

Competition Secretary's Report 2019-20

It's been a funny old year! No sooner had we returned from our Christmas pause we were hit with covid-19 and the social distancing that has entailed. The season was suspended at the beginning of March when we had held only one of our print competitions. The committee agreed unanimously that the Club worker awards would be made on the basis of the state of play when our activities were suspended and so it is a pleasure to report:

Print Worker of the Year: Paula Martin with a full house 40 out of 40, in second place; Andrew Whettam with 38 and third; Noel Patterson with 37.

PDI Worker of the Year; Aamir Sabzwari with 116 out of a maximum possible 120; second; Paula Martin with 115 and third; Rob Hockney with 112.

Club Worker of the Year; Paula, runner-up; Aamir; third place; Andrew

Congratulations to all of these people and to everyone who entered the comps, especially those achieving lifetime bests of having images held back, winning a competition or simply gaining a better aggregate score than last season. It's much more about getting better than actually winning! And talking of getting better; what a pleasure it was to see some of our new and newer members supporting all four of our comps and ending the season with more than 120 points.

The Club Worker trophies will be awarded along with the Exhibition trophies when we can eventually meet again, hopefully in January next year.

Next season, until we are able to meet safely in person once again, we plan to run our competitions in silico using Zoom. Since this will only support us running PDIs comps we plan to run the three of these in the first three comp slots of the season and then run the three print slots after January, when hopefully we'll be able to meet again face to face. If not, we will run a second set of three PDI comps. We are piloting this and the new suCCESs uploader to run a fun PDI competition during the close season on 26th May.

Probably the biggest challenge for all of us right now is finding rewarding subjects for our photography. If you're feeling a little uninspired just take a look on the internet at the humungous number of posts telling us how we can make winning photographs in our garden, on our dining room table and a host of other places where a macro, or other, lens can be pointed.

Rob Hockney April 2020