OLD COULSDON CAMERA CLUB

INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITIONS

> Note: This is intended as an introduction to competitions in the club.
> **Full details of our Competition Rules can be found in the Club Rules.**

We have two types of club competitions for members:

1. **Multi Round Competitions.** There are two competitions: Prints and Projected Digital Images (PDIs), with three rounds for the Print competition and four rounds for the PDI competition. Images can be of any subject e.g. landscape, portrait, natural history, street etc and may be either in colour or monochrome.
   - Each competition is split into two Classes – 'A' & 'B', with the more experienced members in the 'A' Class.
   - You can enter up to 4 prints/3 digital images in to each round of the relevant competition.
   - Entries are marked out of 10.
   - At the end of the season we take your top 8 scores to find a winner of each Class in each competition. The winner of the 'B' Class is promoted to the 'A' Class.

   Note: If you are new to the club we may need to see some of your photographs to make sure you are entered in the correct class.

2. **Themed Competitions.** These are held annually with members from 'A' and 'B' Classes competing within their own group. Some have separate competitions for Prints & PDIs. In general, you may enter a maximum of 4 entries (prints, PDIs or a mix of both). The judge picks a winner and awards a number of certificates.

   We vary the number and categories of Themed competitions each year and may include:
   - Natural History – Prints and PDI. Any aspect of the natural world e.g. flora, fauna or geological. Domesticated animals & cultivated plants are not allowed.
   - Street – PDI only. Entries must be a single image of subjects in candid situations in any public place.
   - Monochrome – Prints and PDI. A monochrome image is either a black and white image or a black and white image which has been uniformly toned with one tone.
   - Set Subject – Print & PDI. A different subject is chosen each year.
   - Mobile Phone – PDI only. Entries must be taken on mobile phone; they can be post processed.
   - Portraiture - Print and PDI. Images can be formal or candid.
   - Triptych – PDI only. Three images on a theme of your choosing put together in one image.
   - Creative – PDI only. Creativity may be 'in camera' and / or post processing e.g. ICM, textures.

We want to encourage members to develop their skills and reduce the repetition of images in competitions therefore an image (or near duplicate) may be entered into only:
   - one Multi Round Competition as either a print or digital image, (unless it scores 8 or less in which case it can be entered into one further Multi Round Competition) **and**
   - one Themed competition as either a print or digital image.

If a competition is oversubscribed then the number of entries per person will be reduced in line with your preference of ordering within PhotoEntry.

Entering Competitions

Competitions provide a great way of getting feedback on your work and improving your photography. Members are always willing to help and offer advice – please ask if you need assistance.

The easiest and cheapest way to start competing is to enter the PDI Competitions. Your images will be loaded into our competition software, DiCentra, for digital projection on competition night.

Projected Digital Images (PDI) Competitions

1. **Members must submit their entries via PhotoEntry <u>at least 1 week</u> before the competition.** This allows sufficient time to load all entries into the competition software and prepare scoring sheets.

   Please contact the PDI Competition Secretary* if you do not have access to the PhotoEntry system.

   (* see the club programme for name & contact details of the current PDI Competition Secretary)

Once logged in to the PhotoEntry:

2. Select the competition you are entering.

3. Enter the title of your image in the 'Entry Title' box. You may also wish to populate the optional 'Entry Reference' box.

4. Upload the JPEG image by selecting the 'Choose JPG…' button. A check is performed on each image as it is entered and shows either 'OK' or advises if there is a problem.

5. **The maximum dimensions are Width 1400px x Height 1050px**. (Note that an image presented in PORTRAIT format cannot exceed 1050 pixels in height).

   Images exceeding these dimensions will be automatically scaled to fit. The scaling process works well providing the original image is significantly bigger than the required dimensions. It is recommended that you either submit the full-size image (under 10 MB), or that you scale it yourself to fit the above dimensions.

6. Images must be set up in the **sRGB IEC61966-2.1 colour profile**.

   If you upload an image with a different colour profile then PhotoEntry will convert it, however the colours in your image may not be displayed correctly.

