

SPS Newsletter

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Well here we are in August. What a busy month we have had with the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and two great articles on it from Jolanta and David which I think you will enjoy reading, I certainly did. Since last going to press we have had President Jenny's Picnic at Cotswold Wildlife Park, complete with scrummy homemade scones with jam and clotted cream, which makes me ask how do you take yours – the Devon or Cornish way? We saw the Lionesses roar at Wembley and have gazed at a number of different named moons. Our Pub Nights have quenched our thirst whilst we have all been sweltering in the excessive heat and record temperatures. No need to travel abroad with all the airport chaos for good weather, sun and blue sky, Britain has it all.

What a Summer to remember 2022 will be for a variety of reasons. And I am sure whatever you have been getting up to you will have your own personal memories and photographs of the Summer of 2022. In the words of the late Olivia Newton John it certainly has been 'Summer Lovin'. And what do we have to look forward to come September ... well Autumn seems to be coming quickly with lots of the trees already starting to turn and leaves dropping in their multitude ... or is it just in my garden, my broom has certainly been busy just lately! Hopefully our lawns will turn back to green from brown and the nights won't draw in too quickly. But fear not we have the start of our SPS Programme for 2022, and I am looking forward to our varied and interesting Programme of Speakers and Competitions. Now I must go and look out my woolly jumpers, I might be in need of them soon!

Oh and I almost forgot to mention a little bit about August ...

August was once the 6th month of the year. In the Roman calendar, it was known as "Sextilis", the Latin word for 6. It wasn't until 700 BC when January and February were added to the calendar, that August was bumped down to become the 8th month of the year. In 8 BC the month was named Augustus, in honour of the Roman Emperor Augustus. The Anglo-Saxons called it 'Weod Monath' – literally translating as "weed month". In this month weeds and other plants grow the fastest in the Northern hemisphere. In August 1762 the sandwich, as we know it, was created when the Earl of Sandwich requested meat between two pieces of bread. The story goes he requested it as he was in the middle of a gambling game and didn't want to interrupt it. Those born in August fall under one of two star signs: if you were born before 22nd August, you're considered to be a Leo; if you're born on the 23rd or later, you're a Virgo. Leos are said to be very proud people who display great leadership. Virgos, on the other hand, are analytical and hardworking people, while still being kind and loyal – well there you go that describes me to a tee, I am a Virgo! August has two birth flowers – the vibrant multi-coloured gladiolus and the deep crimson poppy. The gladiolus flower is said to represent generosity, strength of character, and deep sincerity. The poppy flower is a sign of imagination, eternal sleep, and oblivion! Unlike most other months, August has just one birthstone, peridot, one of the lesser-known gems. Peridots come in shades from grass-green to a more earthy olive hue. They're quite a unique gem and quite rare as they can only be found from two very different sources: they can be formed deep in the earth and expelled to the surface along with lava; they can be found in meteorites! It is claimed that peridots have healing powers and can protect the bearer from evil.

And I will leave you with the thought 'If the first week of August is unusually warm, The winter will be white and long.' Oh dear! I feel an article on snow photography!

With my very best wishes
Liz xx

02

Through the Lens

Sports Photography

Summertime is always packed full of major sporting events and this year is no exception with the Commonwealth Games on our doorstep in Birmingham. So, I thought it was an opportune moment to look at sports photography, often described as one of the most exciting niches of photography but also one of the most challenging due to the unpredictable nature of sports and the action being so fast and changing.

So who are some of the most famous sports photographers? Well here are just a few:

Neil Leifer

Regarded as one of the best and with an incredible life story. Growing up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the USA, he was introduced to photography by a social service agency that offered free classes to the poor children in the neighbourhood. From there a love of photography blossomed and Leifer went on to photograph some of the most iconic sports moments of all time. In fact, he was only 19 when he landed his first magazine cover.

Leifer's 1965 picture of Muhammad Ali knocking out Sonny Liston is one of the most famous and instantly recognisable sports photos of all time. It is a stunning picture but unfortunately I can't show it as it is copyrighted. Leifer enjoyed a prominent career, where he photographed more than 150 cover photos for *Sports Illustrated*, as well as working for *TIME* magazine. His personal career highlight was covering 32 of sport's biggest events including the World Series, the British Open, the Super Bowl, the Kentucky Derby, the Daytona 500, Wimbledon, and the Tour de France.

