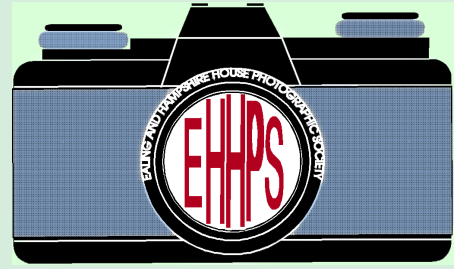


click!



JUNE 2004

The Journal of the Ealing and Hampshire House Photographic Society



Above: "The Assassins!" or "The Away Team: Highcliffe and Infinity 2004"

We didn't exactly conquer - but we came and we saw and we will be back again next year. By which time, Jim will have learned how to do a delayed exposure on his Nikon Digital Camera.

Notice of the AGM inside...

LETTER from the PRESIDENT



Welcome to the summer edition of CLICK!

Normal photographic societies close for the summer. Their members are away on holiday and not enough people turn up at the fortnightly meetings to justify the cost of hall hire.

Once again your dynamic Ealing club have smashed the traditional view of summer meetings. We have a weekly programme of special summer events designed to fill the holiday break. You will discover a world of social evenings and photographic events to inspire your artistic flair. We have even overflowed into weekend events to maximise the opportunities for photographic fun.

I encourage you to join in with these events. You simply need to register your interest in advance so preparations can be made to include you. It's not asking much, but don't leave it too late. Friends and prospective new members are also welcome at many of these events. Indeed, we often attract new members during the summer break.

This is a special time of year for club photography. Make the most of it and don't forget to stock up with next year's set subject entries.

Have a great summer.

The President

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 113th. Annual General Meeting of the Ealing & Hampshire House Photographic Society will be held on Thursday June 24th at 8pm in Ealing Town Hall.

Resolutions for the meeting, and nominations for election to the Committee - (2 vacancies) - must be with the Secretary (Phil Binks) no later than June 17th - i.e. the previous Thursday meeting.

Something to Think About

There are a couple of points we will be discussing at the AGM this year which you might like to think about a bit in advance.

1 Our Room Rent

Ealing Council Hall Hire have decided they cannot afford to subsidise us any more and, whilst still offering us a concessionary hire rate, have given notice that our room fee is to rise by 84%; On top of that, we will now be required to pay additional charges for the use of the kitchen, the screens and so on. The upshot is that our accommodation overhead will more than double.

Now, the EHHPS and its predecessors has been meeting here for over a Century, so moving away would be rather a shame. More concretely, the central location of the Town Hall is a great advantage to us, both for getting members in and for handling visitors easily. So, we are very reluctant even to consider moving. But consider moving we must. The current suggestion is for a

pub with a room, and some of these are located in the Borough of course, but not so many in central Ealing. We might do better in Acton or Hanwell, for instance.

We could also look at putting our membership fee up from £27.50 to about £45. We think this would be counterproductive because many of our members are young with limited disposable income, or retired on fixed incomes. Our past experience suggests that we would actually reduce our total income if we tried to raise the subscription by so much so quickly.

We have written formally to the Hall Hire unit pointing out that their policy would actually not get them any more money from us and might well cut it off completely. This is the first step in the negotiation process and there is still lots of headroom for more work on our appeal.

But we do need to know what you all feel about the issue. How much might we raise the subscription fairly? Would you meet elsewhere in

the Borough and if so, where? Might we meet less frequently? It's up to you...

2 Competitions

Prints - internal

Our showing in prints is steadily improving and the Council is much encouraged by the amount and quality of the work coming forward. It is especially good that some quite bold and experimental work is coming forward, and we want to encourage that.

The sheer volume of work on the average print night has meant that - in fairness to the Judge and the Secretary - we have started to insist that the cut-off time for delivery be 7:45. So far this has worked very well. We have been able to start promptly, the Judges have welcomed the opportunity to take a look at the range of the work, the numbering and cataloguing has been simplified and fewer prints get damaged. We therefore propose to stay with this rule (which actually goes back 20 years or more!). However, a way around this for those who have problems getting to EHHPS from work, might be to have the prints in the previous week, like the slides. On the whole, we have found that people in this position have managed to get their work delivered by someone else, or have lodged it with the Secretary anyway.

We propose from next season, to simplify the rules for Print Competitions by bringing them more into line with slide evenings. The voting at half time will cease, as there are now too many prints and members for this to be effectively carried out in the time available. The numbers of images will be the same as slide evenings. i.e. a total of 4 images on the night from each worker, but a maximum of 3 images in any single section. that means (as with slides) you can enter 3 Open and 1 Set, or 2 Open and 2 Set, or vice versa, or fewer of course.

