



Old Coulsdon Camera Club

Club Rules

September 2025 v1.0

www.oldcoulsdoncameraclub.org.uk

Old Coulsdon Camera Club Rules

Effective from 1st September 2025

1. NAME

The Club shall be known as OLD COULSDON CAMERA CLUB

2. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership is open to all interested persons.
- b) The membership of any member may be withdrawn on the unanimous vote of the General Committee. If the member concerned is also a member of the General Committee, he or she shall not be entitled to vote.

3. SUBSCRIPTION

3.1. Annual subscription

The annual subscription will be determined at the Annual General Meeting. It will become due on 1st September following the meeting, except for :-

3.2. New members

New members joining part way through a year will pay an interim subscription in proportion to the part of the year remaining.

4. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

4.1. General Committee

- a) The General Committee will comprise a minimum of six officers:- Chairperson, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, and at least three other members; the final number to be at the discretion of the committee.
- b) There should be a minimum of three General Committee meetings a year. These are likely to be in August, November and May; exact dates and timing to be at the discretion of the committee.
- c) For a committee meeting to be quorate, a minimum of four members should be in attendance.
- d) Committee proceedings are privileged and confidential.
- e) The Officers and the other Members of the General Committee must retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.

4.2. Co-Option

The general Committee may co-opt such members as may be deemed necessary.

5. FINANCE

- a) The Club's financial year will run from 1st September to 31st August.
- b) The persons authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the club shall be any two of the Chairperson, Hon Treasurer and a member of the Committee nominated by the Committee.

6. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) An Annual General Meeting will be held. Members shall be given not less than 28 days notice of the Annual General Meeting.
- b) Nominations for Officers and Members of the General Committee must be handed to the Hon. Secretary or his/her nominee not later than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- c) Proposals to alter the Club or Competition Rules must be submitted to the Hon. Secretary or his/her nominee at least 21 days before the AGM.
- d) Members shall be given not less than 7 days notice of the Agenda.
- e) Audited accounts must be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

7. DISSOLUTION

- a) The Club can only be dissolved by consent of not less than two-thirds of those members present at a Special General Meeting, the Agenda for which refers to the proposed dissolution.
- b) Members shall be given not less than 21 days notice in writing of the Special General Meeting.
- c) In the event of dissolution, any funds in hand after sale at the best price of all the Club's assets, and after payment of all outstanding claims, shall be donated to an organisation agreed at the meeting. Failing agreement, the funds shall be donated to a charity nominated by the Chairman of the meeting.

8. AMENDMENT OF CLUB RULES

- a) Proposals to alter the Club or Competition Rules, other than at the Annual General Meeting, must be handed to the Hon. Secretary in writing and the General Committee may then decide to hold a Special General Meeting of which at least 28 days written notice of the meeting shall be given.
- b) Any amendment will only be effective if carried by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.
- c) If any member wishes to amend a proposal to alter the rules then that amendment must be carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present to be effective. Should the proposed amendment fail to reach the required majority then the original proposal shall be voted upon.

9. GENERAL

Any matters not covered by the Rules must be referred to the General Committee which will determine whether they should be referred to the Annual General Meeting or to a Special General Meeting of members, of which not less than 28 days notice must be given.

