

Photo Club Hierarchy - L&CPU, PAGB and FIAP

(Federation, Country and International Organisations)

The L&CPU

For new members of Oldham Photographic Society, the initials L&CPU are usually meaningless. They eventually become associated with the folios of prints and projected images that circulate from club to club and various competitions and exhibitions of photography. But, what exactly is the L&CPU and what is its function? The letters, of course, stand for “Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union”.

It is a Federation of individual clubs situated in the North West of England whose remit is “the science and practice of the art of photography”.

Clubs are invited to appoint Delegates to the L&CPU to be the clubs’ representatives at the L&CPU AGM. The number of delegates that clubs can have is in proportion to their membership numbers. The club Secretary also has a vote at L&CPU General Meetings.

The L&CPU Executive Committee consists of a Management Committee of Officers and Ordinary Members sufficient to bring the total membership to 19...though often operates with no more than 14-15 members. These members are drawn from the clubs themselves and are voted on at the AGM in February. The L&CPU members do not represent the club of which they are a member. They represent the interests of ALL of the member clubs. The L&CPU provides a number of services for its member clubs:-

1. Arranges the circulation of print and projected image folios to its member clubs. These are freely available to member clubs and can be shown at a club meeting. The folios contain a representative selection of work that the members clubs have sent to the L&CPU Annual Competitions each year.
2. Organises annual photographic competitions and exhibitions.

3. Presents awards and certificates of merit.
4. Maintains a panel of judges for club competitions and exhibitions.
5. Maintains a panel of lecturers. This is vital so that club programme secretaries can book speakers for the season of meetings.
6. Make accessible an affordable Public Liability Insurance and All Risks Insurance for the clubs through a group insurance scheme run by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.
7. Presents seminar days with prominent speakers.

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB)

Member clubs (like Oldham PS) pay an annual subscription to the L&CPU, which is, in turn, a member the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB).

There are fourteen other federations within the United Kingdom who, along with the L&CPU, make up the PAGB. Each year, the L&CPU appoints one member of its executive to serve with the PAGB. Each year the Federations (e.g. L&CPU) also appoint delegates to travel to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain AGM to represent the federation.

The PAGB provide the following services to the member federations:

1. A higher level list of PAGB judges, who are those considered suitable to judge at national and international level.
2. Inter-Federation competitions.
3. An Exhibition, annually, of federation work from the competitions.
4. A photographic Distinctions route, the PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit, with three levels, Credit, Distinction and Master.
5. A Public Liability and All Risks Insurance Scheme through a broker.
6. A Directory of all federation lecturers and Judges.
7. Awards for Meritorious Service.
8. They enter FIAP competitions using work drawn from the best work of the federations.

FIAP

The PAGB, in turn is a member of the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (International Federation of Photographic Art, or FIAP), an international organisation of more than 80 countries to date.

The idea of an International Photographic Federation was born after the Second World War, with a view to creating an art organisation whose aim was to bring together all the peoples of the world. The organisation was born in June 1950 with 17 affiliated nations, sadly not the UK at that time!

FIAP, in its turn organise competitions, exhibitions, a, international photographic collection and provide a system of Photographic Awards and Distinctions through their patronage of international competitive exhibitions.

Through the hierarchy of Clubs, Federations, National Photographic organisations like the PAGB and through FIAP, all photographers in the world have the opportunity to become affiliated and come together in a spirit of friendship and equality.

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