Hy Money

Hy Money has been acknowledged as 'Britain's first female Sports Photographer' and one of the most famous football photographers. She began taking photographs of football matches in the early 1970s, when women were banned from taking pictures of games from the sidelines at certain venues.

After a legal battle, Money was allowed to photograph football matches and went on to become the first female sports photographer on Fleet Street, and the official photographer of Crystal Palace, where she was referred to as 'Mammarazzi at the Palace'.

In 2005 she released her book 'Hy on Palace' which includes 1,000 photos of Crystal Palace, featuring the likes of Ian Wright, Ron Noades, David 'Kid' Jensen, Brian Moore, Malcolm Allison, Terry Venables, Jimmy Hill, Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst, Nobby Stiles, Gordon Banks, Jackie Charlton, Martin Peters, Alan Ball, and Bobby Charlton.

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Aaron Chang

American photographer Aaron Chang is widely considered to be the best surf photographer in the business. In 1974, 18-year-old Chang moved to Hawaii to surf and shoot photos, on the North Shore of Oahu, combining his love for surfing and photography. He was a pioneer of surf photography, inventing the technique of using an ultra-wide-angle lens in the barrel in big waves, which was unprecedented in the 1980s. Chang has enjoyed a 25-year tenure as a senior photographer at *Surfing Magazine*, as well as having his work featured in *Newsweek*, *Sports Illustrated*, *GQ*, *People*, *US Weekly* and *Elle*.

Camilla Rutherford

Scottish photographer Camilla Rutherford is a sports and landscape photographer and an award-winning photojournalist. In 2016 she was put on *Still Stoked's* list of the 'world's best female action sports photographers', among many other accolades.

Richard Heathcote

Richard Heathcote is one of the best sports photographers in the UK. He has won many coveted awards including the British Sports Photographer of the Year Award at the 2019 British Sports Journalism Awards, and the 2020 World Sports Photography Awards. He covers an extensive range of sports and has had the privilege of photographing FIFA World Cup tournaments, UEFA European Championships, the Olympic Games, Rugby World Cup and golf's four Majors, and The Ryder Cup.

Tom Jenkins

British photographer Tom Jenkins is one of the best in the industry and has been covering sports events and personalities for more than 30 years, with *The Guardian* and the *Observer*. He is a versatile photographer having photographed 5 FIFA World Cups, 4 Summer Olympic Games, 4 Rugby World Cups, 2 Cricket World Cups, World Athletics Championships, the Commonwealth Games, and major tennis championships, including Wimbledon, 20 times. Getting the 'money shot' is what Tom's job is all about – "there are photographers all around me, and we're all out to get the best shot." You're under pressure to take a risk with exposure or shutter speed to get something different, but the stakes are high: "You're standing at the end of the 100m straight, and you've got Usain Bolt coming towards you, at quite a speed. It's nine seconds, and it's gone. You've been there all day setting up those cameras. It won't be repeated. That is pressure."



Tom is a Canon Ambassador and here is what he takes with him to capture images at a rugby match. To read more about Tom and his photography take a look at the Canon website as there are some interesting articles about his and other sports photography.

Lynne Cameron

British sports photographer Lynne Cameron specialises in football and rugby photography, and currently holds the title of the England Women's football team official photographer. Before being the official photographer for the Lionesses, she was the official photographer for the Rangers FC for 9 years, and the Scottish Rugby Union for 4 years.



Where do you keep your golf glove when driving?

In the glove compartment!

Why are footballers such messy eaters?

Because they are always dribbling!

Some Tips for Sports Photography

Essentially sports photography is about capturing an athlete doing their sport in a way that illustrates the grace and elegance of the movement as well as the emotion of the sport and moment. It should be a photograph that the athlete and the fan can both relate to, and you want it to be an image that captures the intensity of the competition.

