

Editorial

UPY 2019

One of the most personally rewarding aspects of being involved as a judge in the UPY Competition is completing the 'Judge's comments' for the winning images.

Back in 2015 when UPY was re-ignited from the Brighton Film Festival, judge's comments were only added to the First, Second and Third placed images and when I look at that first Yearbook now, the Highly Commended and Commended image pages feel distinctly bare without any additional comments from the judges.

This year's competition attracted more photographers than ever before, over 10% more than last year's record

numbers. Entries came in from 65 different countries and we're thrilled that our entry has averaged close to 5000 pictures over each of the last 3 years.

It is difficult for me to describe the feeling of anticipation I have when we three judges convene each year to view your images. We have a social evening beforehand knowing that tomorrow we have been entrusted to view the very best underwater images from around the world.

Now I think it's fair to say that the majority of those images will have been taken within the last 12 months and as such they offer an

unprecedented snapshot of the current trends and techniques, subjects and styles which provide proof of our rudimentary health.

This year's entry was no exception but there were a couple of areas which I thought were especially encouraging and that was the Wrecks category and the British entries overall. Wrecks because photographers have embraced the capability of today's amazing LED lights by not only harnessing their power but also by using them to highlight and enhance. It has brought an extra dimension into images and so breathed new life into the

wrecks themselves. As a keen wreck photographer I fully appreciate the dedication and teamwork that these images require and their efforts have not gone unnoticed by me.

The British entries overall showed the great potential we have in our waters by using overseas techniques of background lighting, controlled depth of field and space creation in what had traditionally been perceived as dark, drab and difficult. I look forward to further developments.

You can download the Yearbook here: [Link](#)

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