

# VIEWFINDER

**August 2009**

Comments and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to:

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## **Hello Everyone**

I hope you have all had a decent break notwithstanding the very damp weather. 2008/09 was quite a momentous year with Paul Hampton and Kim Tomlin becoming judges, Brain Burden gaining his LRPS and the club's membership numbers rising to 50. Looking forward to the autumn, 2009/10 looks as if it will be a year of change. Let me remind you that in a little under a month's time we have our first meeting on September 10.

In this issue of Viewfinder I would like to draw your attention to ongoing developments concerning Membership Size, the WEBCC exhibition at the Artsbar, Digital Tuition Evenings, highlights of the 2009/10 Programme which is fully set out at Appendix A, and the Membership Application Form at Appendix B.

## **Peter Odds, Chairman**

### **Membership size**

The question of the membership numbers and the effect it was having on the club, was discussed at the Annual General Meeting. Competitions have become more difficult to handle due to the large numbers of entries. Also, there is a danger that judges would be forced to 'skip' through their marking in order to complete their task. Whilst the Committee applauded members' enthusiasm in producing large numbers of excellent entries, it was put to the AGM that we should discard the small print category of the Quarterly Competitions to ease the situation. This was agreed. Therefore, in future each member will be able to put into the print competition just two entries. There are no restrictions on the size of the print or the finished mounted size of the entries except the proviso that they should be no larger than 50 x 40 cm.

This change should be seen alongside another change which is being forced upon us by new Southern Photographic Federation rules. From now on the slide section of the inter-club competitions has been discarded in favour of Projected Digital Images (PDIs). We have to follow suit and from now on there will not be any slide sections in any of our competitions. Instead we will have a Digitally Projected Image section to the competitions, with two entries per person. Whereas slide entries were dwindling it is expected that PDI entries will increase in number.

The move from slides to PDIs has caused another change. In the 2008/9 programme we had a standalone PDI competition. This was introduced to familiarise the club with PDI procedures and to acquaint ourselves with the software and any problems arising from running this type of competition. It has done its job and because we will now have PDI sections of our five main competitions, it was felt there was little to be gained by having the standalone one. Accordingly it has been dropped from the new programme.

For full details concerning rule changes please refer to the 2009/10 Rules put out by Peter Allington to all members and now also accessible on the club web site.

### **2009/10 membership**

Since the AGM we have already received applications for four 2009/10 memberships. This has caused the Committee to consider the implications of having a large membership and whether we should limit the number of members. Anecdotally, I understand that the Bracknell Camera club now has more than 100 members and has reduced each member's print competition entries to one per member. Also we were told by some members that they had ceased to participate and **2009/10 membership** continued

enjoy evenings as they no longer were able to get to know other members easily, because the membership was too large. In our case we see the problems of a large membership as the difficulties of running competition evenings and finishing roughly at 10.00 pm, the number of people who can comfortably sit and still be able to see the prints and appreciate the judge's comments, and lastly the problems of us all actually getting to know each other i.e. how to foster an enjoyable 'club atmosphere'.

Taking all these factors into account the Committee has decided to limit club membership to 55. This caters for and assumes that everyone who was a member in the 08/9 year will wish to re-join, the four new members mentioned above and one extra. Anybody who was a member in the 08/9 year is guaranteed a place providing they re-join or indicate they wish to rejoin, by the second meeting i.e. 24<sup>th</sup> September. If we do not hear from them we shall have to assume that they do not intend re-joining and their place will be made available to any new applicants who are on the waiting list. It all sounds a bit draconian but, the aim is to maintain a smoothly running and friendly club.

### **How to secure your membership?**

Simply re-join at the first opportunity using the Membership Application Form included in this Viewfinder newsletter. Print it out and, send it with your cheque for the appropriate amount to Peter Muggridge preferably before the first meeting. Anybody who is not a member but, would like to become one, can complete and send in the same form but, should not send in any money. If there is no membership vacancy, their name will be put on a waiting list. Our policy of allowing prospective members to attend two meetings without being asked to become a member will continue. Please point out these important changes to any member who may not have read this newsletter.

### **WEBCC Annual Exhibition at the Artsbar**

The Club has nearly 50 prints on display at the Artsbar, Cantley Lodge Hotel, Wellington Road, Wokingham. The exhibition was opened on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August by Wokingham Town Deputy Mayor Julian McGhee-Sumner. The display, which continues until the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, is aimed at showing our work to the general public and associating the club with Wokingham's cultural life.