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL COMPETITIONS

10. GENERAL

- a) Competitions shall be open to all members of the club.
- b) All approved Rule changes shall be effective immediately except that any changes for Multi Round Competitions shall only start to apply from the first round of the next series.
- c) In Competitions where points are awarded, no trophy shall be awarded in any class or competition unless a minimum of 60% of the possible total marks has been attained.
- d) Winners will hold the respective trophies for one year or until the next competition for the same trophy, whichever is the earlier.
- e) The Chairman shall act as arbiter and his or her decision shall be final.
- f) There shall be two classes for all competitions known as the 'A' Class and the 'B' Class.
- g) New members shall be entered into the 'B' Class unless they hold a photographic distinction or submit a panel of nine images and gain approval to enter the 'A' Class from a sub-committee of three members, including at least one committee member, to be appointed by the Chairman.
- h) Former members will return to the class that they were in at the time membership ceased after Competition Rule 2.1 iv was invoked for that competition series.
- i) Handing in of entries:-
 - a. Digital Competitions: Images must be submitted via 'PhotoEntry' at least one week prior to the competition.
 - b. Print Competitions: Prints must be handed in to the Competition Secretary at least one week prior to the competition. A duplicate digital image must also be submitted via 'PhotoEntry' at least one week prior to the competition.
 - c. By exception, and with the Competition Secretary's agreement, digital images may be submitted by email or on a USB flash drive.
- j) In the same or any subsequent year, an image or near duplicate may be entered into:
 - a. one Multi Round Competition only, as either a print or digital image (but not both) and
 - b. one Themed competition only, as either a print or digital image (but not both) and
 - c. one Annual Exhibition competition only, as either a print or digital image (but not both).
- k) Digital Images must be:
 - a. From digital capture, negatives or slides. All image elements must be entirely the original work of the entrant who should hold the copyright for each element of the submitted entry. The only exception to this is the use of fonts which are copyright free. *[For the avoidance of doubt, the following are not allowed: use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, generative AI, picture elements available within editing software (eg. replacement skies), royalty-free*

images, and clipart. The Competition Secretary reserves the right to request the original file(s) for any image entered.]

- b. in JPEG format in the sRGB working space.
- c. Either
 - i. Landscape - 1400 pixels horizontally and no more than 1050 pixels vertically OR
 - ii. Portrait - 1050 pixels vertically and no more than 1400 pixels horizontally.
- l) Prints may be home or trade processed and must:-
 - a. Be from digital capture, negatives or slides. All image elements must be entirely the original work of the entrant who should also hold the copyright for each element of the submitted entry. The only exception to this is the use of fonts which are copyright free. *[For the avoidance of doubt, the following are not allowed: use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, generative AI, picture elements available within editing software (eg. replacement skies), royalty-free images, and clipart. The Competition Secretary reserves the right to request the original file(s) for any image entered.]*
 - b. Be mounted on stiff board.
 - c. Have an Old Coulsdon Camera Club entry label attached on the back of the board detailing:-
 - i. Name of Entrant
 - ii. Print Title
 - iii. Name & Date of Competition
 - iv. Order of Preference
 - v. Class the entrant is in (when competition is judged by class).
 - d. 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.
- m) Prints may be of any size provided that the print, including mount shall be a minimum of 25 cms x 20 cms. However, entrants must bear in mind:-
 - a. The current print display unit can only effectively display prints up to a maximum width of 65 cms and height of 60 cms. Prints with larger dimension may be difficult to display effectively.
 - b. Prints, including mount, for SPA and other external Competitions must be 50 cms x 40 cms.
- n) A monochrome image is either:
 - a. a black and white image or
 - b. a black and white image which has been uniformly toned with one tone.
- o) The addition of partial toning or the addition of one colour to any part of the image makes it a colour image.

- p) Acceptance of an entry into a competition is at the discretion of the Competition Secretary.
 - a. In the event of a challenge on the admissibility of an accepted entry, the Competition Secretary shall, if he or she considers it necessary, form an Ad Hoc Committee comprising three General Committee members (but excluding the entrant) to adjudicate, and their decision shall be final.
 - b. Any challenge must be made on the day of the competition and the adjudication committee will advise the entrant and challenger of its findings within 2 weeks of the competition. A general announcement will also be made at a subsequent club meeting.
- q) In all competitions, except the Annual Exhibition, entries must be numbered in order of preference with entry 1 being the entrant's 1st choice etc.
- r) At the discretion of the Competition Secretary (or his/her representative), the number of entries per person may be reduced to ensure that the total number of entries for the evening does not exceed 65. Entries culled in such circumstances may be entered in a subsequent competition of that type.
- s) In the event that a reduction in the overall number of entries submitted for the competition is required, the Competition Secretary can at his/her discretion reduce the numbers on an unequal basis between the 'A' and 'B' Class entries. This measure would only be considered in the event that there is a significant difference in entry numbers between the classes.
- t) In the event of a visiting competition judge's failure to attend, every effort will be made to obtain a suitable substitute judge on the evening. If this is not possible, all entries shall be recorded by the Competition Secretary (or his/her representative) and be held by him/her until such time as the competition takes place. Substitution of the recorded entry and any new entries shall not be allowed subsequent to the original closing date for entries.
- u) The club will retain a digital archive of all competition entries for use in disputes etc. The copyright remains with the photographer at all times.

