

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Good morning

I have been asked by our President to email you one of his concerns that will be brought up by the Executive in March. He would like you as Presidents/ Chairmen/ Officers to bring this up with your clubs as there may be some ideas or interest so at the Executive we may have a broader idea and path on how to help the NWPA to better serve you the clubs of the federation.

Over the last year or so there have been several comments and dare I say complaints relating to the financial management and status of the NWPA as well as expectations placed upon affiliated clubs. In my opinion, it is fair to say that the NWPA Executive Committee has listened and reacted, in that changes are in hand to amend the way in which the 'BIG' expenditure events of NWPA Competitions and Exhibitions are organised.

'A good start you may say – but what next?'

The NWPA has a responsibility to each-and-every one of its members, and I reiterate once again that the NWPA is NOT here to 'rule' the affiliated clubs, it exists to support them, however that support must be reciprocated and a two-way interchange is not only necessary but healthy. With that in mind I urge all affiliated club delegates to report back to their individual clubs - not only with the information gleaned at the Executive Committee Meetings - but also to question their membership for comments and suggestions as a way forward for the NWPA. To quote the often quoted "Your Association needs you!".

I can assure you that I, together with the Executive Committee, will continue to seek out further efficiencies and to rationalise further expenditure. But, (there is always a 'but') expenditure is not the only way forward or option, we also need to consider income and ways of generating income. Now, before you rise out of your seat and say 'Oh no! they are going to raise the affiliated club's association fees again' – NO! this is not what I mean. Collectively we need to be creative, refreshed and dynamic; we need to come up with options, not only to save on expenditure, but to generate income so as to bolster the coffers.

Another well-known and well used expression is "we have always done it this way" (or similar wording). I do not accept that as a reason nor excuse to carry on in the same manner as we have always done. However, the past creates the present. Our status exists because of events that happened in the past. Only by understanding those events can we know how we got here, and where to go next. We use and we learn from the past and it helps us to shape and design our future. Change is inevitable, nothing stands still!

At this stage you may well be wondering what on earth has all this blurb got to do with the title to this document i.e. "Agenda Topics". Simple answer, I am placing two items for discussion onto the March 2025 Executive Meeting Agenda: one relates to income and one to expenditure:

1. "BRING & BUY SALE"

Not my invention! Nor a new idea! However, could we adapt and adopt the principle as a way of raising funds and encouraging more attendees to our events at Craig Y Don e.g. to run in parallel with Competition and Exhibition events already established?

'Bring & Buy Sales' are an often-used method for raising funds, I am aware that other Camera Clubs and Associations use it throughout the UK as a way to supplement funds as well as providing a 'service' to members.

in short:

- Members would submit "photographic" or related items for sale labelled with their contact detail and suggested sale price
- A nominated organiser would place and arrange the items on suitable tables in the main hall at Craig Y Don and 'staff' the table/s
- The money taken for a sold item would be passed back to the seller – MINUS a 'donation' to NWPA funds
- The Bring & Buy could be augmented by others e.g. photography related companies could take space and place some of their second-hand items under the same arrangement of a % going to NWPA.
- The positive effect would be the commission paid to the NWPA funds as well as potentially attracting many more attendees to the event, thus increasing the door entry ticket income. Plus, providing an NWPA supportive service to the membership.

There are, naturally, many considerations that would need to be thoroughly scrutinised, as well as seeking a volunteer to organise and run the 'sale'. I would therefore ask you to consult with your members and ask them if they consider this proposal worth pursuing or is it a "non-starter"? I present it as an agenda topic, but with prior notification and detail so as for all members to have the opportunity to consider and discuss the suggestion both within the NWPA Exec Committee and more importantly at individual club level.

2. "The Judge's Dinner"

This is as far as I can see a typical "we have always done it this way".

It has long been common practice for the NWPA incumbent President to entertain a visiting Judge or Speaker at a local hostelry following the days event, whilst this is clearly a polite and "nice" gesture it has a clear and negative effect on NWPA funds. My question (I will offer no personal opinion) should we continue or discontinue this practice?

I end this communication with a further iteration

Please give the content of this document thought and discussion, take it to your members, seek further ideas and solutions and rest assured that I and the Executive Officers will support you.

Thank you & look forward to seeing you all on the 2nd March
Charles Meadows

President NWPA