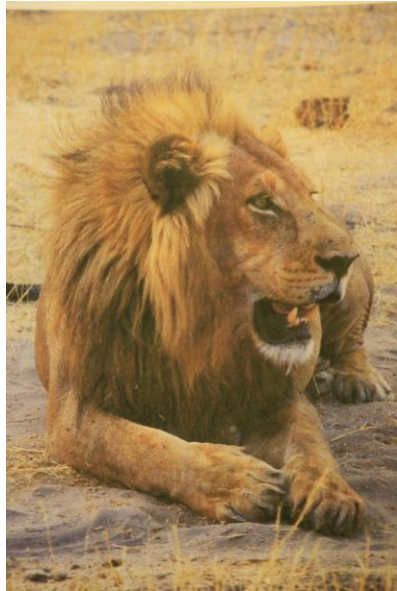


Wildlife in Acrylics – L Paul Matthews- 9 March 2015

Paul's subject for the evening was a lion from a photograph taken by himself in Botswana.



He started out by sketching out the general proportions with a pencil working on the relationships between the ears, eyes, nose, jawbone, etc; he noted that there was a vertical from the extended mouth to the eye.



He was using a soft pencil, more like a pastel pencil which he likes for drawing although he doesn't use it for shading during this stage as the graphite would dirty the paint when applied.

Paul then went on to a similar sketch that he had prepared earlier with a sepia wash on canvas paper; sepia to make it a warm picture and also it is a 'Lion-ish' sort of colour.



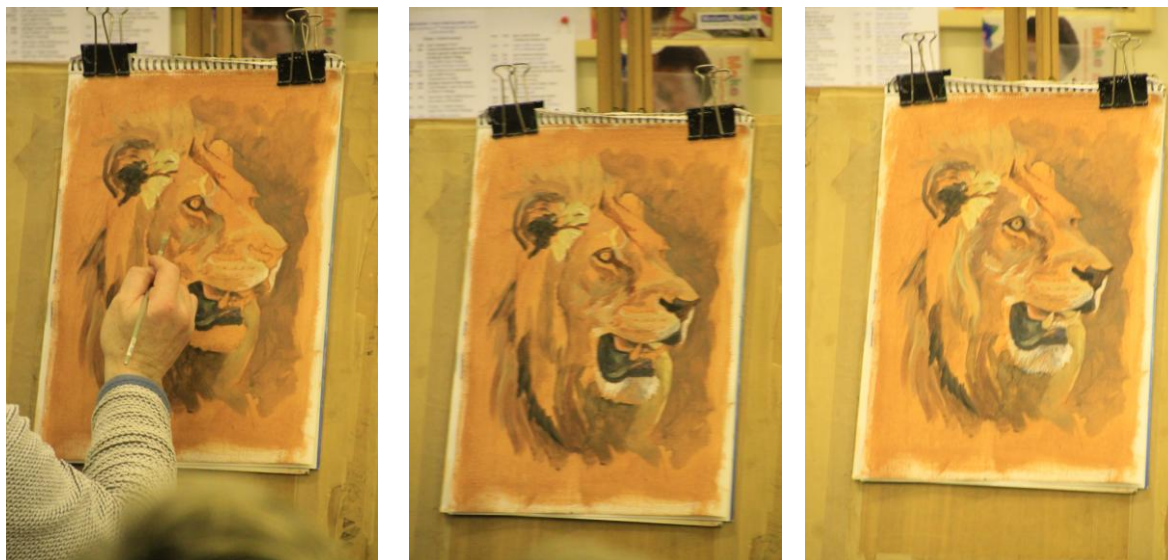
He then painted in some background colour: Naples Yellow, Cobalt Blue and Burnt Umber and then some Paynes Grey and Burnt Sienna round the eyes. Paul said he uses a stay-wet palette and uses the paints straight from the tube. He then added some Naples Yellow round the eyes and some for the start of the mane. He follows the contours of the subject with the brush strokes.



Paul was using a flat brush as he said that it could be used either wide or thin.

He put a few more Burnt Umber bits with Cobalt Blue and Paynes Grey. Some of the paints he was mixing on the canvas which is something that can be done with both acrylics and oils.

Some highlights were put in on the muzzle to give him guidelines for the rest of the muzzle.



But although he was being quite loose with the paint, he was still following the shape of the muzzle with the brushstrokes. Some more highlights were put in around the mouth to indicate the direction of the light. Big Cat canines usually tend to look as though they need some dental hygiene but the smaller teeth are whiter. As the detail is added Paul uses a finer and finer brush. He avoids using too much white in an animal painting as he says it can deaden it; just a hint, he mixes a trace of Naples Yellow with the white, Viridian to make it cooler or Alizarin Crimson to make it warmer.

Paul with the picture at the end of the evening

