

Good Evening everybody. I'm getting a feeling of deja vu. Eleven years ago I stood here and was greatly honoured to take on the role of President of Sheffield Photographic Society. This time the honour is no less than in 2007/8 and I am looking forward with enthusiasm to this my second term of office.

My first pleasant duty is to thank the outgoing President, John Ferretti for all he has done for the Society in the past year. Everything John did was in his own quiet, efficient and effective style - whether it was Tuesday evening meetings welcoming our speakers, judges and new members or chairing council meetings. He continued with Ann Turner's initiative of sending a weekly newsletter which kept us all well informed particularly if we missed a meeting. He selected the images which appeared monthly in the Sheffield Star and he was a member of the team which selected images to represent the club in various competitions. He had the major additional task this year of helping with our arrangements for hosting the YPU Exhibition which opens this coming Saturday. I'm sure it will be a great success. Additional to his President's role he continued to organise a Summer and Xmas Dinner at Sparks Restaurant which many of us thoroughly enjoy. He did all of this whilst stressing over his team, Bolton Wanderers, fighting a relegation battle. Ladies and Gentlemen please let us thank John in the usual way for serving the Society so well.

Looking forward to the coming year my overriding aim is for us to play to our strengths and continue to be an inclusive, warm and welcoming club providing opportunities for everyone to enjoy and improve their photography. Mike Smith has organised another good programme for 2018/19 with an interesting mix of internal and external speakers. Eleven years ago I was asked which guest speakers I would like invited. Without hesitation my first choice was Tony Worobiec who kindly accepted and provided a superb evening with quality images of abandoned homesteads in North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. This coming year Tony is making a return visit to the club.

My choice for the theme night is "Power". There are lots of possibilities here and you can start as early as tomorrow!

Now to announce the President Elect. Shhhhh... which was the title of his image which was used for last year's Annual Exhibition poster and this year his "The Ghost Crew" won the Monochrome Trophy. I'm pleased to announce that

Gareth Morgan has accepted my invitation to be President Elect and take over as President this time next year. I'm looking forward to working with Gareth in the coming year and I'm sure he will make a very good President.

I hope to see many of you at the Assembly on Saturday and at the Summer Programme Events.