

## BRIEFING NOTES FOR PAGB COMPETITIONS

- 1 You are not here to tell us what sort of pictures you like or dislike but to tell us how well done the picture is for one of its type. You should recognise the value of every genre of photography. Studio Work as well as Nature, Traditional as well as Creative, Architectural as well as Still Life. People as well as Animals and Birds.
- 2 This is the best the UK has to offer this year and you should please hit lots of 5s. If there is an error, it is better that the score is too high, rather than too low.
- 3 Consistency is important when there are several rounds. If you believe the score you gave earlier was wrong, then you shouldn't be afraid to admit it but, if a picture drops 2 or 3 points from one round to another, then the audience's confidence in the judges is damaged. Most do not feel so strongly about scores increasing!
- 4 It is not necessary to agree with the other judges and you should keep discussion to a minimum. Make up your own mind and do not be influenced unnecessarily by the others or by any previous knowledge of the photograph.
- 5 The 2 button should be used fairly infrequently or not at all, as you should remember that the Club/Federation has already selected these pictures and have chosen them as the best that they have. If there are particularly very poor pictures, then the 2 should be used but you must be consistent. We have observed absurd situations where a Club's result has been ruined by a very low score of 6 or 7 whilst similar images from other Clubs have scored more. Remember the audience are voting on you.

OPEN COMPETITIONS. Nature work should be judged on its pictorial merit. Interesting content of nature photographs is obviously crucial but, especially in an Open category, judges should ask themselves why (say) a picture of a Lion standing proud, looking at the camera is any worthier of a high score than (say) an equally well arranged Large Dog

NATURE COMPETITIONS. All such PAGB competitions are defined as NATURE, not WILD LIFE, and this allows pictures taken in controlled conditions, such as Zoos, to be entered.

Whilst we use the FIAP/PSA definition of Nature we expect our judges and organisers to employ common-sense. Indeed, if we were to interpret the definition literally, is there a square inch of the UK and much of the world that does not demonstrate "the influence of Man". We accept that a bird perching on a fence or a gate, or even a traffic light, is simply *adapting to its environment* then there is obviously no breach of the rules.

In Nature, the story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical standard. Human elements shall not be present, **except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans**, for instance birds nesting in manmade structures. Or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.

The selectors may choose 'Wildlife' awards, if asked, but the picture selected must conform to the additional restriction of being photographed unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat.

The following advice and guidelines should be issued to all Exhibitions having PAGB Patronage

## **BRIEFING FOR EXHIBITIONS WITH PAGB PATRONAGE**

Open Exhibitions should show all genre of photography entered within its acceptances. We ask you to vote on whether the picture is good of its type and not to apply personal likes or dislikes to your voting. Your personal views can come into play when choosing the awards.

The Exhibition Chairman should not quote a figure for the percentage of acceptances required prior to the marking. The selectors should mark each image without having to think 'am I accepting too many'. It is then the job of the organisers to decide the cut off mark to achieve the required number of Acceptances, even if this requires the judges to split a mark band.

### **Marking (4 Band System)**

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|--------------------|--|
| 2- Definitely OUT. | Well below standard. Should be used very sparingly*. |
| 3 - OUT            | Below standard required.                             |
| 4 – IN             | General Level of Acceptance.                         |
| 5 – Definitely IN  | Possible Award or just very good of its type         |

\*Note A vote of 9 (3x3) will give a rejection just the same as 6 or 7 but will give the entrant some encouragement to enter next time.