



Oscailt

IPF Newsletter - September 2017

A cháirde,

So here we are into the month of September already and Autumn is surely on its way, possibly one of the most colourful times of the year and a great time to get outdoors and photograph the glorious colours of the landscape. I hope you've all had a good summer.



One of the nice things associated with my role as President of the Irish Photographic Federation is being asked to open club exhibitions across the country. In August I was invited to open two such fine exhibitions

The first one was in Ballyfermot Library Co Dublin where Palmerstown Camera Club officially opened their Annual Exhibition on Thursday, 10th of August.

Kilkenny Photographic Society officially launched their 34th Annual Exhibition in the McDonagh Junction Shopping Centre which ran parallel to the Kilkenny Arts Festival. It's great to see photographers taking such a wide range of photographs, printing them and better still putting them on exhibition for the public to see. I was very impressed with the standard of photographs on display at both of these exhibitions from novice to advanced photographers. The range of colour and monochrome prints were presented very well and showcased the talents within both clubs. The digital age has seen some great

changes to photography over the years. It is now so easy to fill hard drives with numerous amounts of folders full of photographs and we all can be victims of storing our images away never to be seen in public. Exhibitions are a great way of showcasing our very own collections of these photographs when they are printed out and put on public display. As the year moves along, more and more exhibitions will take place and while these are great for clubs and their members it's also great that the public gets to see the work of the many talented photographers this country has.

Behind the scenes with my colleges on the IPF Council I can tell you that various new sub-committees have been set up and existing ones have been reconvened as we always look to improve the running of events and the business involved in promoting Irish Photography both at National and International level while acknowledging the achievements and awards photographers and clubs across the country achieve. Over the coming months, we will keep you all updated on these changes and look forward to working in partnership with all affiliated clubs of the IPF.

In terms of events, I look forward to meeting all those who are going for their Distinction in Carlow on September 23rd at the George Bernard Shaw Theatre. The Distinction Sitings which are now held four times a year due to the demand from photographers for this recognition across Ireland are always a great day out. Various panels of photographs for all three levels of Distinctions will be adjudicated at this sitting. The audience in attendance gets to see the photographs on display and learn about the process involved. While it can be a daunting experience for those putting a body of work forward it is also an important opportunity to learn about what makes a panel successful and what makes it work. In the past two years, the Irish Photographic Federation has provided a platform for photographers to learn more about the preparation and process involved in putting a body of work together for the three levels of Distinction. A series of successful panels have been displayed at specific workshop/information days together with advice from distinction holders from both the UK and Ireland in Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Experienced IPF judges have also made themselves available to advise photographers who may be considering going for a Distinction at these occasions and it is intended to continue to offer this valuable support to clubs and their members.

Best wishes to all those participants who are being assessed in the September Distinction sitting.

Kind Regards,

Dominic Reddin FIPF - President IPF

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Venue
IPF Distinction Sitting	September 23rd 2017	Visual, GB Shaw Theatre, Carlow
IPF AV Championship	October 21st & 22nd 2017	Áras Chrónáin, Clondalkin, Dublin
IPF Distinction Sitting	November 25th 2017	LIT Thurles, Tipperary
IPF National Shield	November 26th 2017	Limerick City

What's Inside this Month?

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- Focus on Limerick Camera Club
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IPF Distinction Service Update

-- by Bob Morrison, IPF Distinction Secretary

2018 - May & March open for bookings!

We are now open for applications for March and May 2018 sittings. The March session caters for L and A levels only while the May session caters for all levels. The provisional dates for these sittings are March 3rd in Portlaoise and May 19th in Mullingar.

The application fee must be paid at the time of booking (or via cheque immediately) and is non-refundable and non-transferrable to another sitting, so book wisely!



Annual Fees

For those who have not paid their annual distinction fee this year, please note that you are now in arrears and are no longer allowed to use IPF distinction letters after your name.

The annual fee is very reasonable at €25 for standard renewal and only €15 for seniors. These fees help fund everything we do as an organisation so we ask you all to make the effort to help us continue to grow.

If you haven't received an invoice from us this year, please get in touch and we will most happily correct this for you :-)

September 2017 Sitting

On Saturday 23rd September we will hold a distinctions session in Visual, in Carlow town. This will be a new venue for distinctions and promises to be a fantastic venue. Visual is a modern purpose built arts centre and we are very much looking forward to holding this distinction session there. Everyone attending will be able to avail of catering and parking facilities onsite. The schedule is outlined [on our website](#).

