



COMPETITION RULES

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General Rules and Conditions

1. Entrants must be paid-up members of the Stevenage Photographic Society for the year in which the competitions are held.
2. For the purposes of our competitions, a photographic image is defined “as being a captured image on a light-sensitive device/surface (e.g. photogram technique, film camera, digital camera, smartphone, tablet, etc...) and recorded on paper, film or in a digital format.” Images, or elements thereof, *generated* by **Artificial Intelligence** is not deemed to be a photographic image and are therefore not permitted.
3. Images entered in club competitions must be **entirely** the work of the photographer. Composite images made up of multiple images, textures and overlays, must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks and clipart are not permitted. Any creative, shaped or textured brushes must be created by the photographer.
4. Prints and projected digital images must not be more than 4 years old. (This does not refer to the date the image was captured).
5. Entries must comply with the specifications for **Entering Prints** and **Entering PDIs**. Any image not complying with the specifications may be withdrawn from that round of the competition by the Internal Competition Secretary.
6. Images entered in a monthly competition may not be entered in any subsequent monthly competition. Entries to the Annual Competitions must not have been used as part of a previous entry into that competition.
7. The specific rules of each competition, including the date, number of entries, theme, naming and presentation requirements will be published when the competition is announced. Entries must also comply with rules defined for **Monthly League** Competitions and **Annual Competitions**.
8. All entries must be received by the Internal Competition Secretary at least one week in advance of the date of the competition, unless a later submission date is provided on the club programme

or club website. Late entries, or PDIs/print digital copies not uploaded to the website are normally not accepted.

9. The Competition Secretary, in consultation with the Chairperson or their delegate, will reject entries that do not meet the rules and/or conditions for a competition.
10. When entering a competition the member is effectively giving a copy of the image to the club. The club may retain selected images for use in external competitions and may use entered images on the website and/or social media and in newsletters when reporting the results of competitions or when promoting the club. The club will not use images for any other purposes without the members express permission.
11. 'Monochrome' and 'Natural History' themes are subject to the definitions stated in [Genre Definitions](#).

Monthly Leagues

In addition to the Competition General Rules and Conditions the following rules also apply:

1. The monthly league will consist of three print rounds (two Open, one Monochrome) and three PDI rounds (two Open, one Themed).
2. The number of entries may be limited at any time by the Internal Competition Secretary. The current maximum number of entries per round is three per author. In the event that we receive too many entries, we may withdraw your third Print or PDI (determined by the order you upload to the website).
3. To allow for the different skills and experience levels of our photographers the Monthly PDI and Print Leagues are split into **General** and **Advanced** Leagues as set out in [Scoring, Points & Leagues](#).
4. Images will be judged and scored as set out in [Scoring, Points & Leagues](#). Only two highest scores per round will count towards placement in the league table. In the event of a tie, placement will be based on a count-back system until all placements are determined.
5. *In the General League*, one previously entered image may be used again, provided that it has not scored 18 or more previously and has had an editing update. Only images entered in the current or previous season can be re-entered.
6. *In the Advanced League*, images entered in a monthly competition may not be entered in any subsequent monthly competition.

Annual Competitions

In addition to the Competition General Rules and Conditions the following rules also apply:

Photographer of the Year

This competition will present a portfolio of work where photographer demonstrates their skill in the use of lighting, composition, and varying subject matter.

1. Entries will consist of 6 prints, and each image must have its own title.
2. Images must not have been used in a previous Photographer of the Year competition.
3. Images must not have been entered into the PDI of the Year competition in the same year.

Jim Lucas Award for Print of the Year

This competition will select the Prints of the year.

1. Only entries submitted for Photographer of the Year will be eligible for consideration for the Jim Lucas Award.

2. Images must not have been entered into a previous Photographer of the Year competition.
3. Images must not have been entered into the PDI of the Year competition in the same year.

PDI of the Year

This competition will select the PDIs of the year.

1. The maximum number of images entered per author is three. In the event that we receive too many entries, we may withdraw your third PDI.
2. Entries must not have been used in a previous PDI of the Year competition
3. Entries may not be used in the subsequent Photographer of the Year / Jim Lucas Award for Best Print in the same year.

Portrait Photographer of the Year

This competition will present a portfolio of work where photographer demonstrates their skill in the use of lighting, composition, and varying subject matter in the subject of Portraiture.

1. The number of images per entry and format of entry (Print or PDI) will be determined when the competition is first announced.
2. Each image must have its own title.
3. Entries must not have been used in a previous Portrait Photographer of the Year competition.

Nature Image of the Year

This competition will select the Nature Image of the Year.

1. Images must meet the definition of Natural History set out in [Genre Definitions](#).
2. The maximum number of PDI images entered per author is four. In the event that we receive too many entries, we may withdraw your fourth PDI.
3. Entries must not have been used in a previous Nature Image of the Year competition

Chris Pike Memorial

The competition will alternate each year between a Creative Composite Print Competition and a Theme PDI Competition.

