



Vignettes 83

May 5th, 2021

Contents

Club News	1
LRPS Distinction Application	1
Camera Bags.....	3
AGM	4
Internal Competitions	4
PAGB News.....	5
BBC Pictures	5
Quote of The Week.....	6

Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. Not a lot to report this week, in advance of our AGM next Monday 10th. Don't forget, it's not too late to send in any questions or comments. I had my LRPS assessment today (Wednesday) and I'm pleased to say that I've joined Jill and John in gaining my LRPS distinction after a nail biting run of watching eleven straight successes before my images came before the judges.

LRPS Distinction Application

Assessment Date - May 5th, 2021 by Martyn Smith

I was delighted and honoured to obtain an LRPS Distinction at the RPS's Assessment day on the 5th May. It's my first foray into the rarefied world of awards and it's been an interesting experience. Our Distinctions Group formed last year to help budding club members seek an RPS Distinction has been a great help. Chair Mike Cheeseman and President John Hankin (both LRPS) brought experience, encouragement and advice to the party at a number of virtual meetings and, along with guidance from other experienced members (Syd, Paul N), have helped John S, Jill and myself to gain LRPS Distinctions over the last three months. John C, Paul J and Patrick are sitting in the wings so I hope this overview might help and motivate Club members to have a go.



LICENTIATE Presentation Layout

Print Format



01



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



09



10

Applicant Name

Membership Number or Postcode

I'll come back to the RPS Assessment Day's proceedings below but it's pretty clear from RPS Distinctions guidance and watching the big day's events that, in my view, there are some golden rules well worth following:

1. The RPS Assessors have a positive attitude in their judging. This "glass half full" approach is refreshing.
2. That means they want to give you the benefit of the doubt in granting you a Distinction but there are specified criteria they have to adhere to, to ensure that the required standards are met.
3. So, the onus is on you to make it difficult for them to reject your submission. This is a point which John H has been ramming home – good advice.
4. Avoid an RPS "Advisory Day" at your peril. Covid has necessitated virtual Advisory Days and, in my view, the "One to One" Advisory process is a particularly valuable form of feedback to help you hone all aspects of your submission. I can't speak too highly of this important and highly personal process. Many highly qualified and experienced RPS advisors give their time for free and provide a follow up written assessment which sets out what's necessary to achieve a successful submission. That Advisory assessment provides part of your submission. It doesn't go unnoticed.
5. Pick your images from those which have done well in club competitions. It's good to have independent validation of your images from an experience judge and this a good place to start.
6. The "Hanging Plan" is a fundamental part of your submission. It's often referred to as the "11th image". It's your visual "communicator" which introduces your images as a cohesive set. Its creation is not the thing of a moment. It needs thought to create the right "balance" to your image panel even if you have to sacrifice one of your better images. Submissions have failed the Distinction process on the Hanging Plan alone.

Turning to the Assessment day, the format for each submission took the following structure:

1. Currently, all four Assessors plus Chair are judging virtually.
2. All four Assessors and Chair will have seen the images (PDI's) in advance along with any written Advisory Day feedback.
3. Introduction to each image (PDI), which is shown twice.
4. Presentation of the Hanging Plan which stays on screen during the subsequent assessment and discussion.
5. Chair invites the initial vote from Assessors.
6. All voting is confidential.
7. Chair invites two Assessors to comment on the submission having regard to the specified criteria and the need to meet the "Required Standard"
8. The "Print Master" (physically located at RPS House) displays the submitted prints in accordance with the applicants Hanging Plan. He comments on print quality, mount quality, mounting precision, print paper finish, tonal rendition (colour or B & W), possible processing artefacts and overall general impression and Impact. Although not an Assessor, he is influential. He deals with any questions from the Assessors regarding quality issues not evident on the PDI's.
9. Chair invites any other comments and debate.
10. Chair sums up general findings.
11. Chair invites final vote.
12. Result and summary by the Chair. Either a congratulations with positive comment about the quality and theme of the submission or commiserations. In the case of the latter, this is generally (but not always) accompanied by encouragement to resubmit on the basis of

the findings, all of which would be set out in more detail in a written report sent to the rejected applicant over the following week.

13. An invited resubmission indicates that the applicant is nearly there but his/her submission was let down by an issue(s) such as image quality, image subject, a poor Hanging Plan layout or lack of attention to mounting.
14. Each applicant's Assessment takes 10-15 minutes.

