleagues who have a mutual interest in our hobby, if I dare use such a word.

I recently read an article which examined several pointers essential to achieve a long life and ward off mental deterioration. Prime amongst these was a healthy social life and the company of like minded individuals to keep the intellect active. It certainly seems to work for Jack and I hope it does for me too.

At this time of year it is the custom not only to look back over the past twelve months but also to look forward into the next year and try a bit of crystal ball gazing. I mentioned in my last article that we had a number of vacancies on the Executive and I'm delighted to say that we have just recruited two volunteers and I very much look forward to welcoming them to our meetings in 2011. Although we have made a number of changes to the Executive there are still some areas we need to address and I hope we can tackle these in the coming months. January should see the launch of a revamped NCPF website which will no longer rely on the generosity of Executive Members to host the service. Through this site we aim to be more informative, recognise achievement and, essentially, be as user friendly as possible to encourage the development of photography in the Northern Counties.

Our 2011 Spectacular at the end of January has been sold out for weeks and we are hoping to re-introduce a "Summer Event" in 2011. A team of eager volunteers are currently finalising the details which should be with you early in the year if all goes according to plan.

More immediately we have the Club Championships on the 13th February. Entry forms have been distributed and this year's event is, for the first time, free of charge and, courtesy of Alan Porrett, it should be simpler to operate than in the past. Alan has spent much time developing a recording system to remove much of the complicated work that entrants had to go through on the day.

As I mentioned in the last President's Piece virtually all of the events referred to in this article have relied on funding from the NCPF International and this event is also scheduled for change in 2011. Slides finished in 2010 and in future it will be for PDI and Prints. It is also intended that unmounted, non returnable prints will be the norm to help reduce both entrant's costs and administration.

I must finish by thanking fellow photographers in the NCPF for their support during the last year and I would like to re-assure you that we will always try to ensure that our Federation remains responsive to your needs and will continue to promote the pleasures of photography. As always please feel free to contact me directly if you have any issues which you think should be addressed.

Richard Speirs DPAGB

FEDERATION NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW WEBSITE

www.ncpf.org.uk

By the time that you read this article we plan to have a brand new, redesigned Federation website up and running. Hopefully some of you will have visited it and been able to appreciate the advantages that it offers not only to the Federation but its officers, affiliated clubs and individual members. Please note the domain name remains the same.

As I prepare this article we are still in the final throws of design and creating content. I have to confess therefore that we may have made changes to what I describe below even before you get to read this.

Whilst we have maintained and hopefully improved on the information based site that has served us for the last decade, we have also tried to change the emphasis with much more content involving news and events. We have also brought the content of the former Northern Focus site within the new site so that there is now just one central site for the Federation.

I think that it is only right and proper here to place on record our sincere thanks to Alan Porrett, who created and maintained the Northern Focus site for so many years on his own personal web space.

We have already moved the old site from the very limited free web space belonging to the Webmaster to a web hosting service giving far more space. This alone has released us from many constraints placed upon us and enabled us to consider more ambitious content.

We have tried to give the site a clean and simple design that at the one time is easy to navigate and user friendly, but structured so that it can be developed to meet the needs of the Federation and its members.

To try and give a distinctive “Northern Counties feel” we have created a photographic banner at the head of the page that rolls over a series of photographs from each of the six Areas of the Federation. Providing we have a sufficient supply of suitable images we plan that periodically these will change to create continuing interest.

The main headings down the left hand side may be fairly conventional, but are designed so they can be added to, so that the site may be developed. There are innovations within those headings and one new addition, the “Knowledge Base”, which we hope will provide a resource for both Clubs and their Members. The “Competition” pages will assume a greater role, in that information, rules and entry forms will be downloaded from the site, rather than relying on email or post.

Whilst not yet fully developed it is intended that the “International Salon” pages will facilitate on-line entry world wide and payment for entries

via PayPal. As of now the Galleries there have been upgraded and over time we would like to introduce more such galleries elsewhere, for example to show case winners in the NCPF Annual Competitions.

On the right hand side we have the “News” section of the site, where we hope to include a wide variety of news items that will be of interest to members and their clubs.

It is important that everybody understands two things though. Firstly, the site as you see it now, whilst more or less complete in itself is very much a work in progress; it must be that way to ensure we meet ever changing needs. Secondly, what that progress leads to is very much down to your good selves. We need your input into any further facilities or services that might be added to the site, but please bear in mind that one person’s priority may not necessarily be everybody else’s.

But we need far more than that. On the more dynamic pages the content so far, whilst hopefully relevant, should only be seen as a starting point.

We need input as to what ‘knowledge’ you want in the Knowledge Base. We need you to supply us with news items. They don’t have to be Federation wide news items, they can be localised in nature and, what we would like are pictures, if possible and relevant. If the “Diary of Events” is to be of value we need your input into that, especially with ‘posters’ and information about any club events you wish others in the Federation to know about.

It is the Federation’s website, yes; but that also means it is your website and therefore it follows that much of its success will depend on you, the individual member. In other words “Help Us to Help You”.

Finally, don’t forget to ‘bookmark’ www.ncpf.org.uk on your computer.

Dave Coates (NCPF Webmaster)

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY of AMERICA

NORTHERN FOCUS RECEIVES TWO AWARDS FROM PSA

Northern Focus has received awards from the PSA International Newsletter Contest for the “Best Variety of Information Presented” and also for the “Best Calendar Presentation”. Both Awards were from the Chapters/Councils Division.

The Awards were announced in the USA during October.

Editor

PERSONAL PROFILE

MALCOLM KUS ARPS, DPAGB, EFIAP/B

I was born in 1954 near Wolverhampton where I lived and worked until 2008 when my wife Pam and I moved to a small village seven miles north of Alnwick.

