

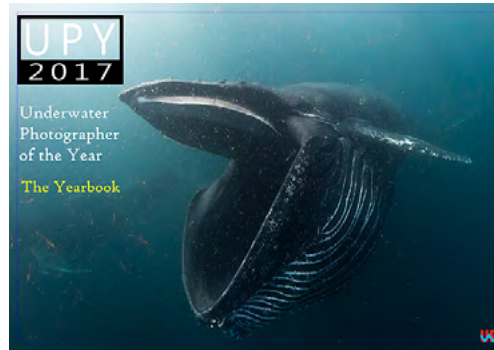
I couldn't let this issue go by without mentioning UPY 2017 and to say a big thank you to all of you who took part and contributed to the biggest ever entry.

With over 4,500 images, we were 35% up and with entrants from 67 countries, that was a 25% increase.

The most pleasing increase, came from the number of entries in the Compact category and especially the British Compact category. Both of these are aimed at encouraging those users to feel included and given their space away from SLR users. Take a detailed look at the winners in both of these categories and you will see that their results are equally as impressive as the others.

But these are just statistics. What is not possible to quantify statistically is the standard of entries this year and these have definitely gone up another gear. You surpassed last years extremely high standards and took UPY 2017 to a new level of excellence which I hope you will appreciate in the 2017 Yearbook which UwP produces for UPY. The 4 main winners and 6 of my favourites are featured from page 27.

From my own point of view, I have been captivated not only by



the winning images but also by the stories behind how those images were achieved. The conception, the planning and the physical effort to achieve a successful result; it is those efforts that we, as judges, pay our respects to by taking out two days to meet up, sit together and look in detail at all the images. It is a mammoth task but one that we all agree is a privilege to be part of.

Finally, every issue of the Yearbook provides you with the perfect reference work to study what works and is successful in our competition so that you can go out over the next year to embrace your underwater photography and come up with more groundbreaking images that will inspire us, the judges, and you, the entrants, in 2018.

I'm looking forward to next year already.

One part of my job as Chairman of the Judges at UPY 2017 was to liaise with the press to get publicity for the results.

Last year we were contacted by just over 100 websites and publications and this year that figure doubled to just over 200. There is a list on the link below.

The vast majority were websites of all shapes and sizes and big players such as National Geographic, Washington Post and the BBC right down to The Weather Channel! The publicity they provided was enormous and global.

Yet with all this coverage it was still a print publication which gratified me the most. My local paper is the Western Morning News and when they contacted me I was excited to encourage them to use the images shot in local waters by local underwater photographers.

I sent them the press pack on Thursday, we had a couple of e mail queries on the Friday and then on the Saturday I was delighted to see the attached spread on page 3 with another local shot on the front cover. Kirsty Andrews' lovely shot of a gesturing Cuttlefish was featured the largest. It was probably the least



circulation of all of our press coverage but because it was local and in print, it somehow meant a lot more.

That lovely cosy glow faded unfortunately quite quickly when I thumbed through to the Lifestyle section and there was a double page spread on "How to cook and eat Cuttlefish!" Apparently our local fishing town Brixham is the epicentre for cuttlefish catch and on a good day can process 6-7,000 tonnes a day. Most goes to the continent but my elation went to deflation in a very short space of time.

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