



# THE WELSH PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION *UNDEB FFOTOGRAFFIAETH CYMRU*

Member of FIAP and the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

## THEM OR US?

### WPF EXECUTIVE OR AFFILIATED CLUBS

Depends where you sit!

WPF EXECUTIVE: -

At the AGM last Sunday some 7 people and 5 Officers were elected to manage and RUN the WPF and its attendant Exhibitions, Competitions, Liaison with PAGB, FIAP and other august bodies and to manage the Federation entries in PAGB and FIAP Competitions. We couldn't find 10 nominees to fill the number of Ordinary Members allowed in the Constitution.

AFFILIATED CLUBS: -

Based on the Annual returns there are currently 51 Clubs with 1,000+ members. Of these we had 10 Clubs and some 37 members in the audience – we were quorate – but are these or the Executive representative of all our Clubs and their current needs and desires.

THE PAST: -

In the past many of the WPF events were sponsored by individual Clubs so that the Executive only needed to manage the administration – I can remember Swansea running the Salon at the Grand Theatre and Neath doing the same at the Gwyn Hall – and in each case members of their Clubs would do the “Humping and Lumping” to get stuff done. There was little or no arguing or debate about rules etc. because the Clubs were intimately involved in the Federation.

CURRENTLY: -

There seems to be a gulf between the two parties, there is no longer ownership of the Federation by the Clubs we seem to be a necessary evil – providing insurance and organising Annual events. Turnout at these events has reduced significantly over the years and hanging the Salon in Big Pit we had to put more monitors to cover their requirements than we had attendees from our Clubs – the Clubs don't feel an ownership of the events – they don't think of them as theirs – they don't encourage attendance from their members.

NEXT STEPS: -

We need to change our Organisation and bring the Clubs into full ownership of the WPF – two suggestions have been made – so to start the discussion I provide the details below. Nothing can happen until the next AGM and a formal Notice of Motion would be required carried by a majority of two-thirds to implement – plenty of time for debate!!

The Welsh Photographic Federation has benefited from a Lottery Fund award under the Arts Council for Wales 'Arts for All' scheme



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#### SUGGESTION 1: -

It was suggested at a previous Forum that we should organise regionally, that means that 2 or 3 Clubs in a locality would appoint (Elect?) one of their members to sit on the WPF Executive their role would entail helping carry out the duties of the Executive and more importantly provide a much needed up and down communication between Clubs and the WPF Executive, leading to better understanding of needs and desires of all parties. This could provide 18 – 25 Executive members based right across the WPF region and give more workers to ensure the Events are properly managed. It also gives more people a better understanding of what serving on the Executive entails and provides more experienced people to take up the Officers duties in the future.

#### SUGGESTION 2: -

To follow the Northern Ireland Photographic Association methodology; that each Club appoints a single member of their Camera Club to serve on the Executive – this way each Club would be directly involved in the running of the WPF affairs and there would be ample members (51) on the Executive to carry out efficiently and promptly all the necessary event organising and planning. There should be ample members to create sub-committees so that we could quickly adopt any new ideas and take the WPF forward and communication would be direct and speedy.

#### COMMENTS; -

#### SUGGESTION 1: -

This option would mean that geographically closely located Clubs would need to put any past rivalries and history behind them and actively work together. They would need to choose a person who is respected and known by photographers of all the Clubs and in an ideal world that person would attend the three Clubs' committee meetings to properly communicate between the WPF Executive and the three Clubs that are represented. It would create a more effective Executive which properly covered the whole of our Federation area.

#### SUGGESTION 2: -

This option would mean regular committee meetings with 50+ participants – which could be entertaining! ;>))

But every Club would be actively involved in every decision in every event organisation so there would be no surprises – it would also mean that instead of the CELO having to manage 8 or 10 events every year a sub-committee of say 10 people could share the workload.

It would require a disciplined approach to agenda creation and there would need to be preparation prior to each meeting with each event co-ordinator providing a report outlining any decisions required – so that discussion at the meeting should be quite organised and brief.

NIPA arrange their meeting monthly in Belfast, as an incentive to attend they run a monthly competition which requires 4 Mono, 4 Colour prints and 4 PDIs from each Club – this is used as a League competition and the best Clubs at year end are invited to represent NIPA at the PAGB. The weekend following the hand in the Judge presents his results – this is hosted in turn by the Clubs and is quite popular with up to 150 attending.

Over to YOU! What do YOU think. Roy Thomas

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