Some of my earliest memories as a child are of being lined up with other family members to have a photograph taken by my father with a box brownie. When I was in my late teens, I owned and used quite regularly, a slim line Instamatic camera that used to fit very easily into a pocket.

In 1978, when I was 24 years old, my father died and my mother gave me his camera, which by then was a 35mm German made camera, complete with a range finder that clipped onto the top plate and was kept in a very nice brown leather case. So impressive were the results from the first print film that I put through the camera, I put the Instamatic into the bin, for me 35mm was here to stay.

A couple of years later I changed jobs and went to work for Bass Brewers at Birmingham as a maintenance fitter. Next door to the brewery was a second hand camera shop, where I spent most of my free time, looking through the window admiring the 35mm SLR's that were on sale. After reading so many photo magazines on which was the best on offer, I purchased a Canon FT, my first SLR and was well and truly bitten by the photographic bug. Nothing was sacred to me that I could not take a picture of, family, pets, the car, a tin of beans, you name it I snapped it. The problem was I had no outlet to show my handy work. It was then a friend suggested that I should join a local Photographic Club. I took his advice and joined Cannock PS.

I will always remember the very warm welcome I received on joining and the help and advice that was offered to help me improve my photography and not once did any one tell me that my pictures left a lot to be desired (oh boy did I produce some rubbish, I still think the tin of beans was good).

Within a year of joining Cannock I joined the Committee, I really wanted to put something back into the club that was giving me so much in return. Over the next twenty-six years I served the club and held many different posts. For approximately sixteen of those years I was Chairman.

One of the first posts I held on committee was that of Competition Secretary and it was while doing this job I realised that I could choose the top work that the judges would award on the night. I eventually decided that I would like to give judging a go and after attending a MCPF judge's seminar and putting my name forward, I accepted my first judging at Wednesbury PS in November 1989. The evening went well and I remember upon leaving their club room that night how enjoyable the experience had been.

I could never have guessed in my wildest dreams what the future held and how far judging would take me.

After a very short time I was promoted onto the 'A' list of judges for the MCPF and then on to the PAGB list. Some years ago I was appointed onto the selection panel for PAGB awards and more recently onto the RPS Licentiate selection panel.

Over the years I have travelled the length and breadth of the country, including the Isle of Man and Ireland, judging many National and International Exhibitions.

While all this was happening, my own Photography had taken off. I had a darkroom in the loft, producing colour prints and the occasional mono and also using a lot of slide film. In 1988 I gained my 'L' with the RPS and a couple of years later my 'A', both panels were in colour prints, the latter being in the nature section. At the same time, I had started entering national and international exhibitions. I have always found entering exhibitions very rewarding and a good place to go to test one's work. In 1995 I gained my AFIAP, 1998 my EFIAP and in 2002 my EFIAP/bronze. I have not entered internationals for a few years but intend to resume soon. I also gained my DPAGB in 2004.

In 2008 I finally managed to realise a long time wish and escape the rat race of the Midlands to live a much quieter life in Northumberland, upon my leaving Cannock the Committee made me a life member in gratitude of the service I had given over the years, an honour I felt very humble to accept.

My travels to find photographs have taken me far and wide over the years and I have always pointed the camera at any subject if I think there is a photo to be had. I can honestly say that I have no dislikes in photography and always encourage fellow photographers to enjoy their hobby and take pictures for themselves and not for a judge. However, I do regret that many club photographers only air their pictures in monthly competitions and sadly do not enter external exhibitions or attempt a distinction with the RPS or the PAGB.

When I lived in the Midlands, I also served the MCPF for over ten years on the Judges Committee and seven years on the MCPF Council as their inter-federation slide competition secretary. It was this post in particular that gave me a great deal of satisfaction. In the seven years that I organised and helped select their entry, the MCPF won the competition five times and came second twice.

After thirty years involved with photography, I have tried many different techniques and seen so many changes in equipment and dare I say fashions. So where do I find myself now?

Well I am still enjoying it and the greatest enjoyment is still going out with the camera and pressing the button on the top plate and not the buttons on

the computer. I do the very minimal work that I can do on the computer. I find that I start to lose the will to live after a very short time. I am still a Canon user and still use a fair amount of slide film, however the bulk of my pictures are taken digitally. Having dropped out of the rat race, my wife and I enjoy the walks on the wonderful beaches with our dog and I enjoy finding so many new places to take pictures.

I am now judging for the NCPF and enjoying meeting so many new like minded people at their clubs. One big change for me is that all club competitions are pre-judged. In the Midlands, judging was always on the night and if marks were to be given, it was always out of twenty and not thirty. I have also joined my local club, which is Alnwick and find them a very friendly bunch that endeavour to understand my accent.

Malcolm Kus ARPS, DPAGB,EFIAP/B

MAURICE HENRI – A REMARKABLE MAN

In 2007 whilst on a visit to Canada I met a Canadian professional photographer named Maurice Henri. He was a quiet, friendly person. Freeman Patterson told me about Maurice's work as a portrait photographer. He is highly regarded for his quality environmental portraits. Most of his work has been in Canada but he has been to other areas.

Last November I was in Canada again and had the opportunity to attend a photographic talk given by Maurice. The talk was entitled "Cameras for Healing", a somewhat intriguing title. It was the story of his experiences in Africa. In 2005 he had been invited by Freeman Patterson to join a photographic tour to Namaqualand to visit the Atlantic coast area and the Richtersveld mountain dessert. Because South Africa is a long journey from Canada he decided to stay on after the planned tour and see some more of Africa.