### **Digital Tuition Evenings - 17<sup>th</sup> September, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, and 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Once again club member Ernie Loft has agreed to run four Digital Tuition Evenings in the autumn. These evenings, which are only open to members, are extra to the main programme and are separately charged. The good news is that the charges are held at the same level as last year. You are urged to sign up early using the application form at Appendix B.

The tuition evenings will start promptly at 8.00 pm and finish at 10.00 pm. There will be a 15 minute break, but, no refreshments are provided. However, there is no objection to students bringing their own refreshments. All tuition will be undertaken using a digitally projected image on a large wall screen and whilst students may bring a laptop computer if they wish, time will not permit Ernie Loft to look at or to advise on an individual's activities.

#### *Basic Photoshop Digital Course Synopsis*

*The course comprises four sessions of approximately two hours each which will be based upon the Adobe Photoshop CS3 photo manipulation software. However, many of the tools and commands are the same as Adobe Elements and where they differ this will be pointed out. Users of other software should note that whilst many of the procedures are similar and can be adapted, some interpretation will be needed as often the nomenclature can vary. It is assumed that everyone is familiar with the Windows interface. The approximate course content is as follows:*

*Session 1:- The Photoshop interface – Browsers – Opening an image – Magnifying and moving around an image – Rotating and Levelling an image – Cropping – Resizing – Levels – Sharpening – Saving.*

*Session 2:- Removing redeye – Repairing damage, removing dust and unwanted items – The Clone Stamp, Healing Brush, Spot Healing Brush and Patch Tools.*

### **Digital Tuition Evenings continued**

*Session 3:- Selection Tools and Selections – Introduction to Layers.*

*Session 4:- More Layers – Converting to Monochrome – RAW files*

## **Notes on the 2009/10 programme**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September

**Summer Challenge prints judging.** This is the main event, otherwise it is a relaxed evening. After the Summer Challenge judging, if you have questions about club membership, the web site, our rules and anything else this would be a good time to raise them

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October

**Best of the Best of 2008/9.** This to find the best photograph from all the 2008/9 competition entries that scored 9 ½ or 10. This year entries in all three mediums, i.e. prints, slides and PDIs, will compete for this award.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November

**‘Choices’ – a look at the technological choices made by camera manufacturers.** Mike Owen, a representative of Canon UK, will discuss the background to digital camera design and the choices and compromises they have to make. Have you questions ready. As a Canon user I will certainly have a few.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Social: A presentation followed by some snacks and drinks.** Members are welcome to bring their spouses and partners to this meeting. In the first part Roger Creber ARPS, DAPGB will give us a talk on his progress from amateur to semi-pro photographer. Roger was a member of the old Wokingham Photographic Society and his father Brian is one of our current members. After the talk there will be some snacks and drinks. Details have not been worked out yet but expect a small increase to the evening fee to pay for the refreshments.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**‘Match an Image’ competition** This is a fun evening and something new. WEBCC will challenge two other clubs to what we used to call, when using slides, a ‘Mix and Match’ competition, but, this time we are using digitally projected images. Each club is represented by three people who use a pre-selected set of 36 images. The computer randomly decides which club goes first. That club then puts up an image that has to be ‘matched’ by the other clubs. All three images are projected on to a single screen initially, but, subsequently each can be viewed separately as full screen images. Points are awarded for a ‘match’ (a match can be by subject, shape, colour or whatever criteria the judge chooses), and for the best image. Once used, the images cannot be re-used. This is a fun evening and competing teams may attempt to persuade the judge of the reason why their image is a match or of higher quality.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May

**Members’ Evening – A Brains Trust?** For the past few years we have had one evening devoted to presentations made by members. This time we had the idea of a team of members answering questions from the floor concerning any problems they may have with photographic techniques and practices including questions on the preparation of digital images using popular software.

So that the panel members are not totally caught out, we will ask members to send in their questions before the meeting. What do you think about the idea? Please give any feed back to any Committee Member.

N.B. Please note that the date of this evening does not follow our general rule of meetings being on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. This is because the hall is being used by the church on what would have been our usual day.

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# Wokingham and East Berkshire Camera Club

Meetings are held in the East Hall of The Cornerstone, Norrey's Avenue, Wokingham, RG40 1UE  
Doors open at 7.30pm and meetings start at 8.00 pm.