The most important thing you'll need to know is how to capture the adventure of the sport. That takes not only technical expertise but talent as well. By looking at photos captured by some of the top sports photographers, you'll see what kinds of angles they used, the kinds of action they captured, and how they managed to seize the intensity of the sport. It should inspire your images. But here's some things you will need to know also:

- Ideally, you will need a digital SLR camera, or a camera that allows you to set your own shutter speed.
- Have a lens or zoom range that is at least 200 mm to allow you to get close to the action and isolate your subjects.
- Do not use full automatic mode. Ideally use a semi-manual mode.
- Use a fast shutter speed. A shutter speed of at least 1/500th of a second is required to freeze movement.
- Use Aperture Priority Mode. When this is done it allows the camera to determine the shutter speed. On a bright sunny day this is usually the best setting to use. By using this mode a large aperture can be set, which is a small f-stop number such as f/2.8 or f/4, allowing the most possible light in. The more light in the camera will allow for a fast shutter speed and the ability to freeze the action.
- Watch your ISO. When shooting in semi-manual modes such as aperture priority or shutter priority you need to set the ISO yourself considering the location, time and conditions of the event you are photographing. For a bright sunny daytime football match for example, a low ISO of 400 will be perfect as there is plenty of light available for the camera to use.



- However if it is a dull overcast day, there is not as much light and you need to tell the camera this by setting the ISO. On a darker day you will need to increase your ISO, usually to around the 800-1200 mark
- Use Shutter Priority Mode if Aperture Priority isn't available. This setting is best used for non-SLR cameras which only have a setting that enables shutter speed. The f/stop should be set at 1/500th of a second as a minimum.
- Use a fast auto-focus and burst mode in order to keep up with fast movements and focus on the subject(s) rather than lock onto one thing. Also set the camera to take multiple images (usually referred to as 'frames per second or burst'). Ensure both of these are switched on your camera. If you have the option to set the number of frames per second always set it to the maximum.
- Position yourself correctly and know your sport. Position yourself with the sun behind you to ensure a lot of light is hitting your subject on the field of play. Knowing your sport means you can anticipate where the ball or action may be.
- Shoot your pictures from a low angle, such as on your knees and use a monopod.

Who was the fastest runner ever?

ADAM – he was first in the human race!

I once met an Olympic Athlete and asked him if he was a pole vaulter. He replied 'No I am German, but how did you know my name is Walter'!

03

Common Problems and how to avoid them

Edition 5

By Mick Schilling

There are Dust Spots on your Sensor that Cause Speckles in the Image

These are usually noticed when stopping a lens down. The dust particles on the sensor become more focused and easier to spot. In fact, the best way to check for dust is to shoot at a grey sky at your highest f number, then zoom the image and scan across it in all sections looking for specks. Once identified the spots can be cloned in post processing, or some cameras can register dust and correct it automatically once set up. Or the sensor can be blown clean with a rocket blower, and sometimes it may need a more intensive clean. Cleaning can be done at home quite easily, though many prefer to get it done professionally. I use a sensor pen in good light in the bathroom which has just cleared of moisture after a shower – the moisture cleans any dust from the air and keeps it off your sensor. There are good guides online.

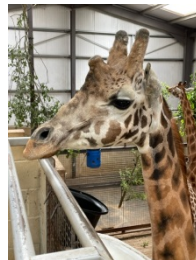
To help prevent dust spots, keep the camera faced down when changing lenses, don't change lenses in dusty environments and use all lens caps when not in use. Certain zoom lenses also pump air through the lens and on to the sensor (fit a high-quality UV or skylight filter to help reduce air ingress), dust can make its way in that way too. Mirrorless cameras whose shutters close when switched off are generally better protected from dust than DSLRs.

04

The President's Picnic

Jenny held her President's Picnic on 16th July at Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens. In advance of the outing she told us "It's got masses of space, beautiful gardens and of course lots of animals, some of which are open to view without wires or enclosures getting in the way of photos. And of course it's going to be lovely weather. The forecast is max mid 20's and upper teens in the morning. And no rain!". Well her promotional advertising didn't disappoint and we were treated to beautiful hot weather (maybe a bit too hot if I am honest both for us humans and the wildlife. Whilst I was looking at the rhinos and lions I really felt I was in Africa, and I would have loved to have been a penguin and be splashing around in the cool water!).