He went to Sierra Leone, a country torn apart by a particularly ferocious war. He saw the plight of youths who had suffered unimaginable events. They had been made to watch their families being slaughtered in front of them then the girls were forced into the sex trade and the boys were made to become child soldiers. This resulted in them all being severely traumatised and totally distrusting other people. Maurice was horrified by what he saw, but had an idea which he thought might just help the situation. His idea was to use photography to help them see the world in a whole new light. He wanted to use cameras to act like a therapeutic tool and as a catalyst towards the healing process. A brave vision for this quite shy man.

(Continued on page 18)

NEWS

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

As many of you will recall the NCPF circulated, in November 2010, Guidance Notes to Clubs on writing a Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Several club and society secretaries have contacted the NCPF concerning possible anomalies in the guidance. These have been investigated by the Executive and this short article aims to clear up any misunderstanding.

Essentially the legislation applies to persons of 18 years or younger as well as to vulnerable adults. The definition of people falling in this last category is clearly set out in the Guidance Notes referred to above.

A number of clubs have already produced detailed and comprehensive Policies however it is important that each club tries to produce its own, tailored to its circumstances rather than “borrowing” someone else’s which might not be suitable to their needs.

In practice a Policy need not be over complicated but must clearly identify that a club recognises it’s responsibilities under the legislation and that it will take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well being of young people and vulnerable adults. Many clubs now adopt a practice of requiring any person aged 16 or under to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Whilst this may seem “over protective” it does effectively remove the responsibility from the club to ensure the child’s well being whilst at any club event.

Without such a policy in force clubs may face difficulties in obtaining grants from many agencies as they now generally require sight of a policy as part of a grant application.

Should you require a further copy of the Guidance Notes please contact Ian Woodley the NCPF Secretary whose details are in the NCPF Directory.

Richard Speirs DPAGB, BPE2*

NCPF INTERNATIONAL

NCPF INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION CD

Federation clubs can buy a CD of the PDI sections (General, Nature, Travel) and the final slide section of the 2010 International. The disk is £10.00 (please make the cheque payable to the NCPF) and is available from Jane Black.

There is enough material on the disk for an evening’s entertainment at the camera club.

Editor

MAJOR EVENTS

JACK D JOHNSON APAGB

Jack Johnson was born in 1910 and celebrated his 100th birthday in May 2010. Many members of Federation Clubs will remember Jack as he would often accompany the late Brian Turton ARPS when they presented their 2¼ x 3¼ Monochrome slide shows to clubs throughout the NCPF. Jack was also ever present at all NCPF AGM's in fact he never missed a meeting until his health precluded him from attending in recent years. As you can imagine Jack has made many friends in lots of clubs throughout the Federation over the years, sadly some of them are no long with us.

Jack joined South Shields Photographic Society in 1940 and became an "Advanced Worker" in Monochrome Prints, 2¼ x 3¼ Lantern Slides and 35mm Colour Slides. He joined the Committee in 1950 where he served for fifty one years although he has always declined becoming President before retiring from it in 2001.

On the occasion of his 100th Birthday it became a double celebration of his seventy continuous year's membership of the Society. At our Annual Presentation of Awards Evening on the 18th May 2010 which was the day after his actual birthday we presented Jack with an engraved plaque which was suitably engraved with the society logo and a sentiment to mark the occasion. A photograph of the presentation is posted on our website www.southshieldsphoto.co.uk

The evening was well attended by the members of the Society and their partners along with Jack's family and close friends. The Federation were represented by Ian Woodley, John and Joan Smith, Stan Bewick, Mavis Ord, Dave and Sheila Coates.

On behalf of Jack and his family he would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts and letters of congratulations.

Phil Dunn
Hon Secretary
South Shields Photographic Society

CELEBRITY PROFILE

KAREN BERRY ARPS AFIAP

I started taking photographs when I was nine years old. I already had a love of wildlife and was intrigued by the photographs that my Dad took when we were out. Dad lent me his treasured Praktica that his Dad had given him. It was a totally manual camera and I learnt how to focus using a lamp in the living room as a subject. Dad thought it was just a phase and I would grow out of it but given I am still taking photographs decades later it just goes to show your Dad is not always right!

Mum and Dad then bought me an Olympus OM10 which was my pride and joy. Dad also used Olympus and so I had a ready source of lenses to borrow. Some years later we both changed to Canon equipment which is handy as we regularly swap lenses although there is now role reversal as my Dad borrows my lenses now!

When I was 11 years old I was the Finalist for Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland in the “Girl” magazine photographic competition, a feat I repeated the next year and this resulted in two all expenses paid trips to London which went down well with my Mum who accompanied me.

When I was 14 years old I joined the Edinburgh Photographic Society. I was fascinated by the photographs shown by the lecturers and listening to their stories. One evening I particularly remember was when I was 16 and went along to a lecture by Tony Worobiec when he showed black and white prints taken in the Badlands and my jaw literally dropped at the sheer quality and beauty of the images and I have been a fan ever since.

I was elected to the Council of the Edinburgh Photographic Society and then elected Junior Vice-President and became President in 2004. I can safely say when I sat in the audience aged 14 I never for one moment thought I would ever be the President of the Society. It was an honour and I had the great privilege of meeting many photographers during that time. I served on Council for about 11 years. I was also the Editor of the Edinburgh Photographic Society Bulletin for a number of years. I was a member of the Exhibition Committee of the Edinburgh International Salon and still help out every year. The best part of that is that you get to see all the entries not just those that are eventually accepted by the Judges.

