

Competition rules

1. The competition rules shall not be altered except by an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose. These rules apply to all competitions unless varied by specific competition rules.
2. The Committee shall have the power to resolve any matters on which these rules are silent.
3. Entry to competitions will be open to all members who have paid their subscription.
4. Entry to competitions denotes acceptance of the rules.
5. The Hon General Secretary will allocate each member a competition number. This number must be clearly shown on the work submitted. No print shall bear the name of the photographer. Entries shall carry the member's division number as a prefix to the competition number. Projected Digital Image (PDI) files shall comply with the arrangements for PDI shown elsewhere in these rules.
6. Except where specifically allowed for, all competitions shall be judged by an external judge. External judge means a judge who is not a member of Ashford Photographic Society.
7. If the total entry is excessive the judge will not be expected to comment on every piece of work.
8. The judge's decision will be final.
9. It is expected that members will abide by the spirit of these rules so that competition may be fair and self-regulating. It is not the task of the Competition Secretary to act as scrutineer. Any member who considers that an entry has gained unfair advantage through a breach of the rules should lodge a formal protest with the Committee.
10. All prints shall be mounted; mount size to be 40 cm by 50 cm. Members shall take care that their entry will not cause damage to other entries, e.g. no Velcro type strips on mounts, or exposed sticky tape. Entries falling short of this requirement will NOT be sent forward for judging.
11. All projected digital images (PDI) shall comply with the requirements for PDI shown elsewhere in this handbook. Entries falling short of this requirement will NOT be sent forward for judging. This rule does not apply to the audio-visual competition rules.
12. Every care will be taken of entries but no responsibility will be accepted for their safety i.e. 'at photographer's risk'.
13. Prints and PDIs are subject to the following: the image components used to provide the final image must be the original photographic work of the photographer; artwork, images included in commercially available software and copies of other people's photographs etc. may not be used. This rule does not apply to the audio-visual competition rules.
14. There is no limit to the age of entries. No piece of work shall be used for more than three years from the first time of showing in a Society competition or Annual Exhibition
15. An image entered in a league competition whether as a print or PDI may also be

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entered once in each of the non-league competitions provided it complies with the relevant rules. Similarly, an image entered initially in one or more non-league competitions may be entered once only, in one of the league competitions. An image, once used in any competition, may not be used ever again in the same competition. Part of an image is deemed to equate to the whole image and vice versa. An image entered in any competition as a PDI may not be entered in any competition as a print and vice versa, in the same season or any following season.

League Competitions

16. Each season the committee will assess the number of competitors in each of the leagues and arrange divisions as appropriate.
17. In each of the leagues new members will automatically be placed in the lowest division unless they produce evidence to the Committee that this would be inappropriate. The Committee retains the option to place a member in a division other than the lowest if he/she would obviously be misplaced there and would have an unfair advantage over the other members of that division.
18. There will be four print league competitions each season. A maximum of **three prints per member per competition** may be entered. All competitions will be 'open' subjects. All styles of photographic images will be accepted in the print league competitions including creative.
19. There will be six PDI league competitions each season. A maximum of **two images per member per competition** may be entered. All competitions will be 'open' subjects.
20. Photographs depicting Natural History and Record may not be subject to any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except that minor retouching of blemishes (which must not alter the truth of the original scene), resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, sharpening and restoration of original colour of the scene is permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. No electronic 'special effect' filters can be applied.
21. Images may be altered, either electronically or otherwise by the photographer, providing the photographic content predominates. The use of graphics and artwork is not permitted.
22. The judges in the league competitions shall be asked to mark entries in each division out of 20. In addition, in each division he/she shall be asked to nominate one winner, one second and one third place.
23. For the award of each league trophy the scores for the best 8 entries out of a possible 12 will be aggregated to give a member's league score for the season. If the aggregate of these points results in a tie, bonuses shall be awarded as follows: 3 points for a first place, 2 for a second place and 1 for a third place. If, after the addition of bonuses the result is a tie the result shall stand and the trophy shall be shared for that season.

24. At the end of each season, in print and PDI leagues, members shall be promoted or relegated to the next division in order of merit. The Committee will determine the number of members to be moved in each case and any such moves will be based on each member's league score for the season. Tied marks will be separated by counting the bonuses.
25. Any member who is promoted or relegated may appeal in writing against that decision to the Committee if he/she feels there are sufficient grounds for his/her promotion or relegation to be cancelled (e.g. insufficient experience for promotion, insufficient entries because of illness or similar reasons).
26. Any member of Divisions 1 or 2 who has not entered any of the league competitions during the season will not be allocated to a Division for the following season but will be asked to choose the Division(s) in which they wish to compete, subject to the agreement of the Committee.