The Wildlife Park itself was large with plenty for us to look at and walk around, and if you didn't feel up to walking there was a land train you could go on. We met up and acclimated ourselves with some lovely refreshments of drinks and Danish pastries supplied by Jenny – a very welcome and good start to build our strength up for all that walking and photography! Then we all dispersed, agreeing to meet-up at lunchtime for our picnic. I walked round with Helen, Georgina and Tracy and we headed off to the rhinos and camels first followed by the lions (who we got a fleeting glimpse of as they were feeding them – but we didn't see them for the rest of the day, it was too hot for them!). The Park is split into different areas with birds, animals etc. but the one place I did not venture into was the reptile house – I don't like things that slither and don't have legs!



Looks like Helen and Georgina are inspired and will be entering some competitions this season!

And my favourite animals of the day, the giraffes. You could get so close to them and the markings on them were just beautiful. Such elegant creatures, very inquisitive and not shy at all.

05

Peer Reviews

By Jolanta B Axon

Some of us have taken part in the Club's Peer Review sessions and I certainly found them extremely useful. But some of you may have held back and wondered what actually went on. This article will try to explain briefly what happens and how useful they can be.

Club members are requested to send up to four images to the facilitator. Usually two groups are set up (that's how it worked on Zoom) and each image is looked at in turn and feedback and suggestions are discussed. It's always been a fairly relaxed and friendly chat within a small group.

It also doesn't matter what ability you are. Members from all three groups are involved (mixed within the groups) and each image submitted is discussed in detail. The aim is that everyone in the group can contribute and in fact, it's like putting us all in a judge's position....to some degree. We learn from looking at others' images and making comments. All these are always very tactful and constructive.

I found it helped me to assess an image which I wasn't quite sure about, whether it needed a different crop or some editing that I hadn't considered. The more experienced facilitator of the group is also able to demonstrate their ideas on editing an image.

Some of the simple edits demonstrated actually changed the image quite dramatically. This image presented by Patrick Reynolds of a steam locomotive was brought to life by 'tweaking' the levels in RAW then again in Photoshop.



Here are some thoughts from a few Club members on the reviews:

Background to the Reviews - Christine Mallet

The Review evenings started in the Club as one of our Thursday evenings. They were then dubbed critique evenings but didn't work too well as insufficient people were willing to have their work "criticised" in front of other people.

When we started doing the workshops in the Community Centre, we tried again with similar results.

BC (Before Covid) I started running the evenings from my home. Because only interested parties came, it worked well and was somewhat cosy.

Now we have new members and the wonders of zoom, the newly titled 'Peer Review' evenings have been very successful, with special thanks to those who have facilitated. Mick and Phil became the facilitators.

Thoughts on Peer Reviews - Mick Schilling

They are a very useful way to get an insight into one's own work from other members. It matters not what 'standard' the member is currently at within the Club, gaining an insight from others is always useful. Even if you don't necessarily agree with what the other members say word for word, they may hit on a small aspect that has been missed, or they may make you think about things differently - and that could make all the difference.

If we stop learning, we stop growing. And we all know what stopping growing means if taken literally!

And we have a good time too!

Peer Reviews - Phil Moorhouse

One positive impact of the pandemic of the past couple of years is that many of us have been motivated to learn a new skill or develop a hobby online. Whether it be learning a new language, taking up salsa dancing, or learning to use a new photo editing package, the magic of the internet managed to preserve the sanity of many of us!

Similarly, Zoom has proved to be the perfect vehicle to deliver our Peer Review evenings, allowing like-minded photographers to share their thoughts and tips for improving their photography. As a host, the aim is always to encourage discussion of our images, facilitating the sharing of ideas and, perhaps, even demonstrating how a picture might be enhanced using editing software. Could the image be improved by 'tweaking' the colours in 'Levels' or using the 'Curves' tool? Would a 'Crop' improve the composition of the image or manage to draw-in the viewer to the subject? Would a simple 'Flip' of the image add impact? Could the 'Healing Brush' tool be useful in removing a bright distraction near the edge of the frame? Or those pesky dust-spots?!