7. Add further images until you are notified that you have reached the competition entry limit.

8. Change the order of your entries by selecting the up and down arrows in the 'Order' column. You can continue to change your entries and the order of your entries while the competition remains 'Open' in PhotoEntry.

   You should be aware that if a competition is oversubscribed the number of entries per person will be reduced in line with your preference of ordering within PhotoEntry.

Entering Competitions

Printed Image Competitions

1. **Prints must be mounted on board and labelled on the back** using the format provided. (Note: a label format that you can print is available on the club website)

2. **Give your Prints to the Print Competition Secretary* 1 week before the competition**.

   (* see the club programme for name & contact details of the current Prints Competition Secretary)

3. Also, **load JPEGs of your entries on to PhotoEntry at least 1 week before the competition** (see PDI Competition information for instructions). This is so we have a record of the print and can prepare scoring sheets.

4. Prints may be any size; A4-A3 is most usual, but smaller is very acceptable.

5. The prints can be produced by you or can be printed commercially (a number of members use DS Colour Labs http://www.dscolourlabs.co.uk/).

6. Print competition entries must be mounted on board. Neutral colour mount boards are most suitable for the majority of prints. Blank and Pre-cut mount boards can be purchased from Cotswolds Mounts https://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk/ or in large sheets from Wessex Pictures https://www.wessexpictures.com/mountboards.

7. Most members choose mount board that is 40cm x 50cm. This is a standard size required for most external photographic competitions, but you may prefer a smaller size to reduce cost. The mount board must not be smaller than 20cm x 25cm. We don't specify a maximum size however there may be problems displaying mount boards larger than 65cm high x 60cm wide with the current equipment.

8. The print may be stuck to a blank mount board with Spray Mount or attached to a window cut mount board with backing board using good quality Mounting Tape for photographs.

9. A label must be attached clearly on the back of the mount board. You can download the label template from the OCCC website. The label should show your name, title of print, competition being entered for, the order of preference you want them shown 1-4 etc, whether A or B class (if appropriate) and the competition date. You should be aware that if the competition is oversubscribed the number of entries per person will be reduced in line with your preferences.

10. Please make sure that there is nothing on your entry (print and board) that might damage other work. Good quality mounting tape should be used when attaching backing board – **masking tape should not be used** as it peels off and can damage other work.

Updated August 25 by Pete Mayo

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: How do you ensure that any prints or PDIs I enter in to a competition are judged fairly?

Answer: Competitions are usually judged by an external judge. Most competitions are held in two Classes, A and B, to allow members to feel comfortable that their images are being judged alongside images of a similar standard. This also allows judges to give appropriate comments and advice to each Class, normally giving more time to the less experienced photographers in the B Class.

Question 2: If members are divided into Classes based upon their photographic experience, how do members move up a Class?

Answer: Most new members start in the B Class. Those with photographic distinctions or qualifications will be automatically in the A class. Experienced new members may provide a selection of images for review by the Selection Committee to determine the most suitable Class. The winner of each Three Round Competition in the B class will move up to the A Class. There is no demotion currently.

Question 3: I submitted an image into a Three Round Competition, but it did not score as high as I had anticipated. Is it possible to get another judge's opinion?

Answer: If it scored 8 or less in a Three Round Competition it can be entered in to one further Three Round Competition. An image entered in to a Three Round Competition can also be entered in **ONE** Themed competition such as Street, Natural History etc.

Question 4: My image did reasonably well in a Three Round Competition; however, the judge made some useful suggestions on how it could be improved. Is it acceptable to reprocess the image, cropping differently, adjusting colour and brightness etc. and submit it into a subsequent Three Round Competition?

Answer: Only if the image scored 8 or less.

Question 5: Can prints and PDIs entered in to a Three Round Competition also be entered in to a Themed competition?

Answer: Yes, but an image can be entered in **ONE** Themed Competition only as either a print or a PDI.

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