Overall Winner's Trophy

27. To be awarded annually to the person(s) aggregating the highest total of marks, in 1, their print league score (best 8) and 2, their PDI league score (best 8), irrespective of class. If the aggregate of these points results in a tie, bonuses shall be awarded as follows: 3 points for a first place, 2 for a second place and 1 for a third place. If, after the addition of bonuses the result is a tie the result shall stand and the trophy shall be shared for that season.

Overall winner in Annual Exhibition:
Cranes and trains by Anthony Baines



Annual Exhibition

28. Each member may enter up to a maximum of **four** prints. Prints entered in previous annual exhibitions will not be eligible, but any other prints including those entered in any of the Society's competitions (excluding the small print competition) will be eligible. There will be a trophy for the best print.
29. The judge will be sent the entries prior to commenting on them. The judge will be required to determine the best print, and may also award Highly Commended and Commended Certificates of Merit. The judge will not be expected to comment on all the work if the total number of entries is excessive.

Endeavour Trophy

30. The Endeavour Trophy is the club's only trophy not to be awarded for photography; instead it is awarded in recognition of meritorious service to the club. A member may only receive it once. The recipient is chosen by the Committee in a secret vote having examined a list of those members who have not received the trophy; the voting slips are examined normally by two Committee members who are not eligible to receive the trophy.

Trophy Competitions

31. The Committee shall have the discretion to hold trophy competitions on alternate years in order to formulate a balanced programme.
32. With regard to the Portrait, Natural History, Record, Rural Landscape and Chairman's Salver Competitions, a maximum of **four entries per competition** may be submitted. They can be any combination of prints or PDI. A judge will be appointed to assess the work in each competition and award a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the print and PDI sections. The judge will then choose an overall winner for the competition from the two 1st places.



John Wigmore Rural Landscape Trophy

33. To be awarded for the best image submitted in the competition, which will be held annually. Photographs entered must be a pictorial study of a RURAL landscape (water/seascapes and skiescapes are acceptable), a landscape being a wide view or vista of scenery.





Bill Waters Natural History Trophy

34. When entering the Natural History Trophy, members must refer to, and comply with, the “*nature definition*”, which can be found on the website.



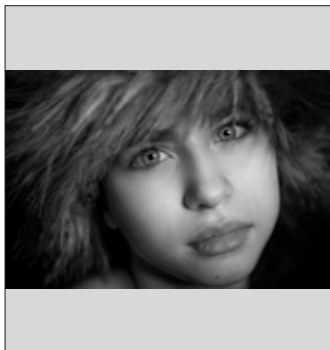
Natural History Action Trophy, *donated by Stephen Cheek*

35. To be awarded for the best action image, demonstrating wildlife behaviour, in the natural history competition.



Tony Culver Trophy: Portrait

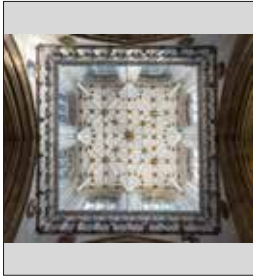
36. To be awarded for the best image submitted in the competition. Portrait subject matter is deemed to be *human portrait, glamour* or *figure studies*.





Janet Morris Memorial Trophy: Record

37. To be awarded for the best image submitted in the competition. The title 'Record' is to include *applied photography* and *architecture*, but exclude *natural history*. A definition of record is: to photograph any man-made object/structure, or part of, accurately showing shape, detail and texture, so that it would help to recreate that said object in the event of it being damaged or stolen.



Driftwood Trophy: Print Panel, *donated by Chris Shore*

The aim of the competition is to encourage members to produce panels of prints linked by content or technique according to the photographer's choice.

38. Panels shall consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of six mounts and will be displayed. Photographers should indicate how they wish their panel to be arranged. A 30cm x 7.5cm (12" x 3") title may be displayed at the photographer's discretion. Members may enter as many panels as they wish.
39. The competition will be judged "off the cuff" and members must indicate to the competition secretary two weeks before the competition that they intend to submit an entry. The judge will award a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.



Projected Digital Image Theme

40. A selection of a minimum of three and a maximum of six individual PDI's, together with a title slide incorporating thumbnails of the images, displayed in the order in which they are to be projected, on the photographer's chosen themes, will be projected with commentary. The judge will be asked to select a 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in the competition. Theme is defined as "A set of images depicting a common theme which may or may not tell a story.