We have also thought a lot about the size rules. For external competition the limit for the mounted image is usually 400 x 500 mm (the rough metric equivalent of the old-established 16 x 20 inches).

We have thought about applying that to internal competition too, but as we have greatly enjoyed the occasional outside print when it has turned up, suggest that no maximum size for internal competition be specified. By the same token we have looked again at the minimum size rule: the longest side of the image itself shall not be less than 8 inches (203 mm). The main reason for this is that the audience should have a sporting chance of being able to see the work. There is an argument that this rule prevents people entering the standard "enprint" in competition. The Council consider that even an Intermediate worker would want to put some finishing and presentational work at least to his picture and therefore the "enprint" would not be the output of the finished work anyway, so the rule is not discriminatory and should be retained.

Slides - internal

We do not do nearly so well in this area and it really would be great if more of us learned the techniques of reversal film work. The article in the last edition of Click! summed up some of the advantages.

In the medium term - the next 5 years - we are planning to start digital projection as part of the slide evenings. You would submit your image as a carefully specified computer file and it would be projected for judging and enjoying. We are watching a number of other clubs who are starting to do this with success. We will need significant financial help to equip ourselves and also there is quite a steep learning curve to settle issues of operational protocols and standards for colour and contrast matching and so on. Your input and comments are especially useful at this planning stage.

External Competitions

We meet some pretty fearsome competition out there from many clubs considerably larger than

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The CACC Judges' Courses

Stan McCartin sends us all cheerful regards and tells us that he is running more judging seminars soon. Probably in September or October this year so as to let them get some practice soon after and while the club open season has plenty of time left. Stan is keen to meet more volunteers from the EHHPS and he has about four CACC hopefuls already on the waiting list from around the region.

The courses go best with about 6 participants.

Stan tells us that his "favourite" judge is probably Chris Palmer, whom he finds "a tonic to listen to when my faith in judges is at a low". Chris judged our final Slide Competition this season and will return early next season for our "Panel of Prints" challenge.

Stan is considering introducing CACC judges' refresher courses as both simple refresher and as feedback from the victims and from clubs about the new and the old judges on the circuit...

Stan himself will return to EHHPS to judge our Annual Competition Prints next year when the Set Subject will be "Simplicity".

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our own, and with many more very experienced members. On the whole we do well and hold our own - in prints especially. In slides we struggle, and the answer is that we need more work to choose from. For those working digitally by scanning, you will find scanning a slide easier and usually of better quality than trying to scan a negative, so there is a good excuse to shoot on positive film!

One good way to improve our quality is for more members to have a go at getting an external distinction from one of the UK's photographic associations. The Royal Photographic Society and the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain are the leading organisations from our point of view. There are several ways of going about gaining a distinction. The work involved is well worthwhile and will expand your photographic and artistic abilities considerably - with rewards of their own. Several members of the EHHPS are members and distinction-holders of the RPS and would be happy to tell you more. We have had a couple of slide/tape presentations from clubs working on distinctions of the AGB which seemed to be well-accepted.

Season 2004/2005 Set Subjects and Rules for the Panel of Prints Competition

The Set Subjects for the Cumulative Print and Slide competitions next season will be:

A picture from this summer.

Geometry

Not what it seems...

People

Seascape

City

Natural History

Colour

In order to simplify things a bit, the Council is proposing that the number of prints per author on Cumulative Competition nights be exactly the same as for slides: viz. 4 per author with no more than 3 in one section.

The Set Subjects for the Annual Exhibition 2005 are chosen by the judges and will be:

Prints: Simplicity judged by Stan McCartin CPAGB LRPS

Slides: Landscape judged by John Bailey ARPS LMPA APAGB

The very popular Panel of Prints Competition will be for up to 2 panels from 6 images, and at least 3 images per panel. So you can have a single panel of 3, 4, 5 or 6; or two panels of 3. We hope this will provide flexibility with a reasonable control of total number of prints to cope with on the night, as the first year's competition resulted in our poor judge having to cope with nearly 100 images!

The EHHPS Website

Following much effort (thanks Fen) the new address for the Ealing & Hampshire House Photographic Society web site is:

<http://www.ehps.org.uk/>

Please... Visit it and save it in your favourites/bookmarks... Change your club literature to show the new address... Tell everybody about it!