One difficulty we will always face, when running such sessions, is the wide range of different editing packages in use. Some of us use Photoshop Elements, others Photoshop CC, Lightroom, Affinity, Capture-One, the list is endless. However, our Peer Review evenings are not intended to provide workshop sessions on 'How to....', but to explore 'Whether to...' make some changes. We will leave the 'How to...' for another occasion.

Thoughts about Peer Reviews and why I find them so helpful - Jenny Ladbrooke

First and foremost they are fun. Any worries about putting yourself out there by showing your images can be safely set aside because everyone is incredibly supportive and constructive.

Led by one of the more experienced photographers in the Club, images are reviewed in turn. Everyone chips in ideas and changes are made in real time in Photoshop. It always amazes me how often images are transformed with a crop here and a tweak there. The sessions are perfect for trying out an image, often one you like but just aren't sure whether it is good enough or where I've lost the plot about what to do to improve it. I can't recommend these evenings more.



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06

Tis' a Brum Ting ...

I bet like me you are recovering and reflecting on the recent Commonwealth Games held in our very own city of Birmingham. How many of you managed to go and see the infamous 'Bull' the undoubted 'star' of the show? And were you one of the 'Peachy Blinders', that wonderful group of volunteers who were such essential cogs in the Commonwealth machine? And we were blessed with superb weather which made Brum shine. It certainly has put our city back on not only the national but the global map.

Jolanta and David have put pen to paper to give us their thoughts on the Games and I think you will agree their articles are a great read, so enjoy the read. Oh and my favourite moments ... Eilish McColgan getting her gold medal and celebrating with her Mum trackside. The roar that came from the crowd as she hit that final bend brought back memories of Jess Ennis at London 2012. They always say the crowd is the extra bit a sports person needs and they certainly helped Eilish. And of course, the hockey gold medal for England ladies, just superb. As an ex-hockey player I was very interested in this event but I have to say I am glad I have hung up my stick as I don't think I could play at the pace they play today.

My Experience of the Commonwealth Games

By Jolanta B Axon

After years of planning, the Commonwealth Games finally arrived and Perry Barr and Birmingham are firmly placed on the map and well known across the world. There were 72 nations taking part at 15 different venues, so what a tremendous opportunity for so many people across the world to unite and share sporting talents. I was fortunate to get tickets along with my daughter and her partner to 4 days of events which was a great opportunity to experience such a historic sports event and take my camera and zoom lens – of course! I have plenty of record shots and memories to keep forever.

As a spectator at the Alexander Stadium and at Sandwell Aquatic Centre, I was privileged to watch some amazing events, as well as 'Perry' the mascot as he floated around the Stadium.



'Perry' floating and the volunteers or track workers below, walking in an orderly, regimented fashion.

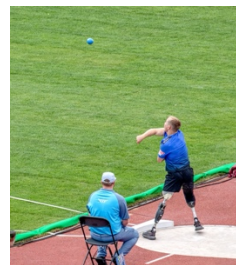
The crowd's endless clapping, cheers and roars added to the excitement and party atmosphere. The Mexican Wave went around endlessly as people didn't want it to stop! Everyone was so happy. The volunteers were almost everywhere and trying to make sure we were in the right place and checking that everyone was alright. They were so friendly and helpful. The 'airport style' security may have been very strict but ensured we were all safe. Safety and security was second to none.

The hosts at the Stadium, Ewan Thomas and Radzi Chinyanganya gave the audience an interesting and often entertaining commentary. A good double act for sure. They tried to involve the children too and one day they invited a little girl from the audience to do the long jump. The crowds roared for her as though she was a famous athlete. Radzi is so very good with children.



Radzi and Ewan presenting with Kadeena Cox, a paralympian athlete.

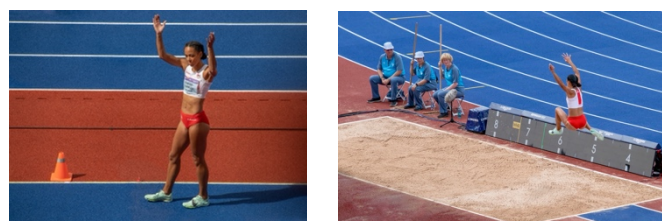
Ellie Simmonds and Dame Kelly Holmes were also involved and presented a couple of athletic events on Thursday to raise funds for Sport Relief. That was televised on the Tuesday straight after the Games had finished. Billy Monger did a sterling job at throwing 'the shot' and although he didn't win against the Paralympic 200m gold medallist, Richard Whitehead, the spirit in which he took part warmed our hearts.