Submissions for PDI theme competition

41. Members may enter up to three separate themes. However, if the number of entries is high, they may not all be eligible for the competition. Therefore, each member must rank their themes by using an 'A', 'B', 'C' prefix. All 'A's will go into the competition; 'C' and possibly 'B' ranked themes may be dropped.

Entries should be submitted via the website. The file naming convention is:

<RANK> <TITLE> – <ORDER> by <COMPETITION No>.jpg

Where RANK = A, B or C

TITLE = the title of the theme

COMPETITION No = your club competition number

ORDER = order in which the individual images of that theme will be displayed

For example, a member with competition number 99 having two themes: 'Misty Mornings' with 5 images and 'London Eye' with 6 images

A MISTY MORNINGS – 1 by 99.jpg



A MISTY MORNINGS – 2 by 99.jpg
A MISTY MORNINGS – 3 by 99.jpg
A MISTY MORNINGS – 4 by 99.jpg
A MISTY MORNINGS – 5 by 99.jpg
A MISTY MORNINGS – 6 by 99.jpg
B LONDON EYE – 1 by 99.jpg
B LONDON EYE – 2 by 99.jpg
B LONDON EYE – 3 by 99.jpg
B LONDON EYE – 4 by 99.jpg
B LONDON EYE – 5 by 99.jpg
B LONDON EYE – 6 by 99.jpg
B LONDON EYE – 7 by 99.jpg

Note: Your title image incorporating the thumbnails should be the first in the sequence and must be on a black background with text in white in a plain font. (Do NOT include your name or competition number).

The Chairman's Salver

42. To be awarded for the best image submitted in the competition.
43. At the Annual General Meeting the current Chairman will nominate the subject for which the trophy will be awarded the following season. This year the topic is "Dynamism", which is defined in the OED as "anything related to the operation of forces in movement".

Audio-visual Competition

44. A PDI-based audio-visual competition will be held, using a projector and sound system. The maximum size for digital images shall be 1600 pixels wide and 1200 pixels high. Sequences shall be no longer than 12 minutes. Judging will be by those members present. Each member will be invited to vote anonymously for the entries, placing them in first, second and third positions. Three points will be awarded for each first place, two for each second place and one for each third place. The points will be aggregated. The entry receiving the highest number of points will be the winner. In the event of a tie, the number of first places will determine the winner; should this still result in a tie, the result will stand. There is no restriction on the age or re-use of PDI's. *The event is held every two years, alternating with the Chairman's Salver, and will not be held this season.*

Youth Trophy

45. To be awarded annually to the person(s) 20 years of age or under on the 1st September immediately preceding the commencement of the season, totalling the highest number of marks in both the print and PDI leagues together, irrespective of class.

PDI requirements

Prepared images need to be of the right pixel size to fit our projection system, saved in the jpeg format and named correctly.

- Image size is maximum width 1600 pixels, maximum height 1200 pixels. Image format shall be .jpg (preferably best quality). Resolution may be set to 72ppi, although this will have no effect on the image. Maximum file size: 2MB.
- Image filename shall read in the format: THE SKY AT NIGHT by 88.jpg
- To clarify, the title shall be in CAPITAL LETTERS followed by a space, then "by", then another space, then the photographer's competition number; do not include your division number in the file name or use leading zeros
- Note 1: Images of less than the maximum pixel size will be projected with a black background to fill the blank area.
- Note 2: The maximum number of characters (including spaces) for the 'title' is 65.

Entries must be uploaded via the APS website by entering competition number, postcode and first letter of their surname. The projection equipment is calibrated to sRGB colour space. To help you check the calibration of your equipment it is suggested that you download the test target from the APS website. Any member unable to upload their images for technical reasons, eg no broadband, may submit their entry/entries on a memory stick.

Print requirements

Prints for league and trophy competitions should be mounted using boards that are 40cm x 50cm. On the back of the print at the top right you should legibly write your division number and competition number followed by the name of the picture eg using the above example, for someone in division 3, you would write 388 THE SKY AT NIGHT. This helps the judge's assistant, who has to read of the name of the print to the audience in a room with low light levels during the judging.

We run a workshop on how to cut and mount prints at the start of the season. However, if anyone needs any help with either printing photographs or mounting them during the season please contact a member of the committee and someone will be able to advise you or help you with your first prints.