ABERGAVENNY CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION RULES

The purpose of the Club is to promote interest in the taking of photographs and to educate members in the art, science, appreciation and assessment of photography.

Assessment sessions may be led by outside speakers or by the members themselves in various ways. The aim of this process will be to draw attention to the individual merits of each picture and discuss any areas in which it may be improved.

Competitions: general
1. There are five internal competitions a year:
   a) 1 open mono competition
   b) 2 open colour/mono competitions
   c) 1 themed colour/mono competition
   d) 1 open colour/mono panel competition

2. For each competition, there are two categories, (a) Print and (b) Projected Digital Image (PDI). With the exception of the panel competition, members may enter up to two pictures for each category and may enter both categories.

3. The panel competition has an open theme and the following will apply:

- Members may enter one panel of prints and one panel of PDIs, each containing:

   o   A plan of how the images should be laid out – i.e. A Hanging Plan, and

   o   3 to 5 other images (including the Hanging Plan – 4 – 6 images are uploaded to Photoentry)

- The images in a panel should have a unifying theme: story, subject matter, tonality and colour etc. The theme should be made clear in a title and optionally, a descriptive statement. The set will be judged as a whole.

- Prints are presented as a set of individual prints.

- PDIs should be presented as a sequence of images that must conform to the usual size requirements.

- Only the title of the complete panel is required. Individual images are not titled.

4. As one aim of the Club is to encourage members to develop their photographic skills, it is hoped that in general, members will show recent work.

5. Trade processed/printed and home processed/printed entries shall be allowed in all sections.

6. No work may be presented for more than one internal competition unless it has been substantially altered, except that images submitted as part of a panel may have been submitted previously in a single-image competition and vice versa. (Unaltered work may be re-submitted for external competitions – see 'External Competitions' notes below).

7. All parts of images submitted must have been produced by the photographer or by means of a digital imaging device. Any modifications made to the original image must have been made by the photographer or under her/his supervision.

8. Guidelines are issued to judges, including aspects of impact, composition, light/colour management and workmanship that the judge should take into account – and a request that the judge reduces marks for images that have no apparent relevance to the theme (where the entry is for a themed competition). The judge is asked to nominate one print and one DPI as the 'best image' in that category. The WPF comprehensive guidance can be found in the Membershare folder in Dropbox or via this link - What judges look for

Requirements - Prints
The maximum print size, including mount, is 50cm x 40cm: this is consistent with Welsh Photographic Federation (WPF) standards and ensures that prints will fit into the standard sized carrying box.

Labels must be fixed firmly to your print mounts, stating the date of the competition and the title of your print. To help with sorting, it is useful if labels are fixed in the top right-hand corner. A template for club labels is available in the MemberShare folder on Dropbox. In an emergency, it is acceptable to write your details (as above) onto the reverse of the print without a club label, but you should also add 'Abergavenny Camera Club'. You must NOT put your name on the prints unless the session is specified as being for attributed work.

Only approved mounting/frame backing tape should be used. Masking tape/sellotape must not be used.

Requirements – PDIs
The pixel dimension for digital images must be no greater than 1400 pixels in the horizontal plane or 1050 pixels in the vertical plane and must be resized accordingly. Images must be in JPEG (.jpg) format and for optimum display should be saved at a resolution of 300 dpi. Please see the *Resizing for Digital Projection* document for further help.

Submission procedure
The Club uses PhotoEntry software (http://photoentry.uk/index.html) for all internal competitions, including the panel, your PDI entries should be uploaded together with PDIs of your print entries. The PhotoEntry website has full instructions on how to use it; there is also a slide show on the Club website.

A competition will be open for entries at least four weeks before it is due to take place.

Members will be advised of a forthcoming competition two meetings (i.e. normally four weeks) before it is due to take place and this will be backed up by an email in the week following.

Prints for competitions should physically be handed in to the Competition Secretary before or on the hand-in date (i.e. the meeting two weeks prior to the judging date). Prints can also be delivered to the home of the Competition Secretary prior to the hand-in date.

Competitions will be formally closed at midnight on the day of the hand-in meeting. In practice they may stay open longer, but this is not guaranteed and once a competition is labelled as closed no further entries will be possible.

Once a competition has been judged, scores will be entered into the Photoentry system. The system then produces aggregated score tables throughout the year.

Inclusion on the club's website
All images that receive a score of 19 or 20 and any other images with a lower score judged as 'best image', will be included on the 'Inspiration' page of the club's website. Members with high-scoring prints will be asked to provide the Competition Secretary with DPI versions of their images. These images will also be included as entries for the 'Photograph of the Year' award (see below).

Annual awards
Three awards are made at the end of the year:

1. Certificates to the members with the top three highest cumulative scores in each of the Print and Projected Digital Image categories. Cumulative scores are based on the full number of points awarded for a member's highest-scoring entry in each competition, plus half the marks awarded for the other entry. So someone who gets 16 and 14 would get an overall score of 23 for that competition. As you can see, this means you get more marks this way than someone who puts in one image only and scores 20. The idea behind this is to encourage people to take and show a good number of pictures and to do it regularly, as this is one of the ways we improve as photographers. The annual winners of our print and projected digital image competitions are people who have entered every competition and put in two pictures each time.

2. An award for 'Photograph of the Year' (POTY) chosen by members from the year's top-scoring images, both Print and Projected Digital Image. This includes all images that scored 19 or 20 (including in external competitions – see below) and, if necessary, any other 'best images' from each of the four competitions.

3. The Chairman's Award for the most deserving member, solely at the Chairman's discretion.

If you require any further information about club competitions, please contact the Competition Secretary at a meeting or by email.

External Competitions
The club also participates in external competitions, both "battles" with other clubs and general competitions organised by the Welsh Photographic Federation.

In general, the high scoring print images (18 and above) are retained by the Club for use in external competitions, rather than being handed back to members after each judging session. If you are not happy about this, then let us know.

In addition to using internal competition images, we also encourage members to submit images specifically for the external competitions. Members will be notified of the opportunities to do this prior to each external competition. Mounted prints for external competitions should be delivered to the Competition Secretary on or before the notified hand-in date. See the *Requirements* section above for instructions on size, labelling etc.

The club always aims to represent as many members as possible in external battles. For example, if a battle needs 10 pictures, we like to represent the work of 10 photographers, or as many as we can. However, we cannot guarantee that we will use any particular work submitted by a member.

If you are interested in how we select images for external competitions, please tell us – and you may be invited to help!

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