



Lichfield Camera Club

MERIT COMPETITION RULES

6th June 2012

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 clubs annual awards.

1. The closing date for competition entries will be one week prior to the competition date published in the programme and is limited to *fee paid* Club Members. Entries must be accompanied by an **Entry Form** – these are available on club nights or can be downloaded from the clubs Web site at www.lichfieldcameraclub.org, the current rules are also on the website.
2. 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.

3. 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 – 2 monochrome and 2 colour prints may be entered
The Competition Secretary may reduce entry numbers to ensure the smooth running of competition nights
4. 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 in to a different category so long as it does not enter more than three times in total.
5. 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.
4. All entries must be the original work of the author and must only contain original photographs or digital images taken/created by the author.
5. All judges will be of an acceptable standing. Their names will be available in advance via the published programme.
6. For each Section/Category - entries will be awarded points as follows:
1st: 12 - 2nd: 10 - 3rd: 8 - Highly Commended: 6 – Commended: 4 – Unplaced: 1

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

7. 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 20 x 16 inches.
8. Digital Images must be provided, titled, formatted and sized according to the guidelines published on the club's website.
9. 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.
10. The External Competition Secretary may retain entries from merit competitions for use in external competitions.
11. Natural History – None of the merit competitions are exclusively for Natural History, all are pictorial, however If Latin titles are used, then the image must comply with **current** FIAP rules regarding Natural History
Currently the rule is as follows:-
Nature photography depicts living, untamed animals and uncultivated plants in a natural habitat, geology and the wide diversity of natural phenomena, from insects to icebergs

Photographs of animals which are domesticated, caged or under any form of restraint, as well as photographs of cultivated plants are ineligible.

Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable for nature subjects, such as barn owls or storks, adapting to an environment modified by humans, or natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves, reclaiming it.

The original image must have been taken by the photographer, whatever photographic medium is used. Any manipulation or modification to the original image is limited to minor retouching of blemishes and must not alter the content of the original scene.

After satisfying the above requirements, every effort should be made to use the highest level of artistic skill in all nature photographs. End of quote.

It therefore follows that the animal must not be enclosed in any way, be truly wild, behaving naturally and also be indigenous to the environment in which it is photographed.

As a *general* guide, if it is fed / watered / looked after on a regular basis - it is not wild.

12. 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 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 contact:

Grace Mason
Chairman
Lichfield Camera Club
Tel. 01543 473517

or

Internal Competitions Secretary
Lichfield Camera Club

Added:

The display number on competition entry forms should be the total number of times an image has been entered in ANY section.