I joined the Royal Photographic Society in 1996 and gained my LRPS that year in Nature Colour Slides followed by the ARPS again in Nature Colour Slides in 1999. I was honoured to be invited to sit on the Licentiate Panel in 2008 and thoroughly enjoy sitting on the panel.

I have been entering national and international photographic exhibitions since I was 15. I was delighted to be a judge in the nature section of the Northern Counties International a few years ago and have judged other national and international exhibitions. I have judged in Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland. I regularly lecture and judge at camera clubs.

I started off taking photographs of wildlife but I now photograph just about anything. I have been fortunate enough to travel extensively and my camera goes everywhere I go. The highlight for me has to be the Safaris to Africa I have been fortunate to go on with my husband, Mum and Dad. For me the Serengeti National Park is the most amazing place on earth. I have a particular love of Cheetahs and have been fortunate to see and photograph them on each of our three trips.

Compared to some I was a late arrival into the world of digital photography but now enjoy the freedom that offers. For me the important thing is the image that someone makes and it is completely irrelevant what camera equipment they use, it is what is inside the photographer that counts.

I can't imagine a life without photography and I am extremely grateful to all the great photographers I have met along the way who have been extremely helpful and encouraging. Through photography I have had the pleasure of making many friends.

Karen Berry ARPS, AFIAP

(If you have not already guessed the Mum and Dad referred to above are Kath and Sandy Cleland).

CLUB EVENTS

If any club has a major open event planned for the future and would like a mention in Northern Focus please let me have the details. This information is required well in advance of the event to meet publication deadlines.

Editor

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

CAMBOIS CAMERA CLUB

On the face of it, Cambois, and certainly Cambois in the nineteen fifties would seem to be an unlikely place to establish a camera club. Wartime austerity combined with an industrial urban area would have offered little in the way of gentle landscape or historic buildings. There was the River Blyth of course, with ships calling to take on coal, and fishing boats moored in the basin as well as being tied up at various jetties. Perhaps these were the everyday sights that persuaded the founder members to hold their first meeting in June 1950.

Only about four people attended the first few meetings in a hut owned by Cambois Rowing Club. However, on the 8th of September 1950 following a request from various members of the public a talk on photography was held in the British Legion hut. Mr. J R Fenwick, one of the early members gave a demonstration and talk entitled, "Photography and Printing in a Pie Dish", on this occasion twenty people attended. Mr Fenwick had been in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War, being employed in reconnaissance. He developed and printed his own work and this may have been the reason why the talk and demonstration was so popular, so popular in fact that it was decided to form, Cambois Camera Club.

On the 7th of May 1951 Cambois Camera Club opened its first season at the Rowing Club HQ at West Dock, as there was running water available for developing and printing. A few months later, some land owned by the local Cooperative Society was up for sale, and after some negotiation, was bought by the original trustees, Mr T H Douglas, Mr G Dally, Mr J D Rump, and Mr E R Thirlwell, on behalf of the club. A receipt exists dated, 29th of May 1952 for £33.10s.0d.; this was for the land plus legal costs. A conveyance document dated 8th September 1952 allowed the members to begin planning their future club house.

The priority was to raise money. This was done mainly by the wives of the members who organised jumble sales, and used the local Institute for dances and beetle drives. The men ran domino cards, and a considerable amount of money was raised by the Cambois Women's Institute choir and drama group.

Even though they had planned to build the club house themselves it was still an expensive undertaking. The Trustees obtained a mortgage from the Tynemouth Victoria Jubilee Building Society. The amount borrowed was £250, and was paid back at the rate of, £2.9s.10d.per month.

A photograph in the Blyth News dated 10th of September 1953 shows four members laying the concrete foundations. Building materials were obtained as and when required. A few bags of cement were bought from the local builder's yard and bricks either bought, or "gifted" from the demolition of the old colliery workshop. A bricklayer, Mr J Sprat, [Mr Dalley's brother in law], was engaged. Mr Sprat crossed on the ferry from Blyth, and his fee was his fare! [although he did receive £20 on the building's completion]. Two members of the club who were joiners completed the roof and other woodwork including, lockers and small tables. Even so, the newly built club house was fairly Spartan, with open rafters and no ceiling until the mortgage had been paid off.

Stories about the early days included: making huge enlargements on paper pinned to the wall, which was then laid flat on the floor and sponged with developer. The paper was then sponged with fixer and then hosed down!

For many of our present day members, such goings on would be a far cry from their own careful and precise adjustments in Photoshop, or other software editors. That is not to say that the darkroom workers of the past were not equally diligent. The wet darkroom for many is still a place where the art of photography can excel.

Our present day club includes a wide section of the community, with members both working and retired. The membership, like many clubs has increased due to the popularity of digital cameras. We are fortunate in having a relatively young membership, [well, their younger than me anyway!]. It could be said that a younger membership is more familiar with, and is more ready to take on the advanced technical knowledge and processes available to present day photographers. That may be the case, but I have not noticed reluctance among the majority of older members at Cambois to acquire new skills.

This may be one of the reasons why, over the past season Cambois has seen success, especially in interclub competitions. The winning of four of the interclub competitions Cambois Camera Club entered in the past season has given a tremendous boost to the clubs image and internal self confidence. The flow of work of a high quality in both PDI and Prints continues to be entered in club competitions with, encouragingly, new work of high quality coming from older members as well as the younger element.

**Stan Dixon,
President, Cambois Camera Club.**

[Many thanks for the research of Mrs Patricia Riddell, Secretary and Treasurer, Cambois Camera Club].

JUDGING

COMPETITIONS - QUANTITY OR QUALITY?

To arrive at an answer to the question I will consider possible points of view in answering another - "What is the purpose of competitions?"

This is likely to solicit a variety of answers and will not be a simple one.

