



Brian Hopper wins Senior Photographer of the Year & Michelle McNally wins Advanced Photographer of the Year

Tension was high last Thursday night for the final of Advanced and Senior Photographer of the year. In the running in the senior section were Tony McDonnell, Gabriel O'Shaughnessy, Thomas Gray, Brian Hopper, Arthur Carron, Charlie Flynn and Colm Kane. And in the advanced section the competitors were Freddie McArdle, Michelle McNally, Damien O'Malley, Alex Coroliu, Micheal Macken, Declan Gernon & Gary Murphy.

In the seventh & final round each of these top photographers in Senior and Advanced sections submitted six images in both colour and monochrome from the images they had entered throughout the year. The images were judged by a panel of three judges and marked in a standard international salon format. The judges were Lorraine Gilligan FIPF (Celbridge Camera Club), Kieran Murray ARPS (Banbridge Camera Club) and Ritchie Hatch FIPF (Mid-Louth Camera Club).

The standard of entries in both sections was truly outstanding and it was really a difficult choice for the judges, who on several occasions asked for a more detailed look at some of the prints in order to make their decision.

Stalwart Tony McDonnell's beautiful images and Arthur Carron's flamboyant Portraits were highly scored and kept everyone guessing which way the competition would go. Many of the scores were very close and it was high tension as we entered the colour section. Only one print was awarded the elusive 3 9's and that was Gabriel O'Shaughnessy's stunning still life 'Soft Light'.

But in the end it was Brian Hopper's collection of prints, including his environmental portrait 'Fisherman at Lough Acurry', his beautiful landscape 'Swan on The River' and his ballerina 'Ciara in Motion' to name but a few, which won out and he was awarded 2012 DPS Photographer of the Year title by winning both the colour and monochrome sections. Gabriel O'Shaughnessy and Tony McDonnell & Arthur Carron came second and joint third place respectively.



Ciara in Motion by Brian Hopper.

In the Advanced section Michelle McNally had a commanding win, her artistic images 'Floating Flower' and 'Red Blanket' really caught the judges attention and saw her win both colour and advanced sections. It is really a remarkable achievement for Michelle as she only joined the Advanced section this year and to go on and win outright in her first year is a fantastic achievement. Freddie Mc Ardles fantastic nature images saw him awarded very well deserved second place with Damien O'Maley in third place.



Floating Flower by Michelle McNally

The Non-Advanced competition finished a month earlier with Brendan Tumilty taking the honours and Michelle Geoghegan in second place and Tony Moriarty in third.

The complete final results from the DPS Monthly Competitions 2012 will follow shortly.