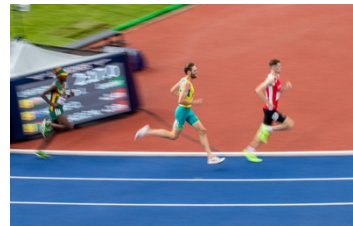
A few of my memorable highlights were seeing these top athletes trying to reach their potential.

Photos of these highlights include:

- Katarina Johnson-Thompson in the high and long jump, two events which contributed to give her the GOLD for England in the Heptathlon. This was thrilling to watch after her big disappointment when she had to pull out with an injury at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.
- Oliver Hoare the current World Champion won GOLD for Australia at 1500 metres and was fantastic! And also Jake Wightman (Scotland) who achieved the Bronze in the same event (while his father did the commentary).
- Zharnel Hughes, the current European champion, achieved SILVER for England in the 200 metres. He ran so fast in the heats that the rest couldn't catch up with him.
- Laura Muir achieved GOLD for Scotland in the 1500 metres and Bronze in the 800 metres. We watched her in the heats.
- And the amazing Jack Laugher and Anthony Harding who we watched achieve GOLD for England in the 3 metre synchronised diving.



Katarina Johnson-Thompson encouraging the crowd before she took the long jump



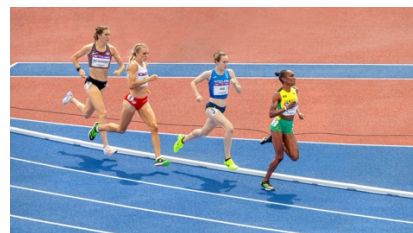
Ollie Hoare...Gold Medalist and World Champion (above centre) striding with ease and overtaking everyone in the 1500 metre heat.



Jake Wightman representing Scotland in one of the heats of 1500 metres (above, fifth from left)

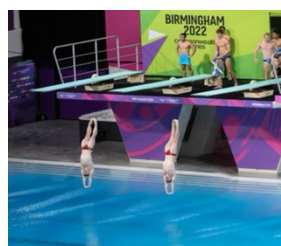


Zharnel Hughes striding ahead in one of the heats of 200 metres



Laura Muir in blue, in the heats of 800 metres

And from Sandwell Aquatic Centre, synchronised diving.

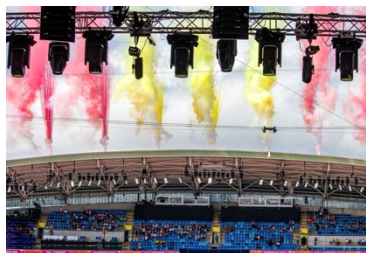


Jack Laugher and Anthony Harding – Gold Medalists

My personal interest in sport and athletics goes back to my childhood when my father, a good sportsman in his youth, shared his passion for sport when teaching me to throw the discus on a beach (a nice flat round stone, I may add!) and attempting high and long jump too. I never achieved the skills good enough to compete at any level but certainly enjoyed athletics at school. My father and I watched many sporting events together on the television and followed athletics/sport news. Fond memories. I also attended Loughborough University (College of Education) and followed the running crowd and still keep in contact with a few. I was lucky enough to meet and watch a few well known Loughborough sportsmen but I won't start name dropping. Inspired by the sports atmosphere and facilities, I starting running while I was there, learned to swim, play squash and generally began to get fit.

The Commonwealth Games was such an honour for Birmingham to host. The sports events showed us those superb physical and mental skills of some really amazing sportsmen and women. I'm in awe of all of these talented people. The organisation of these events took many years of hard work but it paid off. They certainly got it right. It was very much 'inclusivity and togetherness' throughout each event and the competitors and audience seemed to support each other like one big family. What an amazing atmosphere there was. The presenters had all ages in mind, so children or the oldies all enjoyed themselves. The facilities had everything one needed including an abundance of food and drink. Even beer was sold high up in the stands! I have spoken to so many local people about their experiences of the Games and they all enthused and agreed what a great success they were.

