

The 24th National Audio Visual Championship (NAVC) 2026

Message from the NAVC Chair

Alastair Taylor ARPS, DPAGB/AV, AV-AFIAP

Dear AV Enthusiasts

I hope you are beaver away preparing your AV Productions for this years NAVC. The window opens for entries in three months time so there is plenty of time for you to get your entries together. Here are *five good reasons* why you should enter.

1. *You produce some brilliant AVs.* I have had the great pleasure of judging several regional AV competitions this year and I am always amazed by the quality and variety of productions. Don't be shy. Your work deserves to be seen on the big screen and with big sound. It is definitely good enough. And if you are a first time entrant, we have a special section.
2. *You must help us keep the NAVC alive and well.* This is the 24th NAVC and with your help we will be able to make the 25th. That will be a wonderful landmark but we won't make twenty five unless we have a successful twenty fourth will we?
3. *The NAVC is open to all – yes that means you!* On several occasions I have heard people say that they didn't enter because they thought the NAVC was limited to RPS members. That is not true. The NAVC is open to everyone regardless of membership. This means that we receive entries from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Gibraltar, and other dependencies.
4. *There are some exciting new innovations for 2026.* As part of our commitment to keep the NAVC alive and well, we have introduced a range of innovations; we have expanded the eligibility so that anyone from across the British Isles and its dependencies can enter; we have introduced a New Talent section, judged separately with the top six entries going forward to the main NAVC; and we have introduced an expanded range of medals, certificates, and prizes recognising excellence across creative and technical disciplines.
5. *We have lined up some incredible judges.* Keith Leedham, Cathy Fordham and Mark Allen are very much looking forward to looking at your work. All three are disappointed that they can't enter (but that improves our chances of success doesn't it!). We have to keep them on their toes don't we. By entering you will be doing that.

So there are five good reasons to enter the NAVC. In the next update, I will tell you five more. In the meantime keep an eye on the website which is already populated with all of the information you need. Visit: <https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/national-av-championship-2026/>

We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 NAVC in November

Please read on for more information on the NAVC

The 24th National Audio Visual Championship (NAVC) 2026

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 November 2026

Smethwick Photographic Society Club Rooms, West Midlands

The countdown has begun for one of the most anticipated events in the Audio Visual calendar. The 24th National Audio Visual Championship (NAVC) will take place on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November 2026 at the Smethwick Photographic Society Club Rooms, West Midlands.

Bringing together the finest AV producers from across the British Isles and beyond, the NAVC continues to showcase the very best in photographic storytelling, creativity, sound, and visual presentation. The 2026 Championship promises an unforgettable weekend of inspiration, innovation, and friendship within the AV community — whether you are competing, supporting fellow producers, or simply enjoying the atmosphere.

An Unmissable Weekend

The National Audio Visual Championship is far more than a contest. It is an opportunity to:

- Experience outstanding AV productions
- Discover new ideas and creative approaches
- Meet and reconnect with AV friends and colleagues
- Celebrate the artistry of photographic storytelling
- Support emerging talent within the AV community

Key Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date
Entry Opens	Monday 28 September 2026
Closing Date for Entries	11.59 pm – Sunday 25 October 2026
NAVC Weekend	Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 November 2026

For More Information

Website: <https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/national-av-championship-2026/>

NAVC Chair: Alastair Taylor ARPS, DPAGB/AV, AV-AFIAP

Email: rpsavgroup@gmail.com

Judging Panel

The Championship will be judged live, with every production projected on the big screen using a top-quality projection system and professional sound facilities, creating a truly immersive AV experience. We have an outstanding panel of experienced AV practitioners:

Keith Leedham FRPS EFIAP FIPF (Head Judge)



Keith is an active members of the Essex Audio Visual Group and has been engaged in the world of AV or many years. He is a previous winner of the NAVC and the International AV Festival. Keith served on the RPS International AV Festival committee for 28 years. Keith has been entering national and international AV festivals for many years and finds AV a good way to express himself.

I have learnt so much by researching my own and watching other people's sequences. In order to try and give something back to my hobby I became chairman of the RPS AV Group committee for five years and also have been a member of the RPS distinctions panel. I am interested in close up and nature photography and many of my sequences are on that subject. I spend a lot of time watching and photographing insects. I love music and my love of music helps me in the making of my sequences.

Cathy Fordham CPAGB/AV



AV is a wonderful medium and I thoroughly enjoy having the germ of an idea and then realising it via photography, script writing, voice over, sound effects and of course, editing. I have won gold medals at the RPS NAVC, Jurassic Coast International Salon and the IAC Peter Coles Competition. A medal I am particularly proud of is the FICS medal for best sound, won at the RPS IAV Competition in 2023.

When judging I shall be looking for productions that are engaging visually and emotionally and show a high standard of photography.

Mark Allen MPAGB/AV



Based in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Mark first began working in AV by creating slideshows of his travels abroad. After discovering "photo harmony," he developed an interest in AV competitions. He won the UK Photo Harmony AV Competition in 2015. He is a past NAVC Champion and a recipient of the Sir George and Lady Doreen Pollock Medal, for an AV produced entirely from iPhone 6 images. Mark achieved the MPAGB/AV in 2022.

His AV work is rooted in strong still photography, but he places particular emphasis on storytelling, emotional impact, and carefully crafted sound design. He pays close attention to visual continuity and what he describes as an overall production of "interestingness." Mark is a member of the world-famous Catchlight Camera Club and is respected for his judging and mentoring work.

Exciting New Innovations for 2026

Expanded Eligibility

For the first time, the NAVC welcomes entries from AV producers across the entire British Isles and its dependencies, including England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Gibraltar, and other dependencies.

New Talent Section

A dedicated New Talent Section will be judged separately from the main Championship and will include its own awards, prizes, and constructive feedback.

Top six New Talent entries will automatically progress into the main NAVC competition.

Definition of New Talent:

"AV workers who have not won an award in a National or International salon, competition, or festival."

Enhanced Awards & Recognition

The 2026 Championship introduces an expanded range of medals, certificates, and prizes recognising excellence across creative and technical disciplines, including:

- Landscape, documentary, travel, and nature productions
- Storytelling and screenplay
- Sound design and use of video
- Technical innovation and production skills

The NAVC aims to inspire AV producers to experiment, innovate, refine their craft, and continue pushing the boundaries of the medium.



NAVC 2026

RPS AUDIO VISUAL GROUP

24th RPS National Audio Visual Championship, SMETHWICK, November 14th - 15th 2026

THE **RPS**
ROYAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

Images from the 2024 NAVC

