

Whitchurch Photographic Society- Club competition rules

Introduction

Members should read these rules when planning to enter any Club competition. They specify the general and specific rules for both club and friendly competitions. At the end of the document (section F) is a tabular summary to make it easy to see the major factors in each competition. The rules now include definitions of genres for club competitions for your guidance (section D). Competition dates will be published in the club programme.

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A. Competition rules

1. General rules

- a. Members must have paid their annual WPS subscriptions before they are eligible to enter any competition.
- b. For club competitions, prints and PDI's must be entered using PhotoEntry. More detail is given in Section E. For people without the necessary IT equipment, an arrangement for an alternative way of entry can be made with the Competitions Secretary. PDIs can also be emailed to images@whitchurchphotographicsociety.org.uk to arrive no later than one week before the competition, by prior arrangement with the Competitions Secretary. In exceptional circumstances, prints and PDIs can be brought to the Competitions Secretary's home by prior arrangement. No entries will be accepted for club competitions on the night of the competition.
- c. For friendly competitions, entries can be made in advance or on the night of the competition.
- d. There are normally five formal club competitions each year:
 - i) Open
 - ii) Set Subject x2
 - iii) This Year's Work
 - iv) Image of the Year.
- e. Club competitions will be judged by an external judge. The judge will be asked to provide a score of 1-20 for each image.
- f. At the end of each season, trophies and certificates will be awarded to winners as appropriate. See section C below.
- g. There are normally three* informal friendly competitions per year:
 - v) Captured in camera
 - vi) It's a Knock-out, PDIs
 - vii) Panel/Audio Visual (with 2 sections on the same evening).

*Panel & Audio Visual competitions will alternate annually.
- h. Friendly competitions will be judged by the members present at the meeting. Members can vote for their own entry if they wish.

- i. The specific rules for all competitions are given in section A2 below.
- j. A picture may be entered in no more than three WPS 'Club Competitions'. However, if it is placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in any club competition then it will be ineligible for any further WPS Club Competitions, other than the Image of the Year competition. An image entered as a print cannot be entered as a PDI in future, and vice versa. An image which is no longer eligible for this reason cannot be made eligible again by re-processing it or by changing its title.
- k. Prints in all competitions can be commercially or home processed. Any digital manipulation of elements of an image must be the member's own work and based on original photographic material taken by the member.
- l. Printed images in all competitions can be any size, but must be mounted in (or on) a 50cm x 40cm mount board. Smaller mounts will not be accepted. The back of the mount should be smooth with no loose, sticky or abrasive edges.
- m. Prints must be titled and carry the member's current membership number in the top left-hand corner on the back of the mount, but must not include the member's name.
- n. PDIs should conform to the PDI specification (see full description below, in section B).
- o. Prints and PDIs achieving a score of 17 (Highly Commended) can be considered for external (inter-club) competitions. Authors of prints will be requested to loan their print(s) for possible selection for this. Prints scoring below 17 will be returned to their author after each competition.
- p. Members should exercise a focus of self censorship as the preferred approach to any potentially contentious images, prints, etc., proposed to be used in competitions, exhibitions, presentations etc. If in doubt the member concerned should discuss this with the President or Chairman as appropriate before submitting any such image.

2. Specific competition rules

a) Open competition (club competition)

'Zoom Based'

- i) The topic for this competition is open.
- ii) Each member can enter up to 2 colour PDIs and 2 monochrome PDI's.
- iii) The original image may have been taken at any time.

At 'Pearl Yard'

- i) The topic for this competition is open.
- ii) Each member can enter up to 2 monochrome prints, 2 colour prints, and 2 PDI's.
- iii) The original image may have been taken at any time.

b) Set subject competitions (club competition)

'Zoom Based'

- i) The topic for one the two competitions will be decided by the committee, with the other being decided by the WPS members.
- ii) Each member can enter up to 2 colour PDI's and 2 monochrome PDI's.
- iii) The original image may have been taken at any time.
- iv) The judge will be asked to penalise all entries which, in his / her opinion, give a poor representation of the stated subject.