IPF National Shield 2017



A number of significant changes have been made to the rules for the 2017 National Shield Competition. These changes are being implemented as part of the review of national competitions which will be phased in over a period of time.

The newly appointed co-ordinator for this year's National Shield is Bill Power, FIPF. The assistant co-ordinator is Patrick Kavanagh, LIPF.

The full updated rules for the 2017 National Shield will be published on the IPF Website in the near future, but the following is a summary of the important information which clubs intending to enter the competition need to know at this time.

Date: Sunday 26th November 2017

Location: Limerick City - venue to be announced

Host Club: Limerick Camera Club

Judges: Two Irish judges (who will not be members of competing clubs) and one UK Judge. Names of judges to be confirmed.

Entry fee per club: €80

Number of images per panel: 8

Number of panels per club: 1 monochrome + 1 colour

Number of images per photographer

Not more than one image from any qualifying photographer may appear on any one panel (no more than one in colour and no more than one in mono). However, in the case of clubs with small memberships (defined as those who have affiliated as a small club in 2017 - under 30 members), a request may be made in writing to the National Shield Co-ordinator who, at his or her discretion, may allow up to two entries per photographer, up to a maximum of two photographers per panel. This is purely to facilitate smaller clubs to encourage them to enter the competition. This facility will not be allowed to larger clubs.

Whose photographs are allowed on National Shield panels?

This is the most significant change from previous years. Previously, entry was restricted to non-advanced photographers only. Non-advanced was defined as persons who had not been awarded IPF distinctions or equivalent distinctions from other photographic organizations such as FIAP, PSA and the RPS, or persons who had won a set number of national or international awards.

From 2017 onwards, up to two images per panel may be allowed from photographers who have been awarded LIPF distinction. However, as heretofore, anyone who has won medals at national or international competitions will be excluded from entry in this competition along with the other conditions that define advanced.

Image Titles

As of 2017, clubs entering the competition will be required to provide a list of image titles (maximum of 35 characters per title) for each panel. These titles will be provided to the judges to assist them to interpret images. No additional marks will be awarded for titles. The provision of titles is intended to assist judges interpret images and arises from requests from numerous judges in different competitions that they be afforded such a facility. It is good practice for photographers to title their images properly and we wish to encourage this. However, any title containing the photographer's name or the name of the club, will not be allowed.

Points per Image

Each judge will award a maximum of ten points per image (= 30 points in total per image). Previously it was 20 points per judge per image.

The aim of the National Shield is to encourage clubs to enter their best images. No marks will be awarded for panel cohesion. This is not a change from previous years, merely a reminder. Clubs are advised to enter their very best images.

Judging procedures

As in all IPF competitions, scoring is carried out separately by the judges whose scores are then totalled at the end of judging. Judging will be done in private, however, judges will provide commentary prior to the awards ceremony.

Complaints procedure

Each competing club will be required to nominate two persons to represent their club at the competition. Complaints in relation to any image or panel will only be accepted from those designated representatives, an IPF Council member or a regional officer. A fee of €60 must accompany any complaint from a club official. If the complaint is upheld, the €60 will be refunded. The IPF Council may take further action against the offending club.

Queries

Please address any queries regarding the above to the competition co-ordinator Bill Power via the [contact page](#) on our website.

Focusing on: Limerick Camera Club



Q: When was Limerick Camera Club founded?

A: 1943.

Q: How many members do you have?

A: It fluctuates from 80 to 55 members.

Q: When and where do you meet?

A: Commencing on 6th September, every Wednesday evening at 8pm in Room 203, Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick.

Q: Any notable events? (exhibitions/workshops etc.)

A: On Saturday 9th September L.C.C are hosting a visit from Molly Keane, a contestant on Series II of Sky Arts "Master of Photography" in the Tara Building (near the Lime Tree Theatre).

Q: When was the club started and by whom?

A: The Club was started by the late George Spillane in 1943.

Q: Any member have any significant achievements or milestones recently?

A: Dom Moloney was awarded Nature Photographer of the Year 2017 by the SACC. Ivan O'Riordan is the current Limerick Camera Club Photographer of the Year and in May of this year Licentiateships were awarded to both Siobhan Clifford (our PRO) and our Chairperson Helen Quinn.

