

Competition Guide for Members

Prints. These can be printed by the member or commercially printed. All competition individual prints should be mounted on boards no larger than 20 inches by 16 inches. Note, however, that the WCPF will not accept mounts of this size, preferring the slightly smaller metric equivalent of 50cm by 40cm. We do not specify a minimum size but it is worth remembering that your print will be viewed from the back of our clubroom by some people. Also, there is a saying (whether or not you believe it) that a good big one will always beat a good small one! The choice of colour of the mounting board is your own. There are three main ways in which prints are usually mounted:

1. by using a mount cutter. A hole is cut in the board to fit the print, which is then taped to the back of the board so that it appears in the cut-out. It is wise to spray mount the print on to a piece of card first to give it some protection from the rear. This is the most common method and the club has a mount cutter available should you need one. Please ask a committee member if you feel you may require it.
2. by sticking your print directly on to the front of a board using a spray adhesive. A small white border left around the print can give a similar look to the bevelled edge of the cut-out in a board. This is far easier than cutting holes in mounts and is perfectly acceptable and presentable.
3. by flush mounting so that the entire board is covered by the print. Although this allows for the largest actual image, it has the disadvantage that the edges, and particularly the corners, of your print are susceptible to damage.

To maintain an element of anonymity for the judges, each member has a membership number. Therefore all images should be clearly labelled on the reverse of the print with the member's club number and the title of the image. eg. 09 Title.

Digital images should be constrained to a maximum of 1400 pixels in width and/or 1050 pixels in height. They should be JPEG images high quality. Images entered into the projected image section of any club competitions must be properly prepared. ([Click here for help in preparing your images.](#)) They should be correctly sized, named, saved in the correct format, and ideally saved with the best colour profile for digital projection (sRGB). IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DO THIS. Images which are not properly prepared may, at best, not project well and, at worst, run the risk of not being accepted into the competition.

If the number of entries for a single competition is deemed to be excessive by the competition secretary, images accepted per member may be reduced from two to one within any of the 3 sections to give a suitable number of images overall for the competition night. It is important, therefore, to name your digital images with a prefix of "A" or a "B". Prints and slides should be

shown as "A" or "B" on the entry forms at handing in. If no "A" or "B" is shown, the first one on the entry sheet will be assumed to be the "A" entry.

Any "B" (secondary) images held back will remain eligible for future competitions but will not automatically be used in the next competition.

To maintain an element of anonymity for the judges, each member has a membership number, and this is used instead of the member's name on the competition entries, for example in your digital image name as follows:

Axx imagetitle.jpg where

"A" is "A" for your primary image and "B" for your secondary image.

"xx" is your club member number, with a leading zero if your number is 9 or less

"imagetitle" is a unique name for your image

e.g. A01 My First of Two Images.jpg

Club Monthly Competitions

The Photo Group holds four competitions at roughly one month intervals during the indoor season. There are three sections: monochrome prints, colour prints, and projected images. An image may not be entered more than once in any one section.

Each monthly competition will have an outright winner in each of the 3 sections. Members will receive certificates if they gain 1st, 2nd or 3rd place. The judge can also award up to 3 highly commended images. The judge will then be asked to choose an overall winner from the winners in the three sections and this overall winning image will be awarded the John Smith Cup which will be held until the next monthly competition.

Annual awards for each section of the monthly competitions shall be decided by the accumulation of points given as follows:

1st place:	6 points
2nd place:	5 points
3rd place:	4 points
Highly Commended:	3 points
Unrewarded entry in section:	2 points

Where a tie results, the number of 1st places, then 2nd places, then 3rd places shall be used to decide the winner. If a tie remains after this, the award shall be made to all those tied and the trophy held by each for an equal period over the year.

For each competition there is a maximum of two entries per member per section. (In the event of too many entries the Competition Secretary will use his discretion and reduce members' two entries to one. With this in mind, each

member is asked to indicate which entry they would prefer to be entered by indicating the letter "a" after their membership number for first preference and "b" for their second choice. In the event of "b" images not being used, they shall remain eligible for entry into future competitions. All entries are submitted to the Competition Secretary at least two weeks before the date set for the competition. The "handing in" dates are listed in the club programme.

All regular competition entries are marked 1st, 2nd, 3rd with up to 3 highly commended images. All entries must have been produced not more than 18 months before the start of the competition period (usually September).