Birmingham was united and proud!



The Commonwealth Games – Birmingham 2022

By David Steele

The roar of the crowd echoes around the stadium. The athletes are now running down the home straight, the west stand roars, 50 metres to go, the crowd are on their feet, clapping, shouting, cheering. The whole stadium erupts. I turn to the lady on my left, a total stranger, she smiles I smile back. On my right my brother is glued to the scene unfolding in front of us. What a place to be on the final night of the track and field at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the Alexander Stadium.

My brother and I were lucky to get tickets to the last evening full of finals. We saw Arshed Nadeem of Pakistan throw a Games best in the Javelin, Nigeria's Ese Brume win the Long Jump with a personal best and Commonwealth Games best. There were a number of records broken within these Commonwealth Games.

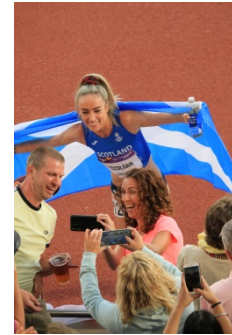
We were privileged to watch the final of the Women's 5000m. The gun fires and immediately Scotland's Eilish McColgan goes to the front closely followed by two Kenyan athletes. Could Eilish win gold again like she did in the 10,000m race a few days ago? The crowd watch in anticipation, these 3 athletes pull away from the rest. They are locked together until the last lap, Eilish leading all the way. The running intensity increases, and one of the Kenyans are dropped, but the one Kenyan remains with Eilish McColgan, with an easy flow to her gait. The final lap the whole stadium is on their feet, shouting, screaming encouragement, clapping, smiling. What an atmosphere, what a night, what a race!! The hairs on my arms stood erect, my skin tingled with the anticipation, an electric shock travelling through the body, and through the Stadium. The final bend and Eilish McColgan is still in the lead, Beatrice Chabet of Kenya immediately behind her. The Stadium was a buzzing, the place trembling with excitement. A bead of sweat dropped from my brow. The final 50 metres and the two athletes were now neck and neck, nothing between them, until the final dip to the line. Beatrice Chebet from Kenya takes the gold, with Eilish McColgan taking silver for Scotland. Eilish had led from the start, only to be beaten on the line.

We now had the 4 x 400 m Women's and Men's relays. This place is going to erupt!!!!

The Alexander Stadium looked magnificent with its 32,000 seats, the sun that had been with us for the whole of the 11 days, finally setting on a truly wonderful Commonwealth Games. The whole organisation had been perfect, the crowds were amazing, cheering on every athlete, even the last to finish athletes that had been lapped several times - they probably got the biggest cheer from the magnificent crowd. Birmingham was amazing. I am proud to say I am a born and bred Brummie, beating my chest with pride. BIRMINGHAM take a bow, you deserve it.



Eilish McColgan in the 5000 metres final



Ese Brume celebrating long jump Gold



And did you know ...

On the logo the **blue and yellow "B" emblem** is meant to link the venues of the sporting events to be held as part of the Games. The colour palette "represents Birmingham as the youngest city in Europe".

The core element of the Brand, 'The Bar', visually represents **the Games' effort to raise the bar of sport for all humanity and a level playing field where athletes compete in a spirit of friendship and fair play.**

And the Birmingham Commonwealth Games' 2022 Motto is "Sport is just the beginning"



07

Living the Dream – the Summer of 2022

By Rosie Thompson

I feel I'm living my best summer ever. I completed year 2 of my degree and cannot believe I've made it into my final year. My Uni course is 4 years in 3, so we get a shorter break, we are back on 31st August this year, so it doesn't give us a lot of time to recoup! However, I am making the most of the time I have had off.

I have travelled around Europe visiting Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Greece, Czech Republic and Disneyland Paris with a trip to London, Ilfracombe and Wales in between! It has been an amazing experience and I have learned so much! I had the pleasure of being bridesmaid at my sister's wedding with the incredible backdrop of Coombe Martin.