From the clubs' or societies' point of view, competitions are part and parcel of the scene, there have always been competitions, it is a very good syllabus filler and is guaranteed to give a good turnout.

That part of the membership that goes in for competitions - the main protagonists - may enjoy the cut and thrust of the process in the establishment of an apparent hierarchy of photographic excellence in the club. On the other hand, those members who just enjoy the social side and like looking at pictures - the non participating spectators - may think of competitions as good gladiatorial entertainment.

In the case of both groups, 'quantity' may be considered desirable, as the latter group get to view and enjoy a larger number of images and the former to submit more pictures, which, by using the blunderbuss analogy, is likely to hit something and thus bag a point or two.

I appreciate that the above is a somewhat sceptical or superficial view of what goes on. To my mind there is a stronger basis for the existence of competitions than just entertainment and satisfaction of some basic human instincts. Competitions provide a universal platform for the advancement of members' competence and appreciation of their hobby where the *quality* of the content is more important than the *quantity*.

Most international competitions or exhibitions produce an end result without any explanation or argument in support of that end result. Yes, there would have been at least three Judges and on the whole the successful images would speak for themselves - a good image is a good image. However, the results pass no comment on, or advise, or inform us of the reasons why the others did not quite make the grade.

Club competitions are probably the only open forum where a collection of images can be viewed and their perceived merits and demerits discussed in the presence of involved and non-involved members.

Old hands at the game may feel that they have heard it all before and they do not need to be told by an individual judge what his or her opinion is on a picture. If a club exists purely for the benefit of the experienced, fair enough;

but the vast majority of clubs depend for their survival on new members joining and participating in its activities and its highly likely that the vast majority of these newcomers would not have belonged to another club and are there to learn. It is by understanding and appreciating the existence of alternative perceptions of a piece of work that one begins to make progress in assessing ones own work.

With the arrival of digital cameras and ancillary software, it's fair to say that most clubs are enjoying a resurgence of interest in the hobby and would hazard a guess that this seasons' competitions are seeing yet another increase in the number of pieces of works submitted. This is well and good but we have a problem in that, to do a piece of work justice one needs approx 90 -120 sec to give it a fair critique. It does not take a genius to work out that a competition entry of over 60 pieces of work is likely to overrun the room hire time. One solution is to pass the problem on to the Judge - to entertain, inform and arbitrate without the use of too many words – “dwell on the beginners but whip though the others” – in other words the results are all that matter. This assumes that the competition is an event that is conducted purely on a one to one basis, between individual authors and judge and that the opinions expressed by the judge are of no interest or relevance to anyone else in the room.

I'm sure the less advanced workers will be more than eager to hear what in the judge's opinion were the merits or demerits of a piece of work, be it their own or someone else's.

The Judge who has agreed to come to carry out the task of 'judging' your club competition is a member of some other club who also is trying to enjoy his/her hobby. He has put in his own time and effort in assessing the works in arriving at a fair and justifiable end result. He is not there to just 'pass sentence'. Introduction of a time constraint into the proceedings does nothing but compromise it by making it a 'judgemental' process in preference to the instructive, enjoyable and beneficial. *Quantity* ends up marginalising the *quality* of the event.

The number of pieces of work allowed into various sections of a clubs' competitions has never been written in tablets of stone; they probably evolved in response to prevailing conditions in the past, when an effort was made to increase number of works being judged to a respectable number; however current trends are such that 'a respectable number' is no longer an issue in its place we have an 'embarrassment of numbers'.

Quality and not Quantity is the only basis for the conduct of meaningful competitions, otherwise it becomes a frenetic and pointless scramble for the finishing line.

Pax Garabedian DPAGB EFIAP PPSA

AROUND THE AREAS

THE WEAR AREA BATTLE

This took place at Washington C.C. on Friday 29th October, where there was an attendance of 78 photographers from the six clubs that entered. The Judge for this event was Malcolm Kus ARPS, EFIAP, DPAGB, from Alnwick who was highly entertaining with a great witty style. He originally came from the Black Country near Wolverhampton and his accent was a delight to listen to and his comments on the prints was well received by everyone.

The results are as follows:

Chester-le-Street	149 pts
Esh Winning	151 pts
Sunderland	175 Pts
Washington	180 pts
Consett	181 pts
Durham	182 pts

David Trout received the Wear Area Trophy from Malcolm Kus and the winner of the individual medal for the highest marked print was John Taylor of Consett with his picture entitled 'Ingleborough View'.

A vote of thanks to Washington was given by John Doyle, Chairman of Sunderland which was seconded by David Trout the President of Durham.

As is the custom, Washington Members provided a superb buffet which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Ken Henderson APAGB

WESTERN AREA BATTLE

The Annual Western Area Battle was hosted this year on 21st November by the Penrith and District Camera Club. Our President, Richard Spiers DPAGB,BPE2* opened the event and welcomed Malcolm Kus ARPS,DPAGB, EFIAP the judge, who first gave an excellent presentation of his own work titled "Kus`s Coloured Prints" which featured a very broad range of subjects all delivered with Malcolm`s mix of informative detail and most enjoyable humour.

After a substantial buffet and the opportunity to take some alcoholic refreshment – a new move! the competition commenced in earnest with Dumfries taking first place in the print section, Morton 2nd, Penrith and West Cumbria equal 3rd. The overall top print “Holly in the Garden” was won by Colin Marr of Dumfries. Next the digital images saw a very strong entry by Keswick who had three top scoring pictures to take first place followed by Dumfries 2nd and West Cumbria 3rd. Ronnie Gilbert of Keswick won the top digital image with “Morning Catch”.

