

WPF Carmarthen Conference 2019.

AGM Report

Date and Venue.

The Event was held at the University of Wales St David's College Carmarthen campus Halliwell Centre on the weekend of 30 August – 1st September 2019.

Accommodation was in the Archbishop Noakes Student Block 1 and while of a minimal nature it was considered adequate by the majority of Delegates. There was however a communication error by the University necessitating the relocation of 15 delegates immediately before and even during their arrival. The general functional layout of the Halliwell Centre facility was much appreciated by those on their first visit. The Presentation layout in the theatre of central Print lightbox with a 12 unit Print stand on either side in the "pit" made for a good practical viewing arrangement. The large projection screen over the stage was ideal for the video camera relay from the lightbox and for digital presentations from our Projector/laptop combination. Our efforts to address hearing issues with new headsets for the Speakers received general approval. The layout was also much safer for the Presenters than the one used in 2018. At short notice Mr D Russell of Cardiff CC kindly undertook responsibility for the management of our media equipment.

Programme.

Gathering for the "Pub Grub" on Friday evening gave established conference goers an opportunity to catch up with friends and acquaintances from other parts of the Federation. Reasonably priced Bar stocks remained plentiful even as midnight approached.....

On Saturday President of the WPF Peter Young LRPS., CPAGB., AFIAP., APAGB., gave a Welcome Address to Delegates and Presenters and formally opened the Conference.

Clive Tanner MPAGB., FRPS., DPAGB., was first to present with his talk "Divine Light" exploring the beauty and passion of his Church photography. His chosen instrument was the Sinar Technical Camera which allows precise image perspective alignment corrections. A panel of his monochrome images were submitted for his successful DPAGB award for Photographic Merit.

He was followed by Guy Edwardes BA., who has been a professional photographer since graduating some 25 years ago. In practical terms this is represented by a library of over a quarter of a million images and the publication of 2 books. He has been commended as Wildlife Photographer of the Year and Landscape Photographer of the Year. He took us to many exotic locations capturing drama and atmosphere in his images.

The Lunch break gave us an opportunity to visit the "Trade centre" (see below) before returning for the second segment from Guy Edwardes. He reduced his audience to complete silence with his brilliant natural history imagery.

Dave Butcher ARPS., came next – he is one of only 6 Ilford Master Darkroom Printers. He took us into the cold and frozen places where he recorded the stark beauty, textures and tonality of snowscapes on monochrome film. The challenges of the environment were only matched by the unique and haunting images he captured. (He made a point of praising his wife Jan for her help and support in the face of atrocious weather conditions). His

first segment explored “Cities in Black and White” and after a comfort break and the Conference Print Competition (see below) he continued with the second “Landscapes in Black and White”.

Saturday evening we had the 3 Course Conference Dinner and I am pleased to report that all guests and tables were fully served in an accurate and timely manner. (My thanks to our table monitors for their assistance in this matter).

On Sunday, Clive Tanner restarted the proceedings with the second of his presentations on Ecclesiastic Architecture – “Beyond Divine Light” this time illustrated with the colour panel which had gained him his MPAGB. Again his mastery of the technical detail of sharpness, perspective and tonality shone from his prints.

Roger Parry ARPS., MPAGB., EFIAP., ESFIAP., Hon. PAGB., completed the Sunday morning with a presentation of print images from his Travels around the world. He emphasised the importance of informal but informed interaction with the locals in his search for natural and insightful images.

For the afternoon Roger was joined by his wife Judith Parry DPAGB., AFIAP., Hon. PAGB., and together they explored the finer points of Portraiture and Creative Figure photography with a series of eye-catching prints of superb tonality and delicacy appropriate to the subjects.

Conference Print Competition - Prizes of Shield Trophy and Printing Voucher.

There were 25 entries into the Print competition which was won again this year by Mr Dennis Russ LRPS, AFIAP, AWPF, CPAGB, BPE1* of Swansea CC . The Judging and was undertaken by Roger & Judith Parry who also kindly extended critique to all the competitors. Thanks to the generosity of Prolabs, Cardiff we were able to include a 20”x30” professional Print Job Voucher. We will reimburse the cost of the inscription of the Trophy Shield which is held until the next competition.

Raffle.

Dave Condon kindly organised the Raffle and was ably assisted in a sales capacity by Sue Richards.

We thank Prolabs (Cardiff), ISO and FotoSpeed for their generous contributions of Vouchers, Wine and Printing Paper for the Raffle. Amazon Purchase vouchers were included by the WPF.

Trade Centre.

We were kindly supported by Tim Jones of Fotospeed who provided boxes of Printing papers at the special Conference rate of “buy two get one free”. He also ran the live printing demonstration utilising a Canon P1000 Inkjet printer. ISO was represented by Alan Stokes with a pop-up stall displaying the (Learning) services and achievements of ISO. A further unmanned display was provided by Prolabs (Cardiff) who offered a range of discounts and vouchers for their professional printing services.

Attendance.

On the Friday evening 27 Delegates and 3 Presenters moved into Residence for the Full Weekend.

A further 7 Delegates joined the Conference on Saturday morning to stay overnight for the rest of the weekend including the Conference Dinner.

In addition 30 people came for a “Day only” on Saturday, as did 2 Presenters +1 (Dave Butcher and Guy Edwardes + Jan Butcher). Of these 30, 8 came back again for Sunday (but nobody came for Sunday alone).

31 enjoyed the Friday Pub Grub evening (includes 3 Presenters).

72 attended the Saturday sessions (includes 5 Presenters +1 and 2 Commercial).

39 attended the Conference Dinner (includes 4 Presenters +1).

46 attended the Sunday Sessions (includes 3 Presenters).

2019 Number of Paid seat days = 104, (2018 = 97), (2017 = 98)

2019 Financials.

Income

WPF Gross £7482

Expenditure

UWTSD 5977

WPF 1355

Net Income £150

We are happy to discuss the finance and attendance with anyone who is interested in the detail.

It was noted that a number of people desire a simple “click to pay” method of buying their Conference tickets. Our present cheques or bank transfers are seen as antiquated.

2020 Conference.

The general format of individual days seemed to be a good balance of Presentation time and Question time to Meals and Social time. The balance of the weekend overall seemed about right with Sunday being a more relaxed day as the Conference Raffle and Dinner will have come and gone.

We believe the core of the Conference attendees is reasonably satisfied with the overall package and options so we will continue with the general format while tweaking minor details and reviewing the strategic needs.

Acknowledgements.

This report would not be complete without acknowledging the role played by Jan Cawley who was such a great supporter of the Convention/Conference. She had a huge knowledge and experience of all things relating to Welsh photography and generously shared this with us even when hospitalised. *(The tribute paid by the WPF President well reflects our sentiments in this matter).*

UWTSD Administrative staff and Catering department are thanked for their care and attention to our meals and tea breaks and especially for service at the Bars and the Conference Dinner.

Thanks go to all who contributed to the success of the 2019 WPF Carmarthen Conference, notably my WPF colleagues together with Jill Young and Dave Russell, but most of all to the good natured and well informed Attendees who made it possible.

David D Jones - Conventions Officer (On behalf of the Conference Working party and the WPF).