Q: To what do you attribute your success?

A: The club in its membership has a wide variety of skills and talents, together with a willingness to share this information with all members and also nurturing new members with a desire to learn.

Q: What was the best outing/talk/club night in last 12 months?

A: A weekend away spent in Co. Mayo and the Snappers outings on Mondays finished with a good lunch and maybe a sing-song or two.

Q: If another camera club came to your town where are the best kept secrets that they should photograph?

A: Anywhere from Glenstal Abbey to the Shannon Basin.

Q: What is the aspect of your group that makes it so special?

A: The fact that we are constantly embracing new technology and creativity together with our Beginner's Programme which starts in October.

Q: If you could ask the IPF to improve on one thing, what would that be?

A: We would like to see more direct involvement with members of the IPF Council who are always welcome to visit Limerick at any time.



Limerick Camera Club
are pleased to welcome
Molly Keane
from
Master of Photography
who will give an illustrated talk
on her experiences on the show

**Saturday
9th September**
2 pm to 5.30 pm
Tara Building T116
(near the Lime Tree Theatre)

TICKETS €5

www.limerickcameraclub.ie

In the Spotlight: Ann Francis

Ann has been involved in photography since the seventies and having made the move from film to digital she is still finding new aspects of photography to keep her interested. Travel and people photography are favourites of Ann's and she has had success nationally and internationally in salons and competitions with her work.



Q: When did you take up photography?

A: I originally took up photography in the late 70's and was a member of Dublin Camera Club when it was located in Mount Street. It was all film at the time and I developed and printed

monochrome prints as well as doing colour slides and Cibachrome colour prints. I stayed with it for about 7 years. Then work took over and I did not return until about 6 years ago when of course I went digital. Whilst I enjoyed the darkroom work I am happy now to leave the wet process for the computer.

Q: Which club are you a member of?

A: Cork Camera Group, a great club where my photography has been nourished and stimulated.

Q: Do you have any IPF/FIAP/RPS etc. distinctions?

A: Yes, AIPF and EFIAP bronze.

Q: First camera? First DSLR?

A: My very first camera was a film camera, a Praktica and I then advanced to Nikon. I nearly didn't return to serious photography as in the intervening period I purchased a Kodak 2 MP camera for work and had



decided the digital photography was rubbish. It was a pure accident that I ended up with a Canon when I went digital. My first was the Canon 450D which I had bought before I joined the club. I now use a Canon 5D Mark III.

Q: What was the background to your most successful image?

A: This was my first time to shoot fine art nudes, I was in an old house with two photographer friends and we agreed that we would each find a location to shoot our last shot. I was attracted to the sweeping stairs which had a window at a right angle to it, the light was very harsh so I had to wait for the sun to fleetingly disappear behind the clouds and then grasp the opportunity. I used the curve of the stairs as the leading line to draw the viewer into the

figure. I love the way the shadows generated by the window light accentuate the curves of the human form and the overall slight high key effect. It is a celebration of the human form.



Q: Your own favourite image?

A: From the digital era it has to be a shot I took with the Canon 450D. This is the face of a man I grabbed on the street. It was a close in shot and for me, it captured the essence of the man. In his attire, he reminds me of my

own father, a man who always wore a suit jacket and a cap.

Q: What genre of photography best describes your photography or are you a general interest photographer?

A: I try my hand at most genres including macro, seascapes, street, travel, but my preference is people. I

have recently concentrated on creative photography as I enjoy the process and whilst one might start with a germ of an idea, the process takes over and the end result evolves.



Q: Canon or Nikon or Fuji or Sony?

A: Canon, but I am interested in purchasing a mirrorless camera for street work which will be either be Sony or Fuji.

Q: Would you recommend joining a camera club? Why? What have you got out of it?

A: Yes, absolutely; as well as the camaraderie, I learnt a lot from others in the club who shared their expertise selflessly. I found the monthly competitions kept me motivated to continue to strive forward. In particular the themed competitions forced me out of my comfort zone to take shots that I would never have of my own volition. This is where I learnt most as I had to figure out for example the best setting for birds in flight, movement, food photography etc. I was also encouraged to submit a panel for the IPF Distinctions. This process was a huge learning experience,

with the help of experienced club members I learnt to look very critically at my photographs and was able to see issues that I never noticed before, such as blown out highlights, stronger compositions, how sharp is sharp. It focuses the mind and is a good way to learn.

