

Editorial

Competitions

A quick electronic flick through this issue will confirm that it is very 'competition heavy' and there's no harm in that. Each bi-monthly issue of UwP reflects what's been happening since the last one and this time it seems that it's been competitions.

Speaking personally, I stopped entering underwater photographic competitions when I started losing. That way I didn't get disappointed and the judges didn't get blamed for their lack of taste.

However there is no doubt that competitions are very much a part of our world whether it is to promote a particular area or purely underwater photography itself.

Later in this issue you can read my article about being a judge at the El Hierro Open Fotosub competition and I hope it gives you an insight from a judge's point of view because, whenever you enter a competition, you must try and submit an entry to suit them rather than you. Hopefully the team of judges are sufficiently experienced to come up with a justifiable winning order which includes you at the top but please don't get twisted because you didn't win (or, god forbid, didn't even get a

place!)

Primarily your underwater photography should be about taking shots that please you but if you want win competitions then you must take shots that are aimed at pleasing those particular judges rather than yourself.

Fortunately you have a tremendous research resource in the 'net' which can show you what style of images were successful in competitions in previous years but, as with the El Hierro Open Fotosub and almost every competition like it, the judges change each year and they all have differing tastes.

As a result you must try and produce graphically simple, well exposed and composed images to create an instant appeal with the judges.

Also in a portfolio style competition, I hope I speak on behalf of all judges of such categories in that submission of 'similar' shots degrades the value of the portfolio.

If it's a portfolio they're looking for, surely they don't want photographic repetition so submit a healthy variety of subjects and techniques and you could be in with a chance.

If not, please don't take it out on the judges.

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com



Issue 75/4

DiveQuest

THE ULTIMATE IN DIVING HOLIDAYS & UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

Photo: Martin Edge



www.divequest-divingholidays.com

Truk: The Art of Underwater Photography with Shannon Conway 4-11th May 2014
Bahamas: The Ultimate Sharks & Dolphins Photography Tour with Charles Hood 16-23 May 2014
French Polynesia: Humpback Whale encounters with Charles Hood September 2014
Lembeh: Critters of the Black Sand with Graham Abbott 4-14 November 2014
Raja Ampat: Including the Blue Water Mangroves with Graham Abbott and Shannon Conway
14-25 November 2014 (FULLY BOOKED) (Taking expressions of interest for 2015)