On my big trip to Europe, I was closer to Ukraine than I had ever been before. It felt weird looking out on the idyllic landscape thinking that just over there, there is a worn torn country. When visiting Ravenna, Italy, I found myself walking into the Basilica and just sitting for a moment in silence, I was drawn to this building, and they had an area to light candles for Ukraine, I could not resist.

As well as all this I was a member of the Blue and Orange army at the Commonwealth Games and what an experience that was! Even with the 3:30am get ups, I met some incredible people, made memories and it will be an event I will NEVER forget! This was my 3rd major event and I have the bug! Now on the lookout for my next Event, Eurovision 2023? Birmingham Olympics 2036? Who knows! Any suggestions welcome!

I don't think any summer will beat this, especially at a time like this, all while still working in the Covid Vaccine Programme. Memories are those we hold close to our hearts. It hasn't all been plain sailing and as glamorous as it sounds, there have been huge bumps in the road, but I feel very thankful to have had all these experiences.



08

Photography Podium

'Our next Competition'

Don't forget our competition coming up. You still have time to enter ... entries to be in by 25th August 2022.

As Phil so aptly describes it "Another challenge for you" Here's the information about it again.



For our first session back in the Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 8th September, we plan to host a *Members' Choice* evening showcasing the photography of our own members. The format will be:

1. Each member can send up to 4 favourite images, not necessarily competition winners, but maybe something conjuring up a special memory, or remembering a special place or an image with a personal significance. Competition winners/Exhibition successes are equally welcome.
2. Each image should be accompanied by a brief description, perhaps where it was taken, when it was taken, why it is special. No need to write a Wikipedia entry!, just 3 or 4 lines occupying no more than about 30 seconds to read. Send the text in the body of your email, with the pictures attached to the usual address: shirleyphotos@hotmail.co.uk, with 'Members Choice in the Subject line.
The usual resolution of 1600 x 1200 is perfect.
3. Phil will compile a video to present your contributions on the night, with a voice-over.

Entry: 4 images, any subject, any theme, any year
Email: shirleyphotos@hotmail.co.uk
Format: 1600 x 1200 ideally, Title-Author-01.jpg
Deadline: Thursday 25th August midnight

Example commentaries:

'This is the pier at Bournemouth Beach photographed by AN Other, a classic example of a Victorian Pier, home to a Theatre, Amusement Arcades , Cafes and Kiosks. This image reminds me of those childhood summer holidays spent on the beach. The days were long and hot and we played on the sand until late, whilst being sunburnt to a cinder!'

'This is a shot of a rare Black Wildebeest (or Gnu) photographed by NH Author on safari in South Africa. Let's face it the Wildebeest is never going to win any beauty contests, with its short neck, beard and skinny legs, but they are a rare sight and I was delighted to look at the back of my camera to find this shot was pin sharp.'

'This is a treasured shot of my dad enjoying a pony ride with his granddaughters on the beach at Pendine Sands. Pendine Sands, made famous as the location for numerous world land speed records, including Malcolm Campbell's record-breaking 146mph in 1924. Happily my dad, on-board Major Tom, didn't break any speed records. The photo is by'



09

External Recognition

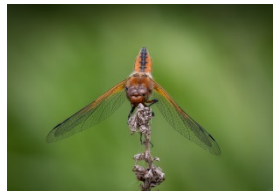
Congratulations to Mick Schilling who got 7 images accepted into Winchester, one of which was a Certificate of Merit for his image 'Heading out to see Grandma'. Mick's now on 46 points with only 4 more to go until he has his BPE2*. So fingers crossed he gets those few points soon. Then he has set his sights on DPAGB.



Following Winchester Mick then had 5 images accepted into Beyond Group BPE which means he now has is BPE2*, so very many congratulations Mick on all your hard work and the recognition you are getting it is well deserved. Keep on clicking that shutter!

Mick's images were:

Heading out to see Grandma
Lines in the Sand
Drawing Attention
Scarce Chaser
Male Banded Demoiselle



If any of you enter any competitions and get any external recognitions like this then please drop me a line so that I can add it into the Newsletter. It's great to see what everyone is up to and the accolades they receive.



See you in September