



Cross Border Success for Dundalk Photographic Society

Dundalk Photographic Society have engaged in a cross border three-way interclub competition on an annual basis for quite some time and 2014 was no different. Early March saw the three competing clubs "Banbridge Photographic Club", "Ballynahinch Camera and Digital Imaging Club" and "Dundalk Photographic Society" come together in Ballinahinch, this year's host town. Banbridge Camera Club, in existence for over 65 years, are one of the oldest clubs. Throughout that time, they have enjoyed the position of one of the top clubs in Ireland. Banbridge Camera Club have exhibited a collection of their work in the prestigious F.E. McWilliams art gallery and exhibition centre, an event in which Dundalk Photographic Society were co-hosts. Ballynahinch Camera and Digital Imaging Club formed in 1979 and, like their neighbouring club Banbridge, have had a lot of success.

The format of this competition members of each club to submit their best monochrome and colour print. Provisionally, these are critiqued by the judge and each club then selects what they consider to be their ten best monochrome and ten best colour prints. A final judging round ensues and each print is awarded marks out of 10. On the night, there was a broad theme to the images on display. There was a very strong showing of Portraits of various styles in both colour and monochrome prints. The visiting Judge on the night was Terry Mc Creesh from Catchlight camera club in Belfast. Terry set about marking each of the 30 monochrome images and, by the time this round was complete, only three images had achieved a score of 10 points. Dundalk members present knew that two of those 10 points had been awarded to their images. Tallying the points for the round put Dundalk Photographic Society on a score of 86 points, Ballynahinch 78 and Banbridge 80 point from a maximum 100. Strong scoring all round!

Round Two dealt with the colour prints and followed excellent refreshments supplied by the host club Ballinahinch. This time Terry Mc Creesh awarded four images a score of 10 out of 10. He had to select, what he considered, the best monochrome image of the night. He whittled his choice down to three images but finally selected a stunning still life image captured by Dundalk Photographic Society member, Colm Kean, for his darkroom print titled "3, 2, 1".



Terry Mc Creesh then went about selecting his best colour print of the night and, again, it was reduced down to three images. All three images had been captured by Dundalk Photographic Society members and his award of best colour print went to the Illustration by Eithne Ni Anluain, modelled by Raphaella with Love, called "Valkyrie".



Having tallied all colour print scores, Ballynahinch received 76 points, Bandbridge 77 points and Dundalk Photographic Society scored 90 points each from a possible 100 points.

When each team's scores were combined Dundalk Photographic Society took first place with a score of 176 points to retain the "Interclub 3 Way Perpetual Shield". Bandbridge took second place with a score of 157 points closely followed by Ballynahinch with a score of 154 points.

Many of these winning images, along with many others, will be on display during the Dundalk Photographic Society's annual exhibition, which lasts one week from the 11th of April in the County Museum in Dundalk. All are welcome!

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