1. Entries for a Creative Composite Print must be made up of two or more images.
2. Entries for the Theme PDI must contain the named subject set as the theme of the competition. Entries may be made up of a single image or composite.
3. Entries must not have been used in a previous/subsequent Chris Pike Memorial Trophy competition.

Panel

This competition will present a coherent panel of work.

1. The number of images in the panel will be finalised when the competition is first announced. Entries will consist of a panel of required prints with a common theme and mount, and maybe in colour or monochrome (but not mixed).
2. The prints must all be of the same size and be at least 380 cm² (ie 19cm by 19cm or bigger).
3. Each panel must have an overall panel title marked clearly indicated on the back of the first image within the panel.
4. Entries must not have been used in a previous Panel competition.

Appendix

Entering PDIs

- The image size should not exceed 1600 pixels by 1200 pixels. Note that width and height refers to how the image is viewed when projected, i.e.
If your image is landscape format then 1600 pixels wide is the critical dimension
If your image is portrait format then 1200 pixels high is the critical dimension
If your image is square format then your image should be 1200 x 1200 pixels
- Be less than 2mb
- In jpeg format
- In the sRGB colour space
- Title and Author must be present in the metadata, any image without metadata may be withdrawn from that round of the competition by the Internal Competition Secretary.

Entering Prints

1. Prints may be of any size up to a maximum of 40cm x 50cm (between 20 x 25cm to 30 x 40cm / 8" x 10" to 12" x 16" is recommended).
2. All prints must be mounted. As a standard, the mounts should measure 40cm x 50cm. Mounts must be made of cardboard, (or similar mounting material), backed, fixed with mounting tape not masking tape and unframed. The mounting must be such that the mounted prints may be stacked or mixed without fear of damage to other entries.
3. The image title, author's name and Stevenage Photographic Society must be clearly shown on the back of the print, preferably in top left corner.
4. Entries for print competitions must be accompanied by the digital image that was used for the print (resized to PDI specification).
Digital print copies must be uploaded to the club website by the hand-in date of the competition. Print entries submitted without the accompanying digital image may be withdrawn from that round of the competition by the Internal Competition Secretary.

Artificial Intelligence

- All elements of any competition entries must be captured by the author; *AI-generated* images contravene this rule and are not permitted.
- Use of *AI-enabled* image enhancement and editing tools contained within a post processing application (e.g. masking, sharpening, de-noise, content-aware fill etc...) are permitted, provided all elements were captured by the author.
- We trust members not to enter *AI-generated* images, or elements of, but reserve the right to ask the member to provide original images, complete with metadata, if necessary.

Scoring, Points & Leagues

Monthly Competition and League Tables

In each monthly competition, points will be awarded for each photograph on a scale of 1 to 20 (highest) using whole numbers, typically using a range of 12 - 20

Only two highest scores from each round of the competition (PDI, Print, Overall) will count towards placement in the league table. In the event of a tie, placement will be based on number of 20s from all entries, then number of 19s etc

To allow for the different skills and experience levels of our photographers, and to allow the judge to adjust their scoring accordingly, the Monthly PDI and Print Leagues are split into **General** and **Advanced** Leagues.

For these competitions the General League entries will be shown and scored first and then the Advanced League which is scored separately.

Members will be asked to nominate their preferred league by the last Monday in September, and the leagues published after the entry deadline for the first competition. As a guide we suggest members nominate based on the following guidance:

Advanced:

PAGB or RPS Accreditation, BPE/FIAP, and/or
1st/2nd/3rd in a Monthly League or PPOTY/POTY winner and/or
Consistently having image(s) scoring 18+

General:

Inexperienced camera club member (e.g. < 2-3 years) and/or
Rarely/occasionally having image(s) scoring 18+

New members joining the club mid-season would be added to the most appropriate league.

The Committee will advise if they feel the chosen league may not be suitable or when members should consider moving between leagues e.g. if they win PDI and/or Print General League 2 years running or majority of images scoring 18+.

Annual Competitions

Annual Competitions are usually scored First, Second, Third, Highly Commended and Commended.

For the purposes of recording scores on the website, scoring based on placing will be converted into a points score: First (20), Second (19), Third (18), HC (17), C(16), all other images (15).

Judges

Whenever possible a single judge, who is not a member of the Society, will be appointed for each monthly and annual competition. In the event of an external judge not being available, the committee will reschedule the competition to the nearest available club night or arrange an adhoc Zoom judging.

Genre Definitions

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

Natural History Images include:

Nature means Images where living organisms are the primary subject matter. The story telling value of an Image will normally be weighed more than the pictorial quality.

Nature includes:

- Images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on man for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.

Nature excludes:

- Images where the subjects are obviously domestic animals or plants.
- Images where an obviously artistic treatment has been applied.

Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements. An Image appearing to meet these criteria will be accepted as Nature. The Judges will normally assume that any Image presented to them is eligible.

Access to some biological subjects may be restricted. Where that is relevant, then Photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practices and hold any necessary licences.