

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

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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 every 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 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.**

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PHOTOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN



AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT Volume 3 Sep 2013
What is required to achieve CPAGB

Issue 1, Jan 2012

AVAILABLE NOW



AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT Volume 2 Feb 2013
What is required to achieve CPAGB and DPAGB



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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

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