

LL PS Leicester & Leicestershire Photographic Society

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES (2026-27)

COMPETITION RULES

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GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

AWARDS: Three images will be awarded First, Second and Third place respectively, with the author of the first placed image presented with the cup or trophy. Further images may be Highly Commended or Commended.

CUPS and TROPHIES may be held until the hand-in date of the next competition to which they apply, or until recalled by the Competition Secretary. They should be engraved, if applicable, and returned well-cleaned to the Competition Secretary. It is the responsibility of the award holder to organise the engraving if they wish their name to be added. This can be carried out at engravers such as *Sapphire & Steel* in Wigston and the receipt presented to the Society Treasurer for a refund.

ELIGIBILITY: Images are only eligible for entry during two consecutive seasons including the one in which they first appeared in any L&LPS competition. They may not be submitted twice for the same competition. An image entered into a print competition may not subsequently be entered into the equivalent projected competition, or vice versa. The entrant must have taken all the photographs making up the final image and have done any digital editing themselves; the use of third-party content, including royalty-free or AI-generated material, is not allowed (but photographs appearing incidentally, for example a picture hanging in the background, are acceptable).

The Competition Secretary will provide the judge with the full entry criteria for the competition.

CLOSING DATES: The closing dates for all the competition entries are listed in the annual programme which is published on the society website. It is the photographer's responsibility to ensure that their work is submitted in accordance with the rules and by the specified hand-in date; late entries will not be accepted. Where the Competition Secretary, after consulting with other Committee members, considers that an image does not comply with the Competition Rules, or is unsuitable for public display, it will not be accepted into the completion.

The Competition Secretary, after consultation with the relevant judge, may withdraw entries from a competition where the judge considers that there are too many to judge effectively on the evening. The system for withdrawing images is explained on page 5. Any withdrawn images will be deemed not to have been entered.

Downsized versions of placed images (600 by 400 pixels) will be shown on the L&LPS website. The Society may also use members' images, with their permission, for promotional and advertising purposes. Copyright always remains with the photographer.

The Competition Secretary's decision on the interpretation of these rules is final and binding.

COMPETITION THEMES (Prints and PDIs)

Architecture PDIs

Guidelines: External or internal view of a complete building(s), part of a building, or detail integral to a building that is essential to its construction or style.

Lucas Cup awarded for the winning PDI.

Colour Prints, any subject , Colour PDIs, any subject

An image which meets the criteria below for monochrome will not be accepted into a colour competition.

Colour Print Plaque awarded for the winning print.

Eyden Cup awarded for the winning PDI.

Creative Digital PDIs

Guidelines: Images that suggest a change or manipulation that goes beyond representational photography to express a story, an idea, an emotion, or a concept. Examples of image types include: experimental, abstract, in-camera effects, montages or other artistic interpretations created from an image with image-editing software.

Cecil Jacobs Trophy awarded for the winning PDI.

Monochrome Prints, any subject, Monochrome PDIs any subject

Guidelines: Monochrome images should be in tones of neutral grey or a single colour. Toning must be applied to the whole image. Images using selective toning and split toning are not classed as monochrome.

Walker Cup awarded for the winning print.

Gerry Raggett Trophy awarded for the winning PDI.

Nature PDIs

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 Nature 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, including overlapping elements, 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 farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on humans for food. (These guidelines are based on PAGB rules for Nature competitions.)

Titles: Correct, short descriptive titles should be used, ideally the species name. Optionally a qualifier describing the behaviour shown may be added. If it is not possible to give the precise species, the title should identify the subject as closely as possible. For example, a good title would be 'Puffin in flight'. 'Bracket fungus' is acceptable if the species is not known.

Plant Trophy awarded for the winning PDI.

People PDIs

Guidelines: The main subject of the image should be a person or persons. They may be posed or involved in any activity including sport.

Weston Cup awarded for the winning PDI.

President's Set Subject PDIs

Guidelines: The subject to be chosen and judged by the retiring/past President and announced no later than the AGM. The competition subject will be listed in the following season's programme.