The combined total scores from the print and digital sections saw Dumfries in first place, Keswick 2nd and West Cumbria 3rd.

Particularly pleasing was the substantial rise in numbers attending, up by more than a third, totalling 93 people and we would like to express our thanks to all who came and gave their support.

John Williams AFIAP, PPSA, DPAGB

NORTHERN AREA COMPETITION

The Northern Area Projected Image Knockout Competition between Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Blyth, Morpeth and Cambois was held on Sunday 21st November. Cambois Camera Club were the hosts and the judges panel were Chris Rowley LRPS of Carlisle, John Smith AFIAP, APAGB of Gateshead and Trevor Woods EFIAP, APAGB of Barnard Castle.

After the first round, Amble and Ashington were eliminated from the Knockout Trophy Competition but would later compete against each other for the Digital Plate. Blyth and Morpeth left the competition after the second round leaving Cambois and Alnwick in the final. Cambois beat Alnwick by eight points with a score of 179 to win the Knockout Trophy. Ashington won the Digital Plate, beating Amble by 19 points with a score of 161.

Congratulations to Cambois and Ashington for their respective wins and also to Keith Jameson of Cambois for attaining the highest score of 15 points for his image entitled “Dabchick Feeding”.

The event was well attended by all the clubs that took part and the host club provided an excellent buffet afterwards. Thanks to the members of Cambois and the three judges for an enjoyable afternoon.

Amble Camera Club are next year’s hosts for this event to be held on Sunday 20 November 2011.

Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB
Northern Area Representative

SOUTH TYNE AREA

The Annual Area Projected Image Competition was held on 24th November and broke new ground when it was hosted by Wylam CC for the first time. All seven Area Clubs each entered six images for the Judge Anne Swearman ARPS, DPAGB, APAGB to comment upon.

The result was:

Hexham	161	Whickham	148	Winlaton	146
Gateshead	141	Ryton	141	South Shields	135
Wylam	131				

The Eric Hopper Memorial Trophy for the Best Image was won by Peter Newman of Wylam who got the only 30 of the night for “A Charming Man”.

The 2011 event will be hosted by Gateshead CC on 24th November.

Trevor Walters APAGB

South Tyne Area Representative

(Continued from page 7)

When he returned to Canada he started arranging for a return visit. He obtained backing from Olympus who supplied simple compact cameras for the project (no use having anything too advanced for these complete novices). He returned to Sierra Leone and with help from one or two local people with influence he arranged for a group of the victims to be brought together. They were made up of an equal number of males and females as he wanted to be seen to be even handed with both sides. The males and females both saw each other as opposite sides not to be trusted. Initially there was no communication between the members of the group and some questioned his motives. He gave each person a camera and after very basic instruction, told them to go out and photograph anything at all that they liked. Later the films were collected and processed overnight. Next morning the prints were handed out in envelopes to each person. They ripped open the envelopes and a slight smile was detected on some of the faces. The ice was beginning to melt. Perhaps the scheme was going to have some success. After a few days the boys and girls were actually talking to each other, discussing their images. Maurice’s vision had come to fruition. He has been back regularly ever since and the scheme has expanded and been widened to include helping the youths with employment and building their own schools.

One quiet man’s vision and his bravery to try and carry it out has made a very real difference to an area that previously only knew misery. Maurice has received several awards including the Paul Harris Fellowship Award from Rotary International and the YMCA’s Peace Medallion in recognition of his effort. He is a superb portrait photographer as his pictures on the evening clearly illustrated but he goes beyond that – he is a truly remarkable man.

Alan Porrett

CONGRATULATIONS

To photographers who have gained distinctions recently:-

- A.R.P.S. - Keith Robertson
- L.R.P.S. - Ian Woodley, Whitley Bay
- A.P.A.G.B. - Joseph Duffy, Whickham
- M.P.A.G.B. - Colin Marr, Dumfries
- D.P.A.G.B. - Stephen Byard, Northallerton
- Rosamund MacFarlane, Keswick
- C.P.A.G.B. - Peter Beachell, Penrith
- John MacFarlane, Keswick
- John Tillotson, Penrith
- Alan Walker, West Cumbria
- Julie Walker, West Cumbria
- Ian Woodley, Whitley Bay
- P.P.S.A. - John Gilkerson, Sunderland
- Chris Morton, Northallerton
- Sheila Richardson, Workington
- Bill Stephens, Cramlington
- Margaret Stephens, Cramlington
- Anne Swearman, Whitley Bay

Congratulations to these photographers and to any others that I have not yet heard about. If you have recently gained a distinction or know of a friend who has achieved an award, please let me know so that I can include it in a future edition of the magazine. Editor

WASHINGTON C.C. HONOURS FOUNDER

Washington Camera Club said thank you to their founder on Friday 17 December at their Christmas Dinner. Washington Camera Club paid tribute to Ken Henderson APAGB who founded the club 42 years ago. The occasion was Ken and Hannah's Golden Wedding which they will celebrated on Christmas Eve. Arthur Copeland spoke on behalf of the club and made the presentations.

Congratulations Ken and Hannah.

OBITUARIES

JOHN CEIRIOG HUGHES LRPS

John died on 20th August aged 80. He was my friend and photographic colleague for over 50 years.

John had his roots in North Wales and he was proud of his Welsh heritage. He always regretted the fact that, although he spent his first years in the Ceiriog Valley, near Llangollen on a family farm, he never became fluent in Welsh due to being educated away from Wales in a boarding school during the last war. His great uncle, who is commemorated in stained glass in the Community Hall in Glyn Ceiriog was John's name-sake the Welsh poet John Ceiriog Hughes the author of the famous and well-known Welsh song "All Through the Night".

