

SPA Sub Committee for Judges and Lecturers – 28th June 2010

What should a club expect from an SPA Judge

- Arrival in good time with consideration of the nature of the competition
- Commitment to the rules of the competition being judged
- Commitment to the date agreed between the club and the judge¹
- Advance knowledge of the approximate value of the travel expenses that will be claimed²
- Evaluation of the photographs within the context of the club's submissions and not compared against standards found in other clubs
- Judging all genres and subject matter with equal value
- Provide a constructive critique with support for beginners and respect for the objectives of the advanced workers
- The judge will endeavour to enthuse the audience
- The judge will pay attention to the time available and make every effort to finish on time

What should an SPA judge expect from a club

- Written confirmation (post or email) of a booking with a statement of the rules of the night and clear instructions for finding the venue plus an emergency telephone number
- A reminder at least 7 days before the appointment
- A greeting on arrival at the venue
- For a print competition, an opportunity to look through the submissions before the competition starts³
- A brief introduction that shows the club appreciates what is, after all, their choice of judge
- A prompt start of the competition at the designated time. Club announcements and general housekeeping are additional to the competitions and should not eat into the competition time
- Projection equipment should be fully operational⁴ in advance of the evening and print easels should have the correct illumination (D5000 daylight fluorescents)
- A comfortable number of images for the evening. It is suggested that a maximum of 70 should be the target. The club should check with the judge in advance if the number of images is likely to exceed 80.
- Travel expenses should be paid without the judge having to ask or wait at the end of the evening
- The SPA Judges' Sub-Committee would appreciate much more feedback from the clubs about judges' performance. A form is available from the SPA website.

¹Please note, many judges are booked anything up to 18 months in advance. No one can know with certainty that they will be available on a specific night so far in advance. Clubs should recognise that appointments may have to be changed. Judges should recognise that clubs must be given time to re-arrange their programmes if changes are inevitable. The obvious exception is illness.

²The SPA adheres to the PAGB guidelines which are at the time of writing 22 pence per mile plus the cost of the fuel

³The competition administration should not make the evening start late

⁴This includes calibration and profiling of digital projectors