

LEICESTER FOREST

Photographic Society

Competition Rules & Advice 2017-18

Competitions are an opportunity to compare your pictures with those produced by other members and learn from the judge's comments. No one is forced to enter competitions, and new members often wait to see what is involved before taking part. Entries for most competitions are divided into three groups to ensure members are competing against those with a similar level of experience:

Group A - Advanced Workers

Group B - Intermediate Workers

Group C - Entry Level

New members usually join Group C, but if the standard of their pictures shows a higher level of skill they will be entered in Group A or B.

Promotions

At the end of the season each member's level of photography is assessed to see if they are ready to be promoted from Group B or C. The initial assessment is by points scored, which is based on how successful they have been in winning placings in the events. The promotions are decided by a panel of senior members who combine their experience with the points each member has scored.

COMPETITIONS

We have separate competitions for prints and projected digital images (PDIs). Some of these are for colour, others for monochrome (black & white). A summary of each competition is shown at the end of these rules.

Print Mounting

To fit in our boxes, prints must be suitably presented on a mount no larger than 50x40cm and no thicker than 4mm. The print can be attached to the surface of the mount or at the back of an aperture cut in the mount. The latter method often looks better and protects the print from rubbing against adjacent mounts in our storage boxes. Members frequently produce A4 prints and use a smaller mount than the maximum.

Members often use masking tape to secure prints to the mount and possibly add a backing board to make the mount stiffer. With some of these tapes the adhesive is poor and the tape peels back and causes damage to the adjacent print. Experience shows that 3M Pressure Sensitive masking tape sticks securely if rubbed down well.

Labelling

Every print entered in competitions must have the photographer's name, picture title, group and competition date. Add a priority number for each image - 1 for what you consider to be the strongest picture, 2 for the next and 3 for the weakest. If the total entry is too large to be judged in one evening those labelled '3' may be withheld. If you fail to enter a Priority number the Print Secretaries can select a print to hold back at their own discretion.

Sheets of print labels can be downloaded from the Member's Info section of the club's website. The label should also be used to indicate which way up to display your print - it's not always obvious with some abstract images!

Types of Images

To give both 'traditional' and 'creative' images equal opportunities in club competitions we specify what type of image is acceptable in each competition. The LFPS definitions are as follows:

Traditional Minimum use of editing, with minor adjustments and cropping, so the image retains the integrity of the original file.

Photo Realistic The integrity of the original file remains, but elements may be added or removed to enhance the image while retaining the reality of the final image. It must seem to be a seamless photographic image that appears believable and realistic.

Creative Editing and enhancements show reality has been altered - in the camera, using software, or a combination of the two - to create an image far removed from the original. It should be differentiated as an image from the perception seen by the human eye. Similar darkroom techniques are also acceptable from traditional printers.

Open Competitions These events are open to all the types of images described above - colour or monochrome.

Traditional/Photo Realistic Competitions These are open to both types of images, which will be judged together.

HDR High Dynamic Range techniques are acceptable in Photo Realistic images when used to equalise areas of high brightness and deep shadow, as long as the final image appears realistic. When taken to extremes and the image loses its realistic appearance it will be classed as Creative.

Monochrome For a picture to be classed as monochrome it must contain only various shades of grey, black, and white. If an image complying with this definition is toned entirely in a single colour it remains monochrome. If it is partly toned, or has one or more colours added, it will be classified as a colour picture.

Panel and Single-Image Events

In most of our competitions the pictures you enter are judged individually, even if you enter more than one image - these are called single-image events. We also have Panel competitions where three pictures are judged as a group. These images need to have a common theme that links them in some way. You should indicate how the pictures are to be displayed - left, centre, right.

Letterbox Prints

These must be at least three times bigger on the long edge than the short edge and be on a mount no larger than the standard 50x40 cm.

PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGES

Some competitions are for Projected Digital Images (PDIs) where the pictures are projected and no prints are required. The images must be no wider than 1600 pixels (horizontal) and 1200 tall (vertical) to suit the club's projector. You will find a guide to resizing your images in the Tech Resource Articles section of Member's Info on the club's website.

Title your digital files using the following format: **Title--Your Name--Priority.jpg** with spaces only between words in the title and words in your name. Separate sections with two consecutive hyphens. The priority number is as described previously under Labelling. Example file name is Wild American Eagle--John Smith--2.jpg

MULTIPLE ENTRIES

To avoid the same image appearing in several competitions please observe the following rules. Note: An image that has been entered in a colour competition is considered to be the same image if it is then entered in a monochrome competition, and vice versa.

- An image that has been placed in any single-image competition must not be entered for another single-image competition. "Placed" means it has been awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Highly Commended or Commended.
- An image that has won a placing and not previously been used in a panel of pictures may be used in a panel. A panel must not include more than one placed image.
- Only one image from a placed panel can be entered in a future single-image competition and it must not have been previously placed in such an event. The image cannot be used as part of another panel or entered for any other single-image competition.

GENERAL

Leicester Forest PS will take reasonable care of members' photographs while in its possession. However, it cannot compensate members for any loss or damage.

The content of images submitted to any competition must be entirely the original work of the photographer. Third party images, or part images, whether authorised or not, are not permitted.

We reserve the right to withdraw any image from a competition or exhibition that is not considered suitable for the expected audience.

The club may use pictures submitted for any of its competitions in exhibitions, public display, brochures advertising its activities or external competitions. The copyright of the photograph remains with the author.

COMPETITIONS

The dates to hand in competition entries, the maximum number of pictures and the type of images are all listed in the current programme.

Colour Competitions

There are three of these during the season - two for prints and one for PDIs. They have no specific theme and are open to pictures of any subject.

Monochrome Competitions

There are three of these during the season - two for prints and one for PDIs. They have no specific theme and are open to pictures of any subject.

PDI Competitions

Two events, one judged by Andrzej Jablonski (any subject) and the other by John Whitby (on the theme 'Master of Light').

Festive Evening Open Competitions

This takes place at the end of December and is one of our more lighthearted events. There are four print competitions with up to two entries in each, with the results being decided by the members' votes. In the *Miniature Print* competition the pictures must be no more than 10 cm on the longest side and suitably mounted. The *Letterbox Print* competition is for images more suited to this panoramic format - see definition on page 2. Both competitions are open to any subject. *Still Life Prints* (table-top photography and similar compositions) can be up to normal competition size. *Six of The Best* is a competition for six images, each one illustrating a different subject from the following list: market, landmark, water, night, sport and graffiti. All six images must be on a single mount no larger than 50x40 cm.

Street Competition

Street photography depicts the interaction of people in the urban environment. This includes public spaces, such as railway stations, shopping malls and airports etc.

Sport Competition

This includes all forms of sport, both amateur and professional.

PDI Panel Competition

This is for groups of three related images that will be projected and commented on by Andrzej Jablonski.

Nature Competition

Nature images should be taken in the subject's natural surroundings. Unlike most external competitions, we do allow pictures of cultivated plants but not domestic animals. We do not insist on titles including Latin names.

Scapes Competition

This covers all types of 'scapes, from landscapes, seascapes, skyscapes etc.

Creative Competition

This covers images such as experimental, abstract, montage etc as covered by our Creative definition.

Portrait Competition

This includes portraits, figure and theatrical images.

President's Trophy Competition

Prints on a subject nominated by the President and listed in the programme. This is judged by the President at the AGM.

Panel Prints

The format of the competition judged at our Brocks Hill Exhibition in Oadby will be announced later in the season.

If you have any queries about these rules please contact the Competition Co-ordinator