Members are requested to arrive by 7.45 and to give a hand with setting up the equipment

## 2009/2010 Programme

2009		Presenter or Judge
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Special 'OPEN' evening for non-members 1) Non member photographs 2) Summer Challenge results Team entry – four prints on a theme	Ernie Loft LRPS
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> September	*Digital Tuition Evening	Ernie Loft LRPS
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> September	1) Prints and PDI selection for the SPF competitions 2) Sonning Evening Walkabout **PDIs	Selection by members Kim Tomlin
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> October	1) Best of the Best' of the 2008/9 WEBCC Competitions 2) Summer Outing to Mapledurham House PDIs	Mike Hammersley APAGB
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Digital Tuition Evening	Ernie Loft LRPS
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Cornerstone 'Open' meeting with WEBCC display in support	
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	First Quarterly Competition: Theme - 'OPEN'	Chris Whiting
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Digital Tuition Evening	Ernie Loft LRPS
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> November	'Choices' – a look at the technological choices made by camera manufacturers.	Mike Owen (Canon UK)
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> November	'People' Competition prints and PDIs	Judging by members
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> November	SPF League Competition: WEBCC v Alton CC	Roy Lambeth CPAGB
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Social: A presentation followed by some snacks and drinks.	Roger Creber ARPS, DAPGB
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Digital Tuition Evening	Ernie Loft LRPS
<b>2010</b>		
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> January	An Eye on the Hebrides. A PDI presentation	Ruari Cumming LRPS
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Second Quarterly Competition: Theme 'Impact of mankind'	Brian Powell ARPS, APAGB
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> February	SPF League Competition: WEBCC v Bracknell v Farnborough	Leo Rich
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Third Quarterly Competition: Theme 'Motion'	George Walsh APAGB
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> February	SPF League Competition WEBCC (hosts) v Yateley v Aldershot/Farnham.	Peter Jackman APAGB
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Fourth Quarterly Competition: Theme - 'OPEN'	Alan Copeland LRPS, APAGB
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> March	WEBCC host the ***JPCR Prints and PDIs 'Battle'	Tony Charters
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> April	'Match an Image' PDI competition - WEBCC challenges two other clubs.	TBA
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	4-Print Competition + Brian Burdon's LRPS panel	Derek Trendle ARPS
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> May	MEMBERS' EVENING Brain's Trust?	TBA
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> May	A local walkabout - 6.00 pm start and a supper venue No meeting at the Cornerstone	Peter Allington
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Annual General Meeting	

\* Digital Tuition Evenings cover the basics of digital photo manipulation and are charged.

\*\* Digital Projected Image, PDI

\*\*\* The Joint Photographic Clubs of Reading, JPCR, group are WEBCC, Whitchurch Hill, South Reading, Woodley, Burghfield, Goring & Streatley

## **Wokingham & East Berkshire Camera Club**

### 2009/2010 Subscription Fees

*Subscriptions are due on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, but, please note that for the future, club membership is now limited to 55 and if you wish to maintain your membership it is imperative that you either re-join or at least give an indication that you wish to do so before the 24<sup>th</sup> September. To retain your place please contact Peter Muggridge stating your wishes and/or use the Application Form below, to re-join.*

*Full details of this change are given in the August 2009 Viewfinder above.*

Subscription Fees consist of an annual subscription plus a fee of £1 paid on entrance to each evening attended. The evening attendance fee includes an entry to the raffle.

#### **Annual Fees:**

Members: £26                  Family Members: £38

New members for the first year:

Members: £22                  Family Members: £33

Under 21 members: Half of the above annual subscriptions and half the attendance fees.

#### **Half Season Fees:**

Anyone joining on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 will be liable for half the above subscriptions, but the full attendance fees.

#### **Digital Tuition Evenings Costs**

Four tuition evenings are planned. These evenings are in addition to the normal programme and the aim is to recover costs. Consequently, we prefer those attending to commit to the four evenings currently being offered. The four evenings charge is £16, or, if paid singularly £5 per evening. Either way, the charges are a considerable saving on any similar courses being offered anywhere in the district.

The half the subscription rate for members under the age of 21 will be extended to the Tuition Evenings.

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## **Wokingham & East Berkshire Camera Club**

### 2009/2010 Membership Application Form

**Return to:** Peter Muggridge. 2 Wilmington Close, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4LR

Please enrol me as a member of the above club my cheque is attached. I am applying as a: *tick boxes as appropriate*

Member £26  Family Member £38  First Year Member £22  First Year Family Member £33

Under 21 Member: half the above fees  Date of birth if under 21.....

Please indicate if you were a 2008/9 member: YES.....NO.....

**Digital Tuition Evenings: Four evening course £16**  (On the door price £5 per evening)

Total Cost: Membership £..... PLUS Tuition Evenings £..... Total: £.....

Cheques should be made out to: WEBCC

Member/s Name/s .....

Address: .....

Telephone number: ..... E-mail address .....