

MATCH-AN-IMAGE _ COMPETITION RULES.

A competition for all ages, sexes and levels of photography.

1. The competition is essentially one between not less than three teams, using three projectors, three screens.
2. Each team will normally consist of five members who may be of the same club, sex and ability or preferably of different clubs, sexes and abilities. For fairly small clubs, wishing to run the event as an internal competition, it may be desired to have larger teams with all members taking part, but, if so, no responsibility can be accepted for damage to persons, equipment, buildings or reputation.
3. Each team shall appoint (a) a person competent in the use of a computer, so as to be able to display the chosen image at speed, (b) a captain, whose decision for the team will be final and binding in the likely event of argument, fighting, or insubordinate/unruly behaviour.
4. Each team shall provide a panel consisting of twenty images of any subject or subjects not being offensive to any normal person or even other club members.
5. The images on the computer screen should not be visible to opposing teams.
6. The teams shall draw lots for positions A, B & C. Each team takes it in turn to show the first image of a round which shall be ready for projection immediately the result of the previous round has been declared. The other two teams then have 30 seconds in which to produce a match for that image from those remaining of their panel.
7. No image may be used more than once and no addition may be made to the panel once the competition has started or the team will be disqualified.
8. The judge will first consider and decide which of the following images may be declared to match the first image. Each of the teams producing a match will be awarded one point.
9. The judge will then determine which of the original and matching images is the best as a photograph, for which a further one point will be awarded. An image, which is not judged to be a match, however good a photograph, receives no points.
11. This procedure will be repeated, teams A, B & C taking it in turn to project the first image, until 18 rounds have been completed (or such other number, divisible by three, which makes it possible to complete before closing time and enable each team to start the same number of rounds). Each team should therefore finish with two unused images, which should be projected in two further rounds (with no matching required) for the judge to decide the best image thereof and award that team one bonus point.
12. The judge should be briefed to be tolerant and indulgent in accepting what is a match; e.g. a motor car clearly showing a number plate and a nude could both be regarded as a figure study, but whether a pillar-box and a newspaper could both be regarded as, "read" would be entirely at the Judge's discretion. Teams may if they so wish say why they consider an image to be a match and if unable to do so the audience may do so for them. Opposing teams may protest or barrack. In any case, the judge's decision is final providing the judge is one capable of making a decision and making him/herself heard.
13. Barracking by the teams must be limited to the other teams and the audience but, if directed at a judge, may be treated as a foul and incur a penalty.
14. The judge may at his or her complete discretion award up to three consolation points during the evening, one at a time, for any reason thought fit, including the encouragement of a team which may appear to be without a clue.
15. The judge should be warned that they might be liable to verbal abuse but that they have the right of reply and an assurance that such reputation as they may have will not be affected. The judge should be given a copy of these rules before being asked to act.
16. If it is possible to find an honest and impartial member of one of the clubs they should be appointed to keep the scores and to adjudicate in the event of the judge being unable to come to a decision. In the event of no such person being available, it is recommended to co-opt somebody from the local police force, judiciary or military providing they are able to hear, write and count. No money must change hands once the competition has started.
17. These events are intended to remedy a feature often lacking in photographic society programmes and unlike most club competitions are intended to encourage full audience participation. Audience, teams and the judge should be reminded - if they need to be - that club photography is a very serious business and not expected to be entered into for the purpose of pleasure; competitions are the life blood of photographic dealers where failure to meet sensitive material quotas can be a matter of life or death - or at any rate profit or loss. The aim of entering competitions is to win at all costs and only to submit work which will attract high marks from the judge, even if he/she is a complete plonker, and even if the work is the same as has been seen many times before and would be regarded by ordinary folk as complete and utter rubbish.
18. At the end of the competition that team with the highest number of points will be declared the winners but may be lucky to survive long enough to enjoy their acclaim!