



# Lichfield Camera Club MERIT COMPETITION RULES

Proposed revision 23<sup>rd</sup> May 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 to the Photo Entry system. This 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 was faulty.

*Members wishing to be sure of entering competitions should do so as early as possible, in case they themselves are delayed by technical issues, and find the competition has closed.*

3. Competitions will be split into the following categories:  
Digital Projected – 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. No image can 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, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	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*.



# Lichfield Camera Club

## MERIT COMPETITION RULES

Proposed revision 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

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 will be left to the discretion of the competitor, but the print/mount must not exceed 50 x 40 cm. A digital version of the original digital image (that matches the printed image) must be submitted to the Photo Entry system, as for digital images, below.
11. Digital Images must be provided, 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  
None of the merit competitions are exclusively for Natural History, all are pictorial, however **if Latin titles are used, even in a pictorial competition**, then the image must comply with **current** FIAP rules regarding Natural History. Currently (MAY2022) the rule is as follows:-

### **Definition of Nature Photography**

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. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. 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.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. colour images can be converted to greyscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

Images used in Nature Photography competitions may be divided in two classes: Nature and Wildlife.

Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, 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 man for food.

### **Definition of Wildlife Photography**

Images entered in Wildlife sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. landscapes (*initial capital letter removed*), geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections. Wildlife is not limited to mammals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species.

Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections of Exhibitions.

15. Monochrome Images – again we follow the current FIAP ruling, which states:-  
*A black and white image fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with various shades of grey.*  
*A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in*



# Lichfield Camera Club MERIT COMPETITION RULES

**Proposed revision 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

*the black and white category; such a work can be reproduced in black and white in the catalogue of a salon under FIAP Patronage.*

*On the other hand a black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category: such a work requires colour reproduction in the catalogue of a salon under FIAP Patronage*

All sections in italics are reproduced direct from FIAP rules.

*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.