11. ANNUAL MULTI ROUND COMPETITIONS FOR PRINTS AND DIGITAL IMAGES

11.1. General

- a) There will be 2 separate Multi Round competitions
 - a. A Four Round Digital Competition and
 - b. A Three Round Print Competition.
- b) The judge will assess each entry and award marks up to 10.
- c) An image or near duplicate, may be entered into only one Multi Round Competition as either a print or digital image (but not both) in the same or any subsequent year unless it receives 8 marks or less. In that case, it may be re-entered into one further round of a Multi Round Competition in the same medium.

- d) The winner of the 'B' Class for each Multi Round Competition will be promoted to the 'A' Class at the end of each competition series.
 - a. In the event that the same person wins both PDI and Print competitions in any year, a second member will also be promoted from the 'B' Class to the 'A' Class.
 - b. The second member promoted will be the one with the highest score in either of the competitions. If two members get the same score, then the one with the highest combined score across both competitions will be promoted.

In the event of a tie in the Multi Round Competitions, the next highest mark for the entrants involved will be taken into account and repeated until a winner is determined (i.e. totalling the highest 9 marks, the highest 10 marks etc.). If there is still a tie after all marks have been totalled, the trophy will be shared equally by the entrants involved.

11.2. Four Round Digital Competition

- a) Each entrant may enter up to a maximum of 3 images in each round of the competition.
- b) The winner of each class of the competition shall be determined by aggregating the highest marks awarded to 8 of their digital images across all 4 rounds.
- c) The Trophies for winners of the Four Round Digital Images are:-
 - a. 'A' Class – The Old Coulsdon Camera Club Colour Trophy
 - b. 'B' Class – The Blackwell Shield.

11.3. Three Round Print Competition

- a) Each entrant may enter up to a maximum of 4 images in each round of the competition.
- b) The winner of each class of the competition shall be determined by aggregating the highest marks awarded to 8 of their prints across all 3 rounds.
- c) The Trophies for winners of the Three Round Prints competitions are:-
 - a. 'A' Class – The St. Aubyn Challenge Cup
 - b. 'B' Class – The Trevor Goodbody Shield.

12. THEMED COMPETITIONS TO BE HELD ANNUALLY

12.1. General

- a) The following Themed Competition Categories may be held annually at the Committee's discretion: Portrait; Set Subject; Nature; Triptych; Street; Mobile Phone; Monochrome; Creative.
- b) An image or near duplicate, may be entered into only one Themed Competition as either a print or digital image (but not both) in the same or any subsequent year. (NB this also applies to individual images in Triptychs).
- c) A Winner's Certificate and Certificates of Merit will be awarded at the Judge's discretion in all Themed Competitions.

12.2. Portraiture Competitions

- a) Entries must be of one or more human subjects who must be the main focus of the picture. This may be a formal or informal image and colour or monochrome.
- b) Maximum of 4 entries per member, prints, digital images or a mixture of the two.

12.3. Set Subject Competitions

- a) Subject to be announced annually.
- b) Maximum of 4 entries per member, prints, digital images or a mixture of the two.

12.4. Natural History Competitions

- a) Entries may be of any aspect of the natural world, e.g. flora, fauna or geological subjects and must conform to the following rules:
- b) Photographs of domestic animals and cultivated plants are not acceptable.
- c) Titles should be factual and the subject identified.
- d) All images must convey the truth of what the author saw at the time of taking.
- e) Any manipulation must adhere to the rules for nature images, as defined and documented in Appendix II – Definition for Nature (Surrey Photographic Association)
- f) The final image must have been produced from a single negative, transparency or digital recording and must not be a combination of images. The only exception is focus stacking.
- g) Maximum of 4 entries per member, prints, digital images or a mixture of the two.

