

British and Irish Underwater Photography Championship (BIUPC) 2022 winners

by Nick Watson

‘Bristol photographer takes top honours in competition with stunning image of Bobtail squid whilst night diving off South Devon coast’:

The British Society of Underwater Photographers (BSoUP) are once again pleased to announce results of The British and Irish Underwater Photography Championship (BIUPC) which was held on 3rd September 2022.

For Underwater Photographers, a “splash-in” is a competition that takes place on a single nominated day, when photographers jump into the water to compete against each other.

Traditionally, these competitions have been restricted to particular locations, but BIUPC is unique in that it has developed a format to allow pictures to be taken anywhere within the coastal or inland waterways of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. This has hugely increased the richness and variety of pictures submitted for judging, and so truly allows for a snapshot of the underwater environment captured photographically around these shores



Kirsty Andrews, the BIUPC Champion 2022. Her bobtail squid image won the close-up category and the coveted Peter Scoones memorial Trophy.

under time pressure.

There are three main categories for competitors:

- Wide Angle (open)
- Close Up (open)
- Compact Camera (restricted).

Each of these categories will have one winner, and one overall

Champion is chosen from these 3 images. The ultimate prize is the coveted Peter Scoones memorial Trophy.

There is also a category for:

- Human Impact on UK and Irish Marine and freshwater Environments (but this isn't included

for the Overall Champion).

- ‘Newcomers’ – those who haven’t been taking pictures underwater for more than three 3 years, and are eligible to become Overall Champion (it’s the quality of the image that counts not the equipment or experience).





(Top left) Paul Colley won the wide-angle category with a freshwater river image of schooling trout .

(Bottom left) Grant McCarry's Octopus at Twin Piers Loch Long, Scotland took the restricted camera category with his octopus image.

(Above) Jon Bunker won the human impact on the environment category with a shipwreck at night. MV RMS Mulheim against Milky Way. Wrecked in March 2003 at Land's End, Cornwall.

53 images were submitted in total, with 30 entrants, 3 in the restricted category. Results were announced online at the BSoUP monthly meeting held on 20th September 2022.

Big thank yous to judges Trevor Rees and Richard Thorn. Also to event organisers Nick Watson and Sarah White, who put in many hard yards backstage to enable this unique islands-wide on-the-day competition.

www.bsoup.org

Don't settle for 2nd best



Film - No Filter No
White Balance



Digital - No Filter Manual
White Balance



Magic Filter Manual
White Balance

Digital cameras have opened up new possibilities to underwater photographers. For available light photography manual white balance is an invaluable tool for restoring colours. But when you use it without a filter you are not making the most of the technique. You're doing all the hard work without reaping the full rewards. These three photos are all taken of the same wreck in the Red Sea. The left hand image was taken on slide film, which rendered the scene completely blue. The middle image is taken with a digital SLR without a filter, using manual white balance. The white balance has brought out some of the colour of the wreck, but it has also sucked all the blue out of the water behind the wreck, making it almost grey. The right hand image is taken with the same digital camera and lens, but this time using an original Magic Filter. The filter attenuates blue light meaning that the colours of the wreck are brought out and it stands out from the background water, which is recorded as an accurate blue.

www.magic-filters.com