

Competition Rules (September 2019)

There are two classes, “Open” and “Novice” and within each class six sections, which are:

Prints – Mono Prints, General Colour Prints, and Nature Prints.

Projected – Mono, General Colour and Nature.

The Novice class is intended for those relatively new to club photography who prefer, initially, to compete only against those with similar experience to themselves.

The Open class is where all other members compete.

Members will be free to choose which class they enter, but that decision will hold for the whole season. No member may enter both classes contemporaneously.

For Monthly Competitions the Prints Sections and Projected Sections are generally held on separate evenings. Also for the Monthly Competitions, with the exception of the “Set Subject” ones, only two of the Sections will be contested each month. These will be clearly shown on the club programme.

There will be 4 Print and 4 Projected Monthly Competitions in each season, including the 2 “Set Subject” competitions.

The Annual Novice and Annual Open Competitions will be on separate evenings and these will include both Print and PDI Sections.

The winners of any Sections in the Novice class will be expected to move to the Open class the following and subsequent seasons, at least in that particular Section. This move may be deferred for one year maximum if the member so desires.

The Competition Secretary will be pleased to answer any questions on any matters relating to the Competitions.

General Rules (these apply to all competitions)

1. Entries will only be accepted from fully paid up members.
2. All entries must be photographs (made by the action of light of any wavelength on a sensitive surface) for which the entrant holds the copyright.
3. Monochrome is defined as a photograph varying from very dark grey (black) to very clear grey (white) with various shades of grey in between. A work toned with a single colour will remain monochrome. Any partial toning or the addition of another colour becomes a colour image.
4. Photographs which have been entered in a monthly competition during a previous season may not be entered again. The “almost identical” restriction applies here also.
5. Any entry may be used by the Society for publicity purposes and will be made available on request for inter-club competitions.
6. All entries must be handed in on the correct night, clearly identified with the author’s name, class, section and title. Any entry not complying with these requirements will be returned.
7. Whilst the Society will take every reasonable care, the liability for any damage to photographs shall be the entrant’s.

Monthly Competition Rules (including “Set Subject” comps).

1. Members may enter up to three photographs in each Print Section. (However, see Rule 6, below). For PDI competitions volume considerations mean that members may only enter 3 images in total, spread across the Sections.
2. During the Monthly Competitions a photograph may be entered a second time if it does not receive an award (Commended or better) in its first entry. This will be the only circumstance in which a photo may be re-entered during the Monthlies. No photograph may be entered more than twice and that includes using the same file for both Colour and Mono. The same applies to photographs that are “almost identical” to one that has already been entered. Those who wish to present their work to another judge during a

season may do so at the Annual Open or Annual Novice Competitions.

3. Photographs of a similar likeness may only be entered across the season if the titles indicate that there is more than one photograph e.g. Flower 1, Flower 2 etc. Alternatively give the photos more specific and different titles. What we need to avoid is giving the impression that a photo is being re-entered when it is actually a different photograph, so no duplication of the same title by the same author.

4. A record of placing made by judges will be kept by the Competition Secretary for appropriate awards to be presented at the end of the season.

5. Only the best score in each Section each month will count towards the annual Best Awards. Points are awarded 7 for 1st place, 6 for 2nd, 5 for 3rd, 4 for "Highly Commended" and 3 for "Commended".

6. There will be a cap of 100 entries in all monthly competitions. This will be administered by reducing entries per member per section where necessary.

7. The Competition Secretary may use his/her discretion to waive or amend competition rules where appropriate and ensure that the Novice class is correctly used.

Prints (all competitions)

1. Mono and colour prints may be either home or trade processed/printed. In the Open Class they must be mounted and no larger than 20 inches by 16 inches including mount. Within the Novice Class, however, prints may be entered unmounted.

2. Digital Files are also required for projection during the competition. These should reflect the entered print in all respects including their cropping. These files should be entered over the Internet through PhotoEntry as in the PDI competitions.

Digital Projection (all competitions)

1. All photographic files must be in JPG format with minimum compression and shall be a maximum of 1600 pixels wide and 1200 pixels high [NOT REVERSEABLE]. The images must be in a single layer in RGB mode and the sRGB colour space, including monochrome images. Each photo file must be titled. Use capital letters and spaces in the title where they would normally appear and do not type '.jpg' after the title (as .jpg is inserted automatically by most software

2. Entries must be made over the Internet using PhotoEntry. If you advise the Competitions Secretary (compsec@bromsgroveps.com) that you wish to enter competitions he will then set you up an account in PhotoEntry and send you log-in details. The process is very easy as long as the conventions detailed in the previous paragraph have been adhered to. Before asking for log-in details, to avoid PhotoEntry emails going to Spam, please enter mcpf-bromsgrove@photoentry.uk in your email address book.

Natural History Rules (Straight copy of internationally adopted rules). [BPS works to 'Nature' rules NOT 'Wildlife' ones.]

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.

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, 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 animals, 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.

ANNUAL COMPETITION RULES

The Annual Open & Annual Novice Competitions are held towards the end of each season. They will incorporate both Prints and PDIs and will be divided into the same classes and sections as the Monthly Competitions although 'Colour' and 'Mono' Sections will be merged to help speed the judging. In each of the merged Colour and Mono Sections the judge will be asked to pick the Best entries in the following 4 genres: Landscape, Portrait, Sport, and Creative. In the Nature Sections he/she will be asked to pick the Best entries in these 4 genres: Insect, Plant & Fungi, Mammal and Bird. The judge will also be asked to pick the Best Overall Colour and Mono and Nature entries for both Prints and PDIs.

1. Each entrant may submit up to two photographs in each of the six sections. However, see also Rule 5 below.
2. Each entrant must have submitted at least one entry into a Section of one of the current season's Monthly Competitions to be eligible to submit an entry into that Section of the Annual Open or Annual Novice competitions.
3. Entries may have been submitted in previous Monthly Competitions or may be new work.
4. No entry may be the same, or similar, to another entry from the same entrant in another Section of the Annual Competition. Other than as stated above, the rules of Monthly Competitions will apply (e.g. definition of Nature, format for projected digital photographs, etc.).
5. There will most likely need to be a cap on entries in the Annual Competitions. This will be administered by reducing entries per member per Section where necessary after discussion with the judge.
6. The interpretation of these rules will be at the discretion of the Competition Secretary but, in the event of any dispute, the Committee will decide based on such evidence as they see fit to obtain.

All these rules will be reviewed at the end of each season and any amendments made will be announced before the next season.

Nigel Taylor
Competition Secretary