Q: What does photography mean to you?

A: I love to express myself through photography, it is an artistic outlet which gives me immense satisfaction. When I first took up photography I used to travel a lot to different countries, seeing different cultures was so stimulating that I wanted to capture the moment, the raw emotion, the human endeavour. My photographic heroes then were Henri Cartier Bresson, Margaret Bourke White, Steve Mc Curry, Diane Arbus, Ansel Adams and Dorothea Lange to mention a few. More recently with the advent of digital photography I love the ability to use post processing techniques to add to the creative process.

Q: What is your photographic dream?

A: To continue to improve my technical skills but above all to keep enjoying it. I am currently going through a creative photography phase but still love straight social documentary photography. If I can get my act together I would love to go for a Fellowship of the IPF.

FIAP Clubs World Cup

FIAP announce that the 2017 FIAP World Cup for Clubs competition will be run again this year and will take place in Andorra.

The requirements and entry form are available on the [FIAP website](#).

Any club or society is eligible to enter.

In previous years some of the IPF clubs have entered and were very successful in being placed very high in the rankings.

And we all remember the year that Dundalk Photographic Society won the competition. Can they do it again?

Get selecting and enter - it is a great way of a club seeing how they rate in international photography.



FIAP Distinctions

Applications for MFIAP are now being accepted. The latest date for receipt of applications and all submitted material is 15th December 2017. Whilst applications and payment are to be made via the IPF website, any potential applicant should first get in touch with Paul Stanley, FIAP Liaison Officer for guidance. Paul can be contacted via the IPF website contact page - FIAP distinctions option.



It is important to note that applicants for MFIAP must hold the EFIAP distinction and must have held it for at least three years. Anyone who has previously applied for MFIAP and who was not successful must wait for at least three years before applying again. An applicant can only apply for the MFIAP a maximum of three times.

Applications for AFIAP, EFIAP and the EFIAP levels distinctions are also now being accepted - with a closing date of 28th February 2018.

Application and payment are to be made via the IPF website - however applicants for these distinctions should also contact Paul Stanley to ensure that they have the most up to date information.

Peoples Photography Exhibition 2017



Every year in August the Irish Photographic Federation exhibits photographs at The Peoples Photography Exhibition, a two-day event in August and this year was no exception.

Photographic Clubs, Individual and Professional Photographers hung their selection of images on the railings around St. Stephen's Green.

There was a great atmosphere at this year's event, the weather was perfect and there was plenty of interest from passers-by and tourists alike.

The images the IPF had on display were a selection from National Competitions over the past year and one or two from well-known Photographers in the Irish Photographic world.

The IPF are very happy to support this worthwhile event.

We would like to thank all those from IPF Council who volunteered to look after our display over the weekend. In particular though, we send sincere thanks to our PRO Liam Beattie who gave up his entire weekend for this event.



Palmerston Camera Club Annual Exhibition

Palmerstown Camera Club exhibition in Ballyfermot Library was officially opened by Dominic Reddin, IPF President. This was Dominic's first official engagement since he was elected President of the Federation in July and a

little assistance was required from some of the ladies of the club in putting on his chain of office as he is just getting used to it.



Frank Delaney, Chairman of Palmerstown Camera Club, introduced Dominic to those present. In his opening remarks Dominic stated that he was honoured to be invited to Ballyfermot Library to open the exhibition. He said the fact that is a public forum for people to come and view the exhibition was a bonus and great way of encouraging new members to the club or progress their interest in photography. He encouraged those present to print their photographs and let others see them as far too many photographs never progress beyond being view on a screen.

‘We all do photography because it’s a passion’ he added. As club members we want to get good photographs to enter into competitions, whether they are Club, National or International Salons. It’s great when you win, but the feedback from both judges and other photographers is what helps us all to improve.

Michael O'Sullivan - Photography Workshop

Boyne Valley Photographic Club will be hosting Michael O'Sullivan FIPF FRPS for one of his much sought after location photography workshops in Drogheda on Sunday the 17th of September.

Book your place now to avoid disappointment as availability is strictly limited.

Check out [Michael's website](#) for more details and to view other upcoming workshops and events.

MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

FIPF FRPS



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Irish Photographic Federation

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