

WHAT THE SCORES MEAN

CPAGB

5 Well above the standard required. Likely, but not of course guaranteed to score 4 at the DPAGB level.

Should do well in the Average Club in domestic competitions or in Inter-Club competitions. Could be chosen to represent the club in Federation competitions.

4

3 Only used when the Adjudicator is not quite sure or where the photograph has just missed the standard - only very close misses would be marked as 3.

Not up to the required standard. May have some merit but does not meet the criteria for a pass. No better than average club photography

2

DPAGB

5 Well above the standard required. Likely, but not of course guaranteed to score 4 at the MPAGB level.

Up to the standard that is likely to do well in Open Exhibitions, achieving a high rate of acceptance

4

3 Only used when the Adjudicator is not quite sure or where the photograph has just missed the standard - only very close misses would be marked as 3.

Not likely to be accepted very often in Exhibitions and will probably be rejected more often than it is accepted. May have some potential but does not meet the criteria for a pass mark

2

MPAGB

5 Up to the standard of image which has a high probability of winning Awards in International Exhibitions.

Up to the standard which has a high probability of being accepted into Internationals and which might win an occasional award.

4

3 Only used when the Adjudicator is not quite sure or where the photograph has just missed the standard - only very close misses would be marked as 3.

Not up to the standard likely to be accepted in many International Exhibitions. May have some potential but does not meet the criteria for a pass mark.

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**The Photographic Alliance
of Great Britain**

**AWARDS FOR
PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT**

Notes of Guidance for Applicants

Revised January 2004.

PAGB AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT

The Rules and Conditions relating to the Awards for Photographic Merit may be obtained from your Federation's Awards Officer. The Rules are also published in the PAGB Handbook, but since they are still evolving and the PAGB Handbook is only printed every two years, you should check that they are still current.

These notes are intended to supplement the Rules and to help you understand the Adjudication process.

Adjudications in Prints and Slides are carried out by a panel of six Judges or Adjudicators, selected for their photographic skill and their extensive experience. They are carefully briefed as to the standard required in each section but it is impossible to totally eliminate subjectivity.

Photography is more art than science and judges will always be influenced by their emotional response to an image. As in any competition, you should be prepared for some pictures to score higher than you had anticipated and for some to score lower. Even pictures which have been submitted to a previous PAGB Adjudication may score a little better or a little worse than before.

The 'Appointed' non-voting Chairman of the Adjudication Panel observes closely throughout the proceedings and has the authority to review near misses on the day. Failed applicants may also apply for a further review if they feel that their work has been inaccurately assessed.

Each of the 6 Adjudicators is required, using 'silent' scoring equipment, to award a mark of 2 to 5 points to each photograph. The leaflet explains how they are briefed to reach that decision, how they assess the work at each level and what each mark means.

In theory, if a photograph is not up to the required standard, it should receive 6 x 2 points per judge = 12 or, if it is well up to the required standard, it should receive 6 x 4 points per judge = 24. However it is unrealistic to expect complete unanimity between 6 different Adjudicators and most total scores will represent a compromise between these limits.

Scores above 24 are relatively unusual but can be achieved by the very best images.

Applicants are advised to avoid submitting too many similar pictures. Work that is best presented as a coherent panel may be marked less well as individual images.

The CREDIT Award (CPAGB) is assessed against GOOD CLUB PHOTOGRAPHY

Obviously the standard of photography varies considerably from club to club and what is 'Good' in one club may not be as successful in another. At the CPAGB level the Adjudicators are looking for photographs that they would expect to do well in the Average Club in domestic and Inter-Club competitions, perhaps representing the Club in Federation competitions.

The DISTINCTION Award (DPAGB) is assessed against OPEN EXHIBITION STANDARD PHOTOGRAPHY

Although there is a much greater commonality of standard at exhibition level there are still variations. Every potential exhibitor has had an image accepted in one exhibition and rejected from the next one. The PAGB Adjudicators are looking for photographs that, in their opinion, would be likely to achieve a high level of acceptance in Open Exhibitions.

The pictures do not need to have been previously entered in any Open Exhibition but success at this level is obviously a good guide. Conversely, a high number of acceptances in exhibitions does not necessarily guarantee a high mark in the PAGB Adjudication. Has it also been rejected on occasions and is therefore borderline? Perhaps the image is not entirely current and standards have changed.

The MASTER Award (MPAGB) seeks to recognise the HIGHEST STANDARD OF AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY

The Adjudicators are looking for a very high standard of photography, images which, in their opinion, would enjoy a considerable level of success in International Exhibitions, including consistent and frequent acceptances. Pictures do not require to have been entered or accepted previously in any International but must be of an exceptional standard.

As an applicant for MPAGB you will probably have submitted to many exhibitions and you will be aware that even your most successful pictures sometimes fail if, for example, a particular image has achieved 40 acceptances in 50 attempts that still represents a 20% failure. A large number of Exhibition acceptances indicates the probability of a high Adjudication score but does not guarantee it.

Some images, such as record photographs, are not particularly successful in some International Exhibitions, but they will be given due and fair consideration by our Adjudicators.