If you are a relative beginner and are unsure of the suitability of your work for competitions, or you feel you would like some help or advice, we suggest that you seek the advice of a more experienced club member. This may be less painful than having your work publicly criticised by a judge!

Panel Competition

Once a year we have a Panel competition. As with the monthly competitions, there are three sections: monochrome prints, colour prints, and projected images. A panel consists of 4, 5, or 6 images that fit well together on a related subject or theme.

Prints can be mounted on a single board no larger than A1 (84cm by 59.4cm). The print competitions are judged on the night, so entries do not need to be submitted earlier. However, please note that projected image entries will be required at least two weeks before the competition. In the case of slide images these will be shown as separate images and cannot be seen as a whole panel. However, for digitally projected images members are also asked to create an extra digital image showing the whole panel, after which the individual images will be displayed. The date for entries will be publicised in the club programme.

Summer Photo Rally

During the summer there is a designated day on which club members meet at a given location with the purpose of taking photographs according to a list of subjects or criteria, given out at the start of the day. This can be in the form of slides or digital depending on who is running the event. Members then spend as much of the day as they want taking photographs. Having done this, and checked their images, members select the photographs they want to enter for each category and bring them along on a designated evening of the indoor season as indicated by the club programme. All club members present then cast votes for the images as they are projected and the winner is the member with the most votes accumulated across all categories.

It is intended as an encouragement to members to produce work and is generally a very enjoyable and light-hearted affair, though one that might force you to think a bit!

Set Subject Competition

This annual competition is just what it sounds like. There will be one or more set subjects specified for the year, and it's up to you to produce images that meet the criteria. The format is currently digital – see your club programme or ask a committee member. This is not a formal competition defined within the club's competition rules and may differ in format from year to year.

INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS

We have a number of inter-club competitions and, prior to each event, a selection committee chooses the photos to be used. These will largely be from past monthly club competitions but could be supplemented by other work if required. Please do your best to let the selectors borrow any of your work that they ask for. Don't be too disappointed if your work isn't chosen. This does not mean it's not good enough but simply that there may be other factors in determining what images are best to use in particular circumstances. (For instance, we might be lucky enough to know who the judge will be, and what his or her preferences have been in the past!)

South Devon League

This is a group of photographic clubs that compete annually in two "battles", currently one for prints and one for digitally projected images. The main object of this isn't to see which club comes top (honest) but to enable members from clubs to see the work of, and meet, photographers from the other clubs. However, we do enjoy winning it if we can! Each year clubs meet on either a home or away basis, and judges are selected from one of the other clubs to ensure a degree of neutrality.

The scoring format may change but at the time of writing, images are scored out of 20, with the top three marks (20, 19, 18) being reserved for the top three images. The judge may choose to heighten the tension by awarding these images 17 points and announcing at the end which receive the extra 1, 2, and 3 points.

Devon Clubs Battle

Once a year we enter this panel competition for Devon clubs. It follows a similar format to our own club panel competition except that it's an inter-club

and it must be five images on a theme either colour or mono. Throughout the indoor season members are asked to come up with suggestions for a suitable panel and if members wish to get together and produce one it will certainly be considered. No more than two images can be produced by one member. There is also a section for digitally projected images which will also have to be a panel on a theme.

Horseshoe Trophy

We have been invited to participate in this 5 way competition on an annual basis and so far have been very successful. Prints are required for a given list of set subjects and we may try to align our own club's set subject competition with these if we feel it appropriate.

Mix & Match

This is a light-hearted competition we have with the Exeter Camera Club. It is digitally projected and the idea is for one club to project an image and the other club to "match" it with one of its images. We take turns at going first. The judge determines how good the match is and awards points accordingly. It's a bit of frantic fun and usually throws up some interesting and entertaining images. Put the date in your diary - this is usually one not to be missed!

WCPF Digital Battle

The WCPF now runs a competition for its member clubs where digital images are projected and a panel of judges gives an instant score on each. This competition attracts entries from a large number of clubs, with 25 images from each, and the standard of work is very high. Again, we ask members to contribute and have their images considered.

WCPF AV Competition

The WCPF runs an Audio Visual Competition. This competition is on a personal member basis – see the [WCPF](#) website for precise details.

"International" Digital Exchange

It's not quite as grand as it sounds! Currently it is an exchange of work between Edinburgh, Johannesburg, Waikato (New Zealand), Gibraltar and our own club, and **all members are encouraged to send images to the organiser for consideration.**