

Happy Snapping

Heather Tucker recently went along to find out more about the Images International Photography Club in The Hague.

About once a month, hidden away on the ground floor of the Photo Museum after closing hours, you can find a group of close to 50 people that gets together for the love of photography and the desire to improve their shots. They are the English-speaking Images International Photography Club in The Hague.

How often and where do they meet?

Images hold monthly meetings in The Hague, as well as extra evenings for beginners, the critique of photos, field trips, visits to exhibitions, practical sessions/workshops, and social evenings. They also hold regular exhibitions and host a Photographer of the Year competition and Photo of the Month. Monthly meetings are held from 8 – 10pm in the lounge area of the Café-Restaurant Gember, located at the Museum of Photography in The Hague.

Who are the members?

When the club first started, back in 1984, the membership was a bit smaller than it currently is and was made up of mainly Dutch, British and American members. It has grown dramatically over the years and now has around 85 members, from a wide range of countries and at all different levels (beginners to advanced), with about 45 people attending the monthly meetings.

Does it cost to join?

There is an annual membership fee to join the club - €40 for full membership, €20 for student membership and €15 for associate membership. The membership year starts on September 1st and ends on

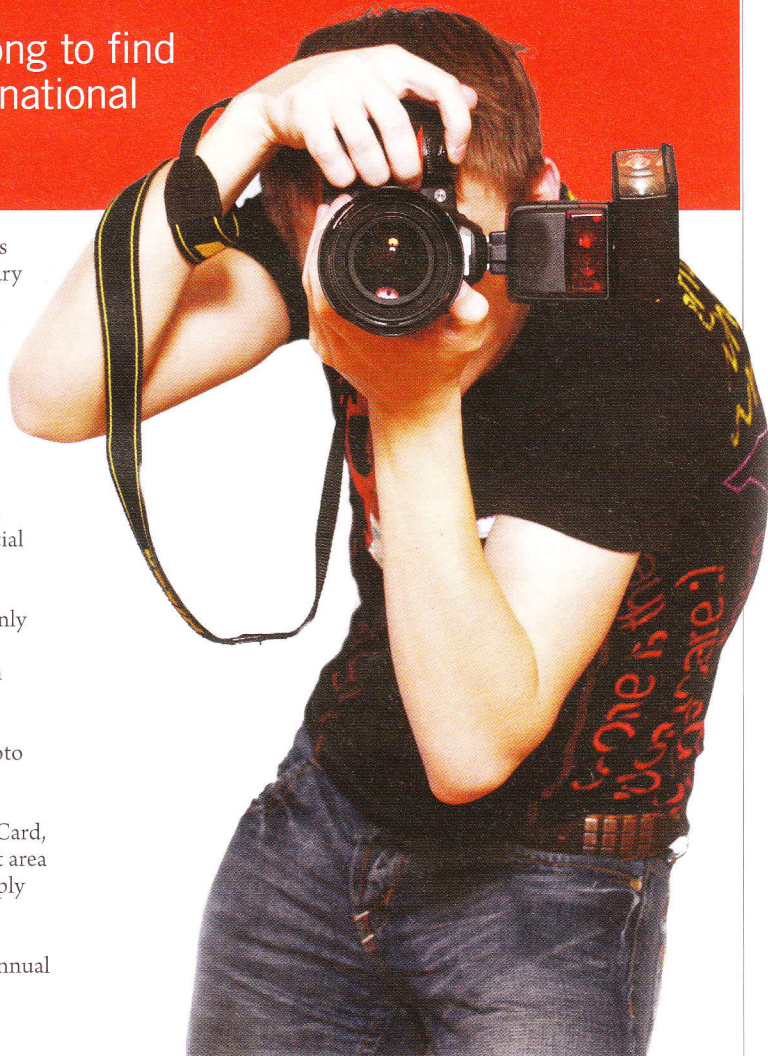
August 31st. New members who subscribe after February 1st receive the rest of the membership year at 50 per cent of the full-year cost.

Membership includes:

- Attendance at all meetings/free fieldtrips
- Emails of newsletters, information, and special mailings
- Access to members-only forum topics on the Images website forum
- Participation in club competitions and photo exhibits*
- Images Membership Card, including discounts at area photography and supply stores
- Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting*
- Ability to post your portfolio on the Images website

There is an open door policy, allowing you to attend one meeting for free to see if this is the group for you.

*Items marked with an * are not included in the associate membership.*



What has been the most exciting event to date?

From speaking to the members, there were two clear favourites – the first was a recent trip to the animal park, Apenheul and the second was a trip to a

professional Dutch photographer's studio. While both events were described as fun and an opportunity to learn new things and/or take some interesting pictures, what really came through in the stories I heard was the great bond that the members of this group has. This is something that shines through from the moment you walk in the door and an atmosphere that you quickly become a part of as well.

For more information on Images International Photography Club, including membership information or to find out the date of the next meeting, visit: www.imagesphotoclub.com.

FACT:

In 2000 the Images Club was down to two members and it was agreed to suspend the club for one year and to use that time to focus on increasing membership numbers.