

New Judges Set Up

The GDPU is pleased to announce a major upgrade to its judges set up.

After some years reviewing the role of judges and club requirements, the GDPU has introduced one of the most fundamental changes to the judges set up of any photographic group by forming a Judges association that is designed to cater for the needs of judges and provide them with the necessary backup and development opportunities.

The association will be called the ***GDPU Scottish Photographic Judges Association (GSPJA)*** and will endeavour to provide instruction and knowledge on the best judging practices possible, so as to stimulate an intellectual approach, arouse curiosity and develop judge's skills that enrich those photographers who rely on informed judges for guidance, constructive advice and support.

With this objective, the association will provide various seminars and meetings for judges who can then develop the highest standards of photography possible whilst recognising the importance of integrity and responsibility in working with and for camera clubs.

During 2010, the association will be rolled out in stages starting with a new judge's members list and a ***Club Judges Booklet*** being issued to all GDPU clubs. For clubs not affiliated to the GDPU they may request a copy of these from the GDPU General Secretary. Already, all current GDPU judges have been issued with a Judges Certificate and this is to be followed by a Judges Handbook that will provide them with extensive information on carrying out their judging duties.

If you are a photographic judge, why not apply to join this exciting new association, and help in the development and furtherance of the association. There are a number of routes through which you can join; first you must meet the association's criteria. Then either attend a GDPU Judges Workshop and convince the assessors; be proposed by association council members or already be a recognised judge of some standing. If you would like to apply for membership, in the first instance, please contact the GDPU General Secretary for further information.

Clubs can look forward to being able to know that their judges are not only a part of a dedicated association, but have access to further training and development to ensure they are up to date with modern judging practices. Also if issues arise between clubs and judges, the association can act as arbiters by providing an unbiased judgment on the issue.

The association has been widely acclaimed by many respected judges within Scotland and the UK as a badly needed service and the GDPU is proud to once again be involved in promoting new ideas and developments for amateur photography.