12.5. Triptych Competition

- a) An entry must comprise three distinct images of any size or shape either wholly separated or only partially overlapping and have a common theme to form a cohesive panel.
- b) A background, if included, should complement the presentation of the three images but must not become a significant fourth image.
- c) Maximum of 4 entries per member, digital images only.

12.6. Street Competition

- a) Images must consist of a single image taken in any public place. The removal, addition or repositioning of elements is not permitted except in the case of removal of minor distractions. The use of monochrome conversion is permitted but the use of textured overlays is not allowed.
- b) Maximum of 4 entries per member, digital images only.

12.7. Mobile Phone Competition

- a) Images must be taken on a mobile phone.
- b) Processing of images is allowed.
- c) Maximum of 4 entries per member, digital images only.

12.8. Monochrome Competitions

- a) Entries must conform to the definition of monochrome in General Rule for all Competitions 1.j).
- b) Maximum of 4 entries per member, prints, digital images or a mixture of the two.

12.9. Creative Competition

- a) Creativity can be 'in camera', post processing and / or alternative photographic processes; anything that moves away from conventional photography into creative art.
- b) Maximum of 4 entries per member, digital images only.

13. ANNUAL EXHIBITION COMPETITIONS

- a) Annual Exhibition competitions are not currently held

14. APPENDIX I – TROPHIES PREVIOUSLY AWARDED IN OPEN COMPETITIONS

The following cups may be awarded for themed competitions and will be allocated by a member of the committee to relevant competitions according to the number and type of themed competitions being held in the year

- W.A.J. Paul Portraiture Cup.
- E.W.V. Butcher Trophy.
- The Chipstead Cup.
- The Purley Cup.
- The Shirley Edwards Natural History Trophy.
- The Mike Simpson Natural History Trophy.
- The Bradmore Cup.
- The Lawson Bowl.
- The Coulsdon Cup.
- The Kenley Cup.
- The Woodmansterne Cup.
- The Don Stanley Trophy for Monochrome Prints.
- The Old Coulsdon Colour Shield.
- The George Nicholls Cup.
- The Nicholls Cup.
- The Frank Troke Colour Trophy.
- The Tony Clark Award.
- The Millennium Cup.
- The Chairman's Cup.

15. APPENDIX II – DEFINITION FOR NATURE (SURREY PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION)

The text below represents the latest Surrey Photographic Association (SPA) definition for images entered into Nature or Natural History competitions. It has been taken from Appendix 2 of 'SPA Inter-club PDI Championship Rules – May 2023' document, as found in the Library section of the SPA website (surreypa.org.uk), under Documents.

This version of the rules applies to all Old Coulsdon Camera Club Natural History competitions, until further notice. *Any amendments made to SPA rules will be reviewed and updated here with all members receiving notification of any changes made.*

Appendix 2: Definition for Nature (SPA ONLY)

Note: Images meeting the FIAP Definition of Nature will satisfy this less restrictive definition; images meeting this definition will satisfy the PAGB Nature definition.

If it looks like Nature, it must be entered in the Nature category.

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation.

The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.

Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is allowed.

Cloning of image defects and minor distractions are permitted when these do not distort the truth of the photographic statement.

Images entered as Nature can have landscape, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game reserves, wildlife centres, wild flora in botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

'The Welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph.' Where access to biological subjects is restricted, photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practice and hold any necessary licenses.

PLEASE NOTE: Titles must be factual and the subject identified.

What **IS** acceptable:

- Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots or digital noise.
- Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without altering the content of the original scene, including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning.
- Colour images converted to greyscale monochrome.
- Natural history subjects including wild animals, birds, insects, marine and botanical (including fungi and algae).
- Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals (and if present must not be removed).
- Images of natural history subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game reserves, wildlife centres, wild flora in botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.
- Factual titles identifying the subject are required.

What **IS NOT** acceptable:

- Any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. • Stitched images.
- Infrared images.
- Anthropology or archaeology.
- Human elements except if an integral part of the nature story (e.g. barn owls adapted to a human environment).
- Images of human created hybrid plants; cultivated plants; feral or domestic animals; livestock or poultry; or mounted specimens.
- Inappropriately humorous, twee, informal or sentimental titles.