My experience of the day was positive in seeing how much work and effort the Chair and Assessors put into the proceedings. Given the subjective nature of photography, it was good to see a general consensus which one could not fault. Each submission told its own story about the photographer. The pass rate on my day was high and the rejections were, in general, capable of resolution by a resubmission. Interestingly, one submission showed all the signs of having taken little or no advice on a range of matters which an Advisory Day would have almost certainly resolved. Forewarned is forearmed!

I hope that helps and if anyone wants to have a more detailed chat about the process, I'd be glad to help so please don't hesitate to contact me through the club. Our Distinctions Group however is very much alive.

Camera Bags

Ok, I'll admit it, I'm still after that perfect camera bag. In my defence, my photography has taken me in directions I hadn't planned or even thought about. So, carting kit around on my shoulder or back has just evolved over the years - necessitating different baggage requirements. Indeed, even on the day, my needs also vary depending on where I'm going and what I'm doing. Anyway, I'm now very happy with an excellent "Lowepro" backpack and "Mindshift" Sling bag (part of the Thinktank range). These are my sixth and seventh camera bags, Nos 1 - 5 having being recycled through eBay after varying degrees of service.

One bag missing from my armoury for wearing around town and for generally chucking in the car is a small(ish) shoulder bag. Believe me I've hunted high and low and from experience, my critical criteria are:

1. A manageable carrying weight (this also applies to sling bags) and
2. Internal dimensions - this needs thought, you'll just never get everything in so keep it small and practical.

Other considerations include a bag which doesn't look like a camera bag plus capacity for a few pockets for accessories. After deciding to restrict myself to my DSLR with lens fitted, plus one lens, I've just taken delivery of a "Thinktank V2 Retrospective 5" in sandstone canvas finish. It's well thought out, not too large, very nicely made, good looking and well padded. A great "urban" bag I can recommend. The V7 model is the next size up and also worth considering. Just remember that weight issue. You don't want to garrotte yourself!

One matter worth noting is that when some organisations advertise a camera bag they often define its capacity (camera, lens etc) based on holding a DSLR (or CSC) camera with the lens removed (check images). As, in reality, none of us carry cameras this way (to minimise the ingress of dust), don't get fooled into thinking a case can take, say, a DSLR with lens fitted when, in reality, it can't. There's plenty of adverts for such "camera bags". This is less of an issue for compact camera systems.

Nikon F Mount - free camera lens and body caps.

Never thought I'd say "Nikon"! Anyway, the above camera bag, bought via Amazon, was clearly one sent back by a previous purchaser as it contained a camera lens cap and body cap from an F-mount Nikon camera (whatever that is) tucked away in a pocket. So, does anybody want them? If so let me know and I'll put them in the post or let you have them on our practical night (24th May).

AGM

Just a reminder that our AGM is now programmed for the 10th May and the papers have been emailed along with this issue of Vignettes.

Internal Competitions

The "Summer Competition" will comprise:

1. The Summer Cup
2. The Ted Parrott Cup

The Ted Parrott Cup is for "Sporting Action" and the definition is:

"An image of a fast-paced competitive physical activity governed by a specific set of rules defined by a sports governing body".

The Summer Cup set subjects are:

1. *Stress.*
2. *Relaxation.*
3. *Happiness.*

In terms of DropBox details for competition submissions, it will be the same all season:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/zRwHLz7MfRGHIZyCHNsp>

Next Year's Club Competitions

Subject	Competition
Water (in all its forms)	A
Architecture	B
Sunrise, sunset	C
Coastal	D
Winter	E
Farming in the Cotswolds	Pitchers Trophy (annual Competition)

PAGB News

Paul has sent through the latest PAGB newsletter and has pointed out the event on 8th May for budding photographers wishing to gain a RPS or PAGB distinction:

<http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en281%2001%20May.pdf>

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website including a cracker from the air of 20th Century coastal resorts:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-56929622>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-56931344>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-56946165>

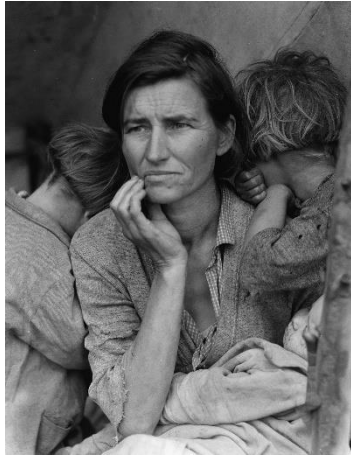
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-56886707>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-56882288>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-56928521>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-56906334>

Quote of The Week



The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera.

Dorothea Lange

Migrant Mother by Dorothea Lange

That's it for this week. Catch up next week.

Cheers and stay safe.

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)