

John Coyle APAGB

John Coyle is one of those people who have been around photography in Scotland for as long as anybody can remember. His contribution at all levels of photography, at club, regional and national level has been significant over many years

The absence of specific dates and timescales to document John's activities has made it difficult to compile this citation. Extensive enquiries have been made to verify his activities but the people who could have possibly provided early information have passed on.

However, the lack of specific dates have not impeded this application as it is widely accepted that John's contribution has been a major benefit to all in photography.

Penilee Camera Club – John started his club photography with Rolls Royce (Hillington) CC and on its demise, joined Penilee CC which was in its first year of existence. During his almost 40 years with Penilee he served at least two terms as President, held the posts of Vice President, Secretary, Syllabus Secretary, SPF Delegate, GDPU Delegate and Beginner's Convener. Some of these posts were held in tandem and some for many years. As Beginners Convener he led courses where he passed on his knowledge of photography to new members using his ready wit and strong voice in equal measure.

He was awarded an Honorary Membership for his services.

Glasgow District Photographic Union – The GDPU is a regional organisation in the West of Scotland catering to many clubs in the Greater Glasgow, Clyde and Argyll regions and John was active in this organisation. Again no dates are available but he served as President for four years and various other posts for over 20 years,

John was also a respected Judge and Lecturer for the organisation and was also invited to Judge out with the area on many occasions.

Renfrewshire Inter-Club Competition – In 1995 he took charge of the Renfrewshire Inter-Club Competition and continued as Convenor for 17 years until ill-health forced him to resign in 2012. In 2004, in the Renfrewshire's 50th year, John was presented with a certificate by all the Area Clubs in recognition of all his work on their behalf over the years.

Scottish Photographic Federation

SPF Custodian – John joined the SPF Executive in 1988 and was elected to the post of Custodian, a job he did for 21 years, finally stepping down in 2009. During this time he not only sought out new material for the SPF Archive, stored it in his house, and organised material for interested clubs and individuals, but also operated the SPF's Recorded Lecture Service. John also looked after all of the SPF's Trophies, and organised all engraving of them and any medals issued every SPF event. He also took on the time consuming task of hand writing all of the SPF's Commended and Highly Commended certificates in full calligraphic hand.

He was a regular and knowledgeable contributor at Executive meetings and could be relied on for guidance in dealing with the sometimes unusual occurrences dealt with at meetings.

SPF Renfrewshire Area Rep – Sometime in the mid 1990's John also became the Area Rep for Renfrewshire providing a link between the Renfrewshire clubs and the SPF. This was a job he

combined with his role as Renfrewshire Inter-Club Convenor. He continued in that role until he finally stepped down in 2009.

SPF National Events and Competitions – John was a regular member of the organising team at SPF events. He is particularly well known as ‘The Voice’ at all of the SPF’s events with his distinctive (loud) voice and singular take on pronunciation when announcing titles at national competitions. Many visiting Judges would not necessarily know his name, but they will readily recall fondly his voice. His wit and character shone through on these occasions and he took a lot of ribbing with extremely good humour. He was added to the SPF’s Roll of Honour for his service to photography in 2003.

John is now over eighty and in ill-health and has had to take a back seat from his photographic activities. This award is a fitting tribute to his long and dedicated service to photography and photographers in Scotland.

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