John developed an interest in photography in his teens, when still at school, and continued this interest and involvement throughout his time at Durham University, (where he studied Mining Engineering), and into adult life. It was whilst at school that John first met Pat, his wife for over 50 years. Many will know her as she always accompanied John on his visits to Federation events. I first met John in 1959 when we were both members of Esh Winning Camera Club, a few miles from Durham City, where John was the manager of the local coal mine. In those days there were literally dozens of mines in the area and John moved around managing larger and larger mines; he once said that he had moved house 9 times in about 10 or 12 years (in those days a manager lived close to the mine as he was always "on duty"). John however always found time for his photography and soon, inspired by the club president, and local Pharmacist, Tom Melrose, who was a member of LPP (Leica Postal Portfolios), joined the Leica 'fraternity' by buying Tom's IIIb. This was when Tom moved on to the then recently introduced 'M' range. John also joined Tom in Circle 2 of LPP in 1962. Shortly afterwards I too was inspired to purchase my first Leica, a IIIc, and, at John's suggestion, I also joined Circle 2.

In 1972 John was appointed as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of mines and moved to the South Wales coalfield. However, we kept in touch through our membership of Circle 2 and I was delighted when he informed me in 1985 that he was moving back to the North East coalfield and he and Pat bought a house in Chester le Street, just a few miles up the road from us. We renewed our close friendship and John once again became involved in the affairs of the club where we first met: he was Chairman and Programme Secretary for many years. He also joined Chester le Street Club and was their Chairman for a number of years too. By then, however, he was also becoming involved in the running of LPP and was General Secretary for eight years and Chairman for thirteen, and he was very pleased and

honoured when he was appointed as one of their very select band of Honorary Life Members. He was a real 'gentle' man in the truest sense and I recently came across someone who had worked as an engineer in one of the mines that John managed. When he realised that I knew John he commented, "He was the best 'Boss' I ever had"!

Sadly, a few years ago John developed 'Parkinson's Disease' but this never dimmed his enthusiasm for photography and, until just a few days before his death, although the disease had progressed so that darkroom work was out of the question, he was planning to use a Laptop computer to produce prints digitally. He planned to use his tremendous stock of meticulously indexed negatives, and hoped to take up active participation again. Sadly, this was never to be and I am sure that there will be many others apart from myself in the Federation and in the various Leica groups he was a member of – at one point he was a member of four – who will mourn his passing.

Please have Pat and the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Bob Winter CPAGB, APAGB

RAYMOND WALLACE THOMPSON

Ray passed away peacefully in hospital on 20th October 2010 at the age of 93 years after an enthusiastic life devoted to his many interests.

His early years as an architect were spent in Leeds during which time photography became an absorbing hobby and when he moved to Stockton on Tees in the mid 1950s, he was soon involved in local Club activities and with The Photographic Society of America.

In 1958 Ray joined Stockton on Tees Photo-Colour Society where he was instrumental in setting up their annual Festival of Colour Photography and for a number of years he edited Photo-Colour News and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

Ray did much to publicise the Society's activities and, besides his membership of The Third Dimension Photographic Society, produced a great number of lectures and Audio-Visual sequences shown around the area. Originally the latter were slide based but age did not prevent Ray from embracing digital technology and to the end he was engaged in converting and updating his shows for projection via his recently acquired digital projector.

Ray's enthusiasm never waned and he did much, over the years, to help and encourage others in pursuit of their photographic interest.

R W T, as he was oft referred to, will be missed.

Godfrey Linfoot

DON BOWMAN CPAGB

Don Bowman CPAGB died peacefully at the Marie Curie respite home, Newcastle, on October 25th 2010 aged 63, having been struck down by an especially virulent strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)

He was together with friends at Edinburgh photographing The Fringe entertainers mid August. At the time he complained that his vision was "off". Following initial treatment for stress, referral to Newcastle General Hospital Neurological department some weeks later presented a diagnosis of Sporadic CJD. This one-in-a-million disease typically results in death within six months of diagnosis, Don lasted six weeks.

Don worked for the regional development agency for over 30 years, rising to a senior managerial position and had major personal input in attracting companies such as Siemens and LG to the region. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers (FICE) a past director of the Yellow Brick Road Foundation and worked as a magistrate for Gateshead borough.

Having had cameras most of his adult life he bought a DSLR as soon as the technology became affordable, this led to him joining Whickham Photographic Club in 2002 with a view to learning how to use the software of the day. His easy-going style and obvious managerial ability proved irresistible and so he found himself on the committee in various posts until two years ago he was elected President, a role to which he, as one would expect, brought a huge amount of panache and professionalism.

His drive to excel at all he did led him to be awarded CPAGB in 2008, and one of the first Gold members of DSLR User magazine. He was looking towards joining PSA this year having accrued enough international acceptances with his images to gain his first star immediately. Recently he had become an NCPF Judge.

He leaves behind his wife of 40 years and a daughter, plus a huge amount of friends and colleagues all united in disbelief that this could happen so suddenly to someone as fit as he. He will be sorely missed.

**Dave Quinn, Son-in-law and fellow member
of Whickham Photographic Club**

SYLVIA GRAY, APAGB

We have been very saddened to learn of the sudden death of Sylvia Gray in France at the very young age of 61. Sylvia joined Hexham Photographic Society in 1977 and there met Lyal Gray. A romance blossomed and they married in 1978. The Grays soon became well known figures in photographic societies around Britain. Between 1979 and 1994 Sylvia held the positions of competition secretary, secretary and vice-president at Hexham and also, in the 1980s, ran the PAGB Recorded Lecture Service jointly with Lyal. She was the secretary of the PAGB from 1988-1992 and was awarded the APAGB distinction in 1991. Later she became secretary of the NCPF from 1998 to 1999. It wasn't all serious. Some of us in Hexham PS remember fondly the Fun Nights the Grays took us to at Morton in Carlisle, in which hilarious captions were spontaneously ascribed to projected slides.