At 'Pearl Yard'

- i) The topic for one the two competitions will be decided by the committee, with the other being decided by the WPS members.
- ii) Each member can enter up to 2 monochrome prints, 2 colour prints, and 2 PDI's.
- iii) The original image may have been taken at any time.
- iv) The judge will be asked to penalise all entries which, in his / her opinion, give a poor representation of the stated subject.

c) This Year's Work (club competition)

'Zoom Based'

- i) The topic for this competition is open.
- ii) Each member can enter up to 2 colour PDI's and 2 monochrome PDI's.
- iii) The original image must have been taken in the year (365 days) prior to the competition date.

At 'Pearl Yard'

- i) The topic for this competition is open.
- ii) Each member can enter up to 2 monochrome prints, 2 colour prints, and 2 PDI's.
- iii) The original image must have been taken in the year (365 days) prior to the competition date.

d) Image of the Year competition (club competition)

'Zoom Based'

- i) Members must have entered another club competition of the same type (prints or PDIs) this club year to be eligible to enter this competition
- ii) Each member can enter up to 2 colour PDI's and 2 monochrome PDI's.
- iii) The original image may have been taken at any time.
- iv) Pictures that have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in earlier competitions can be entered into this competition unless it has won the Image of the Year competition in a previous year.

At 'Pearl Yard'

- i) Members must have entered another club competition of the same type (prints or PDIs) this club year to be eligible to enter this competition
- ii) Each member can enter up to 2 monochrome prints, 2 colour prints, and 2 PDI's.
- iii) The original image may have been taken at any time.
- iv) Pictures that have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in earlier competitions can be entered into this competition unless it has won the Image of the Year competition in a previous year.

e) Created in Camera Competition (friendly competition)

'Zoom Based' or at 'Pearl Yard'

- i) This competition is for images with minimal computer manipulation.
- ii) It is for PDIs only.
- iii) The topic for this competition is open.
- iv) Each member can enter up to 2 PDI's.
- v) No parts of the photograph may be removed, added or moved by software.
- vi) Images may be cropped, sharpened, adjusted for saturation and contrast and have dust spots removed, but no other manipulation is allowed.
- vii) Entrants may be required to provide both the original image and the final entry. (Only the entry will be judged).

f) It's a Knock-out, PDIs (friendly competition)

'Zoom Based' or at 'Pearl Yard'

- i) The topic for this competition is open.
- ii) This competition is for PDIs only.
- iii) Each member can enter up to 4 PDI's (2 colour, 2 mono).
- iv) The original image may have been taken at any time.
- v) The PDIs will be shown in random order, two at a time. The club members will vote for their preferred one of the two. The winning PDI will pass to the next round. In the event of a tie, three members volunteering at the start of the evening will have the casting vote.
- vi) Any PDI left unpaired at the end of each round will be given a bye to the next round.

g) Audio visual (friendly competition)

'Zoom based' or at 'Pearl Yard'

- i) The topic for this competition is open.

- ii) Members can enter up to 2 entries in either or both of two categories – Images to Music, and Documentaries.
- iii) The topic for both these categories is open.
- iv) AVs should be presented as EXE or AVI files unless previously agreed with the Competition Secretary.
- v) Members present will score each entry out of 10 marks. The entry with the highest total score in each category will be the category winner.

h) Panel competition (friendly competition)

'Zoom Based'

- i) The topic for this competition is open.
- ii) Members can enter up to 2 entries.
- iii) 3 or more colour and/or mono PDIs which are linked or related to a subject/topic.
- iv) Presented online by the author as if they were a panel. Max 7 images.

At 'Pearl Yard'

- i) The topic for this competition is open.
- ii) Members can enter up to 2 entries.
- iii) Each entry will comprise a panel of photographs. The number is at the author's discretion, up to a maximum of 7. They must be mounted as normal prints – from 500mm x 400mm card up to a maximum of A1 size.
- iv) 3 or more colour and/or mono PDIs which are linked or related to a subject/topic. Presented online by the author as if they were a panel. Max 7 images.

i) Photographer of the Year

- i) The Photographer of the Year title will be awarded to the photographer that scores the most points in club competitions over the course of the season.
- ii) 'Club competitions' are those which are judged by an external judge: they are not judged by the members present at the meeting.
- iii) In the event of a tie on points, the POTY title will be awarded to the highest scoring photographer with the most 1st positions during the season. If there is still a tie at this point, the title will be awarded to the highest scoring photographer with the most 1st and 2nd positions during the season. If there is still a tie at this point, the number of 3rd positions and 'Highly Commended' awards won during the season will be used to determine the winner.

