



Lichfield Camera Club

MERIT COMPETITION RULES

Revised 26th August 2022

All members are encouraged to participate in the Merit Competitions, which is the main forum to display your work to other members. An independent external Judge will comment on your work and points awarded go towards the club's annual awards.

1. Entry into competitions is limited to *fee paid* Club Members.
2. The closing date for competition entries will be set in advance by the Competition Secretary, normally one week prior to the competition date published in the programme. Prints must always be with the Competition Secretary by the closing date. Digital versions (for Projected AND Print competitions), should be uploaded, before the closing date, to the Photo Entry system.

The Photo Entry system will automatically close the competition near midnight on the closing date. To be fair to all entrants, the Competition Secretary is not permitted to accept new entries after the closing date, unless the meeting date is changed, or the entry system failed. *To be sure of entering competitions, do so as early as possible, in case of delay due to technical issues with your uploads.*

3. Competitions will be split into the following categories:
Digital Projected [PDI] – judged in two member sections,
Colour Prints – judged in two member sections,
Monochrome Prints – judged in two member sections.

Three entrants or more are required for a competition category/section to be displayed and judged. The same image cannot be entered into two categories on the same competition night.

4. Competitions will be organised into print and projected nights, with the following restrictions on entries per member:
Projected nights: 3 images in total may be entered.
Print nights: 3 monochrome and 3 colour prints may be entered.
The Competition Secretary may reduce entry numbers to ensure the smooth running of competition nights.
5. Re-entering of images
An image may be entered no more than three times in TOTAL, including no more than twice in any single category. It cannot be re-entered in the same category if it is awarded, 1st, 2nd or 3rd, however it may be entered into a different category so long as it does not enter more than three times in total.
6. Revising Images
Revised Images will be treated as a new image provided noticeable changes have been made to the original entry. Members submitting revised work will be expected to produce the original and new work to the Competition Secretary, who together with the Chairman will decide whether to accept the new image.
7. All entries must be the original work of the author and must only contain original photographs or digital images taken/created by the author.
8. All judges will be of an acceptable standing. Their names will be available in advance via the published programme.
9. For each Section/Category - entries will be awarded points as follows:

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Highly Commended	Commended	Unplaced
12	10	8	6	4	1

The total points scored over a season will determine who will receive awards in each *Section/Category*.



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10. Prints must be labelled with a title (plus version if revised), competing Section and the author's name on the rear of the print/mount. The size of the prints is left to the discretion of the entrant, but the print/mount must not exceed 50 x 40 cm¹.

A digital version of the printed image must be submitted to the Photo Entry system, as in 11 below, so that it can be projected on the night, and put to other uses (e.g., club web site, external competition secretary). *Please ensure digital versions of printed images are identical to the image as printed, as they will be viewed alongside each other, and may be used independently.*

11. Digital Images for projection must be titled, formatted and sized according to the guidelines published on the club's website, and enforced by the Photo Entry system.
12. Members with formal qualifications C&G, L.R.P.S. or above will compete in the Advanced section. Any member can elect to be in an Advanced Section for competitions. End of Year Winners of the Lower Section Categories will be promoted to the Advanced Section for the Category won. The committee may suggest to a member that they enter the competitions in the Advanced Section. A member can make a request to the Competition Secretary to move down from an Advanced Section. If there is any query about which section a member should compete in; the individual can present 6-10 images to the committee. Section changeovers will be at the start of a new season.
13. The External Competition Secretary may retain entries from merit competitions for use in external competitions.
14. Natural History
There are special rules for competitions or images that are classed as "Natural History." These do not apply to any Lichfield Camera Club competitions, which are all pictorial.

However, some Members may want to enter an image as if it was in a "Natural History" section², in which case they can apply the full Latin title to the image. The image must then comply with current PAGB rules regarding Natural History. At the time of writing these are dated May 2020 and available on the PAGB web site - http://www.thepagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/nature_eligibility.pdf.

15. Monochrome Images

We follow the PAGB guidance on monochrome images, defined in May 2020 as:

Monochrome Images include:

- An Image in tones of neutral grey ranging from transparent/white to opaque/black.
- An Image in a single colour:
 - A Print using a chemical process such as sepia, cyanotype, etc..
 - A digitally produced Image 'colorized' in a single hue.

See http://www.thepagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/monochrome_eligibility.pdf.

Please note: If anyone would like help with choice of subject, presentation, mounting or competition rules, please feel free to contact the Competition Secretary, Chairman, or a Committee Member.

¹ Technically, the slightly larger imperial measurements of the 20" x 16" mounts are no longer in PAGB rules.

² An image entered as Natural History becomes available to the External Competition Secretary for including in external Natural History competitions, where the special rules will apply.