

Notes from the WCPF Council Meeting, Saturday 6th March 2010. These are not minutes but just my interpretation of what was discussed at the meeting.

1. We expect that adjudication for PAGB Awards will be held in our region in April 2011. These are supposed to be shared equally by all PAGB regions but, in spite of repeated reminders, there hasn't been one in the South West for a long time. Suddenly, out of the blue, the WCPF was approached in the past couple of weeks and it's looking about 90% certain that we'll be organising an adjudication for April next year. There are no places booked for it yet so watch out for further news.
2. Some discussion took place concerning the re-organised WCPF website (which had come about following some of Sheila's help!) and the distribution of information to clubs, particularly concerning changes of club contacts. It is important that any such change is notified to the WCPF as soon as possible.
3. The Corn Exchange as a venue for the WCPF DPIC was discussed and a point about safety issues from the rearmost seats was brought up. This will be taken very seriously by the WCPF and discussed with the Corn Exchange before the facility is used again. Visibility from the back was also difficult due to the restricted size of the screen, so the possibility of a larger screen will be looked at.
4. The AV competition format was discussed, the lack of support for a "club" award and its removal from the AV competition next year mentioned, and the question about why the entries were down so much this season was asked. Tom Gordon pointed out the relatively high cost for entering and although the point was made and was well supported in the room, reasons for competition entry costs in general were explained in a somewhat defensive manner. (Personally, I feel that if a question is put, the points made should be accepted more readily!) However, a concession was made that, for anyone entering next year, the cost would include attendance of the event (which this year was additional). A lower cost for second entries from an individual was also suggested. A change to the date of the AV competition (away from January and possibly to April) was discussed and details of any such change will be notified to clubs after discussion at a council meeting.
5. The locations for events was questioned from the floor, and defended very eloquently by Di Tilsley who pointed out that those responsible for organising the events could (and should) be forgiven for choosing locations that are closer to hand for them. It would be expensive and exceedingly difficult to organise events farther afield, and the additional time and expense involved for those already putting in a huge amount of voluntary work is unacceptable. Brian Galbraith also pointed out that for many years he travelled from Cornwall to Bristol for meetings, so if those from Bristol now find they have to travel a bit farther, they really ought just to accept it. Venues that are reasonable central (so much of Devon, luckily for us!) is a decent compromise.
6. Trustee Insurance has been negotiated by the PAGB on behalf of its constituent regional federations. This is an additional new insurance which is specifically aimed at covering officers of the PAGB, officers of its affiliated regional bodies, and the officers of clubs within those bodies, against financial redress. Without this insurance any of these officers would be held financially responsible for a great many things, including individuals suing for defamation or any financial irregularities such as a treasurer disappearing with

funds. Such financial responsibility being placed on club, regional, and national committee members (or more correctly, officers) who are, after all, volunteering their time and energy, is quite clearly unfair, and so insurance cover to indemnify them against financial loss makes an awful lot of sense. The PAGB has negotiated a premium of £6000 which would be split amongst the clubs of all regional bodies that opt in. The opinions of the regional bodies are being sought. If all regions opt in it would mean a cost of about £6 per club, but this could be higher depending on how many regions opt out. Individual clubs cannot opt in or out – it's the responsibility of their regional bodies to decide. One region, so far, has opted out. The WCPF would like to opt IN and to encourage other regions to do likewise. Organising such cover as individual clubs would likely incur premiums of over £100 so it's a great deal.

7. Next year's Knightshayes Trophy set subject is "Missing" – you heard it here first!

The afternoon's talk by David Chapman and Adrian Langdon was very entertaining and interesting, with some lovely wildlife photography on show along with a lot of useful information about how the shots were achieved. Their banter throughout was great fun and we all enjoyed a very worthwhile afternoon.