

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain
Executive - October 2005

Technical Standards Committee

This is the first report of the Committee which was established in Apr-05 with the remit to collect information concerning current practice on projected digital images (PDI), and to consider what, if any, recommendations might be made for practical standards of use.

The first phase has involved:

- Definition of a catalogue of topics relevant to PDI. These topics include - Projectors - PCs and graphics adaptors - Other display drivers - Data file formats - Imaging display software - Competition management and workflow software.
- A search of several hundred websites, including those for all Federations, and for all Clubs available via the Federations, and for national and international bodies (RPS and its specialist groups, PSA, FIAP, PSSA), and many for commercial and other sites.
- Advertising for contributions via the PAGB and Federations, and directly via a questionnaire sent to the top national Clubs attending Warwick.
- Creation of our own website to record the work in progress and the information discovered, and to facilitate consultation. Members may view the Committee's work at <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/markbuckleysharp>

Two principles have directed work during this phase.

- Where a reasonable range of opinion has been collected, then no new major opinion is likely to arise from further enquiry. The Executive itself is not a sufficiently large group, and the enquiry has deliberately been much wider. The range of opinion now collected should be enough to rely upon the collection as complete.
- When current practice may be highly variable, then merely informing participants of the current range of practice is sufficient to start the process of convergence, without making any formal recommendations. To this end, all correspondents have been 'rewarded' with access to the Committee's website.

There is no decision about either the content or format of any outcome of the Committee's work. Executive members may wish to review the website and submit comments and advice. Subject to that advice, there are some ideas to guide the next phase.

- PDI is a rapidly changing technology. No guidance will be permanent.
- Any guidance must be simple, with the aim of helping both authors and organisers, given that Clubs and Federations are autonomous bodies within the PAGB entitled to create and follow their own guidance. Nevertheless, the PAGB Executive is responding to requests to assist.
- The PAGB leaflet concept may be appropriate, although the likely publication medium would be web only.
- Although the ultimate advice needs to be simple, it will only be robust if the Committee has first gone through the process of reviewing the available detail. That is why the first phase has involved collecting that detail, and why the second phase is likely to involve a thorough review.

By the Feb-06 Executive meeting, the Committee should aim to produce a review document. The review, as may be amended by further discussion, would then be the source for extracting any advice leaflets. The earliest time by which leaflets would be available for the Executive's consideration would be Apr-06.

Mark Buckley-Sharp
Chair, Technical Standards Committee