

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

In General:

What a surprise it was to be asked to judge the Postal Photographic Club Travelling Exhibition! Oh, don't get me wrong, I've done this sort of thing before, but I used to be a member of the HPPC Circle 2 many years ago and it has brought many memories flooding back.

To judge so many pictures is quite a daunting task and whatever the judge chooses will make him or her a new friend: it would be nice if everyone could be a winner. I thought the overall standard of photography was very good and am still amazed by the amount of information a small piece of paper can hold, and I applaud everyone who entered.

Best Picture Overall: 'A Close Shave' by Geoff Leah, Circle 2

I know that this type of picture won't be everyone's choice, but I can't help smiling! Geoff has had an idea and has made it work. It would have been easy to create a record but, by putting it in this context the model gives the appearance that he is scrambling up the kerb to safety while the hint of menace from the out of focus wheels of the oncoming vehicle gives that added drama. A good idea that works. (Hope the little feller is OK!)

Best Landscape: 'Morecambe Bay' by Barry T Roberts, Colour Print Circle

A coastal picture which is as much about the sea as the land, with a lovely feeling of tranquility. Beautiful lighting, taken at just the right time of day. Composition is good with a strong foreground, good shape and a strong diagonal leading to the horizon. The sky is an unusual colour, which is echoed throughout the picture. This was a very strong landscape section and of all the awards, I found this the most difficult to decide.

Best Portrait: 'Sitting in the Shade' by Alan Wesley, Circle 8

I particularly like the treatment that Alan has given to this portrait, a gritty black and white print which I think suits the subject. An old man set against a background of plain wall with just enough information about the sitter's environment, in particular, the walking stick.

Best Action: 'Bunny Hop' by Bob Rawlinson, Circle 3

A well captured action shot of a motorbike showing both rider and passenger pivoting on the front wheel. The main subject matter fills the frame nicely and gives enough out of focus information to tell you that this is a track event with lots of spectators in the background.

Best Colour: 'Nylon Nets' by Graham Dean, CPAGB, Digital Imaging Circle

I particularly like the contrast between the old, upturned boats in the background and the brightly coloured fishing nets in the foreground. The nets, together with the rusty chains, are a good lead in to the picture, taken from a very good viewpoint.

Best Architecture: 'Going to the Guggenheim' by Peter Bullock, LRPS, Circle 1

Another difficult section to judge with a wide range of approaches from traditional to modern. I eventually settled on Peter's print which shows some modern architecture to good effect, the inclusion of the two people certainly giving it scale. The lighting on the metallic panels for me just gave it the edge.

Certificates of Merit:

At the end of my judgement I was still left with many pictures worthy of an award, and the best of these are my 'Certificates of Merit' choices. I could have gone on with many others and I wish you every success with the exhibition.



THE POSTAL PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

(Formerly the Half Plate Postal Club, founded 1937)

President: Bill Hughes, A.R.P.S.

General Secretary: John Kay

Travelling Exhibition, 2004

Major Awards

HALF PLATE CHALLENGE CUP

Best Picture Overall Geoff Leah C2

ANDREW EMOND TROPHY

Best Landscape Barry T Roberts CP

MAURICE McDOWELL CUP

Best Colour Picture Graham Dean, CPAGB DI

HARRY RIDGWAY CUP

Best Portrait Alan Wesley C8

SCOTTISH QUAICH

Best Action Picture Bob Rawlinson C3

SINGLETON ROSEBOWL

Best Architectural Picture Peter Bullock, LRPS C1

ELLIS MARTIN CUP

Circle with highest average score C1

Certificates of Merit

Colin Snelson	C1	Douglas Anderson, LRPS	C19
Derek Singleton, LRPS	C2	Ian Fairgrieve, ARPS	C19
Clifford Knowles, FRPS	C3	Richard Bown	CP
Richard Bown	C6	Joe Kay	CP
Alan Edwards, LRPS	C8	Keith Foster, LRPS	CS2

Judge: Keith W Wright, ARPS, Warrington

Keith joined Wigan Photographic Society in 1969, and is currently their Competition and Exhibition Secretary, having twice been Club President. He is on the L&CPU Judge's List and has been an L&CPU Committee member and Exhibition Secretary. He gained his ARPS in 1991 for Industrial - related print photography, and is currently trying his hand at large format photography.