Sylvia was also a very gifted singer with a strong, pure voice. She will long be remembered in Hexham for her magnificent performances as Dolly in "Hello Dolly" and as the horrible Miss Hannigan in "Annie".

The Grays recently settled in France after spending many months exploring it in a big motorhome. Only 18 months ago they bought a lovely house in the west of the country in the little hamlet of Puybon near Montbron in Charente. They have had a lot of enjoyment out of doing up the house and many of their UK friends have visited them there. It was clear to all that the Grays were living a long-held dream. Their French language skills were advancing rapidly and they had both joined a local choir. Sylvia's loss will be felt there as well as here. Our deepest sympathies go to Lyal and their daughters, Lisa and Claire.

Rosemary Bowyer

JIM SHIPP AFIAP APAGB (1924 – 2010)

Jim along with his wife Marianne joined Hexham PS in 1977 and quickly established themselves as "worker bees" putting out chairs, selling raffle tickets and making the tea.

Being Head Forrester for Lord Allendale it came as no surprise that he had a love for nature photography. From being a raw beginner, when he joined the club, he quietly set about studying photographic camera technique and mastered the art and science of multi balanced flash. By the early 1980's he was seen as the leading nature photographer in the area and winner of the NCPF's annual Vickers Trophy competition for the best nature transparency on a number of occasions.

International success followed and he was awarded many medals and awards in the nature category of international exhibitions throughout the world.

In 1989 he built a darkroom and took up monochrome printing. He studied the technique of printing with the same dedication and attention to detail that he had earlier applied to his nature work. Within a short space of time he became a very accomplished darkroom printer and a FIAP Gold Medal winner in the South Shields international exhibition.

Over the years he held a number of officer and committee positions in Hexham PS, serving as President from 1989 to 1991. Even when not in office he was the first to volunteer to help with any task.

He was awarded an AFIAP (Associate of the International Federation of Photographic Art) in 1992 and an APAGB (Associate of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain) in 2002.

Never a shrinking violet and someone who didn't suffer fools gladly one of his great passions was passing on knowledge to others. Many new members were invited to his darkroom to learn the basics of printing.

A true gentleman of the old school and a superb photographer and PAGB lecturer he was one of the most generous people I've ever met... he will be greatly missed.

His wife Marianne, also a very accomplished photographer, died in 2001.

Leo Palmer FRPS FPSA

(Continued from Inside Back Cover)

4-6 R.P.S.; Lakes Weekend with Steven Le Provost FRPS, Martin Addison FRPS and John Williams DPAGB

24 N.C.P.F.; South Tyne Area PDI Competition at Gateshead CC.
Judge:- Vince Rooker

29 R.P.S.; International Exhibition of Projected Images at King Edward VI School, Cottingwood Lane, Morpeth at 7.30pm

Dec

1 R.P.S.; Int Exhib of Projected Images at Durham at 7.30pm

2 R.P.S.; Int Exhib of Projected Images at Washington at 7.45pm

5 R.P.S.; Int Exhib of Projected Images at Northallerton at 7.30pm

6 R.P.S.; Int Exhib of Projected Images at Gosforth at 7.30pm

8 R.P.S.; Int Exhib of Projected Images at Sunderland at 7.15pm

(Continued from Inside Front Cover)

May

9 N.C.P.F.; Tyneside Digital Group at Whitley Bay PS clubroom

June

18-20 N.C.P.F.; Beamish Weekend

July

4 N.C.P.F.; Tyneside Digital Group at Whitley Bay PS clubroom

Sept

1 R.P.S.; “A Printers Progress” by Peter Rees FRPS at St. Oswald’s Institute, Church Street, Durham at 7.30pm

8 R.P.S.; Lecture by Jean-Claude Menneron MFIAP from France at St. Oswald’s CC, Gladwin Road, Grindon, Sunderland at 7.15pm

12 R.P.S.; Lecture by Jean-Claude Menneron MFIAP from France at Methodist Church Hall, Brompton, Northallerton at 7.30pm

13 R.P.S.; Lecture by Jean-Claude Menneron MFIAP from France at Lockart Room, Moothall, Market Place, Hexham at 7.45pm

14 R.P.S.; Lecture by Jean-Claude Menneron MFIAP from France at Edinburgh PS, 68 Great King Street, Edinburgh at 7.30pm

15 R.P.S.; Lecture by Jean-Claude Menneron MFIAP from France at Paisley PC, 34 Findhorn, Erskine at 7.30pm

Nov

1 R.P.S.; “Achieving Fellowship” by Steven Le Provost FRPS at Lockart Room, Moothall, Market Place, Hexham at 7.45pm

2 R.P.S.; “Achieving Fellowship” by Steven Le Provost FRPS at Mechanic’s Institute, Percy Street, Alnwick at 7.30pm

3 R.P.S.; “Achieving Fellowship” by Steven Le Provost FRPS at St. Oswald’s CC, Gladwin Road, Grindon, Sunderland at 7.15pm

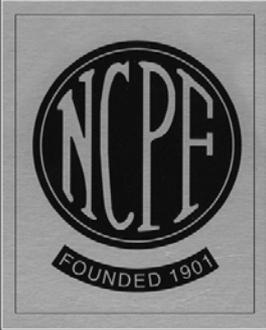
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N.C.P.F. Hon.Secretary

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