B) PDI image specification (for all competitions)

PDIs should be submitted conforming to the following specification. If you submit non-conforming images, they will be used anyway, but the software cannot guarantee to display them correctly when projected using the club's computer, software and projector.

Files uploaded to PhotoEntry will be re-sized by the site if necessary and so can be larger than the following specification. However, they must be less than 10MB each.

Files brought to friendly competitions on memory sticks must be as specified below:

- Colour space – sRGB.
- Format – JPG.
- Maximum file size – 2MB.
- Maximum horizontal dimension – 1600 pixels.
- Maximum vertical dimension – 1200 pixels.
- The above dimensions include the border (if any).
- PDI files must be given a title as the file name, as this will be projected with the picture. The name should not exceed 30 characters. Please don't use all capital letters.

C) Awards

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Awards to club competition winners will be given as follows:

- Each competition winner will receive a cup or similar award, to be retained for one year.
- First, second and third places in each competition will receive a certificate.
- In the case of multiple winners (tied scores), the award will be duplicated when possible, or the trophy will be shared.
- The winner of the 'POTY' competition will receive a cup or similar award, to be retained for one year.
- There is one special award: The Beryl Oxley Memorial Trophy for the most points for PDIs entered into external competitions in the season.

D) Notes

Note 1 – Definition of genres

The following definitions will be used to guide your decision of whether a picture fits into that genre or category or not. There are more detailed definitions on the internet, and the definitions below are to be applied only for pictures entered into WPS club competitions. More detailed definitions might apply to external competitions.

Category	Definition	Notes
Landscape	A picture of natural countryside and weather.	
Portrait	A picture of a human being in either a posed or a candid situation.	
Nature	A picture of an animal or insect in its natural environment.	Captive animals are allowed. Pets are not allowed. Editing of the image is not allowed to substantially alter the image.
Still life	A posed picture of inanimate objects.	
Architecture	A picture of human constructions.	
Street	A picture taken candidly of people or human constructions which reflect on human life.	
As a painting	Any picture which has been manipulated on a computer to resemble one painted by hand.	A picture of an existing painting is not allowed.
Macro	A picture taken with the subject close to the camera. The scale or reproduction is not defined, and images taken with normal camera lenses working at close to their closest focus distance are acceptable.	Photomicrography is allowed.
Sport	A picture taken of a person or people engaged in a sporting activity.	
Creative	A picture generated from at least three separate images to create a composite picture to convey an interesting result such as an amusing story or representation.	Surreal and imaginary images are allowed.

Abstract	An image taken to reveal interesting patterns, textures, forms or colours, the origin of which might not be clear as it is unimportant.	Macro photographs are allowed. Monochrome photographs are allowed.
Seascape	Similar to landscape, but featuring the sea as a major part of the image.	
Humour	An image that can evoke laughter, happiness and/or feelings of amusement.	
'Shapes, Forms and Texture'	Any picture that uses Shape, Form or Texture as an integral part of the image. One or more of these elements may form the main element within the image, or be a supporting element that enhances other elements within the image.	

E) PhotoEntry

PhotoEntry is to be used for all formal and informal competitions where possible. It is a web-based system. Members need to register on it and then upload their photograph files according to the rules.

Summary information on PhotoEntry –

- All members will need to be registered with PhotoEntry and the system will send new members an e-mail with instructions and links to complete their registration on the site so that they can then use it.
- Comprehensive instructions on registration and using PhotoEntry will be provided. Individual help will be given when a member needs this.
- Competitions will open for entries well in advance of the competition date, at least 4 weeks.
- You can add your entries, and you can delete them and replace them, up to the closing date.
- The closing date will be 1 week before the competition date. The status of all competitions is clear on the site.
- Entries must be placed on PhotoEntry for prints as well as PDIs.
- Prints themselves can be handed in as usual, i.e. 2 weeks or 1 week before the competition. They can be brought to the competition Secretary's house by prior arrangement up to 1 week before the competition.
- If you forget your password, contact the Competitions Secretary who will reset your account. You will then need to follow the registration process again. Your entries will not be lost if this happens.