Peter Jones Trophy awarded for the winning PDI.

'Scapes Prints, 'Scapes PDIs

Guidelines: 'Scapes may be rural or urban. Includes landscapes (rural or urban), seascapes and cloudscares.

Ward Trophy awarded for the winning PDI.

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS

Photographer of the Year (POTY)

Points are awarded for entering both print and projected image competitions with additional points awarded for placed entries. At the end of the season, the entrant with the highest score will be awarded the trophy.

Don and Helen Tansey Award awarded to the winning photographer.

Restricted Entry Award

The Woodward Medal is open only to members who have not won a competition, including annual exhibition awards, in the last two seasons (i.e. the current season and the previous one). Using the same points as for the POTY, the highest scoring eligible entrant will be awarded the trophy.

Woodward Medal awarded to the winning photographer.

COMPETITION ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

PRINT COMPETITIONS

Prints may be of any size but must be mounted on card no larger than 500mm x 400mm unless otherwise stated. Each print must display the title and photographer's name on the reverse. If possible, entrants should use the Print Entry Labels available from the Competition Secretary. Entered prints should be placed in the box provided on the closing date or handed to the Competition Secretary in advance. To be accepted a digital version of the print must be entered into the PhotoEntry system, resized to a maximum of 600 pixels wide by 400 pixels high.

Printing may be done at home by the photographer or commercially for all print competitions unless otherwise stated, and both colour and monochrome prints may be entered unless specified otherwise.

A maximum of four prints per member may be entered in each competition.

PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGE COMPETITIONS (PDIs)

Files must be in JPEG format with dimensions not exceeding 3840px wide by 2160px high (4K) and in the sRGB colour space. If images are not converted to sRGB their appearance may not be correct when projected.

Entries must be submitted via the PhotoEntry website using your personal log-in. PDIs will be prioritised in the order in which they are listed in PhotoEntry. Images can be replaced or reordered until the competition deadline.

A maximum of four images per member may be entered in each competition.

Where there are considered to be too many to judge in an evening the Competition Secretary will remove all images that are fourth in the member's PhotoEntry list.

SHOWING PLACED IMAGES ON THE WEBSITE

The Competition Secretary will forward downsized PDIs of placed images from PhotoEntry to the webmaster for display on the website.

POINTS SYSTEM FOR POTY

When entering competitions, members score points as follows:

- 1 point for entering each competition
- 2 points for Commended
- 3 points for Highly Commended
- 4 points for Third Place
- 5 points for Second Place
- 6 points for First Place

NUMBER OF PLACED IMAGES

The competition judge will be asked to award first, second and third place, plus a number of Highly Commended and Commended images, as follows:

- Up to 20 entries: no more than 1 Highly commended, 2 Commended, at the judge's discretion
- Up to 30 entries: 2 Highly commended, 3 Commended
- 31-40 entries: 3 Highly commended, 4 Commended
- 41 -50 or more entries: 4 Highly commended, 5 Commended

TROPHIES

Prints

Colour Print Plaque (Colour Prints)

Walker Cup (Monochrome Prints)

PDIs

Cecil Jacobs Trophy (Creative PDIs)

Eyden Cup (Colour PDIs)

Gerry Raggett Trophy (Monochrome PDIs)

Lucas Cup (Architectural PDIs)

Peter Jones Trophy (Past President's Set Subject – PDIs)

Plant Trophy (Nature PDIs)

Ward Trophy (Scapes PDIs}

Weston Challenge Cup (People PDIs)

The following trophies are not being awarded for the time being:

Butterworth Cup (Nature Prints)

John Tucker Trophy (Architectural Prints)

Lockington Vial Trophy (Scapes Prints)

Mike Jacobs Rose Bowl (People Prints)

Ray Needham Cup (Past President's Set Subject – Prints)

*The Society is affiliated to the
Photographic Alliance of Great Britain
through its membership of the
Midlands Counties Photographic Federation.*



Any amendments to 'The COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES' will be posted in an updated PDF on our website www.landlps.org.uk