

## Competition Guide and Rules

Northampton Camera Club hold a number of competitions throughout the year, with a variety of themes and subjects, judged by a mixture of Internal and External judges. The objective is to give positive critique on photographs, to let the authors gain feedback of areas for improvement. Please note that judging is subjective, and occasionally a judge will not see what you see in an image.

During the externally judged competitions, the image title will be read out for the judge, and the author only revealed once the judging has been completed. For internally judged images (8 out of the 10 Monthly Commentaries), this cannot readily be achieved as the judge will have seen the images before.

All entries must have a title, and are required to be submitted at least one week before the competition evening, in order to provide the Competition Secretary time to sort and collate the images, and time for internal judges to give a more considered judgement. Please refer to the Programme Guide for these dates. To enter your images, bring them along at the meeting the week before the competition, and at the back of the room you will find a few sheets. Enter your name and the Image Title on the relevant sheet, and leave your prints on the table and / or memory stick in the box. If you want you can also email the Competition Secretary at [compsec@northamptoncameraclub.org.uk](mailto:compsec@northamptoncameraclub.org.uk). The Competition Secretary will review each entry for eligibility, and if there are any issues, will advise the Author accordingly.

Please refer to the guidance on digital file naming convention, and image resolution to suit our projector. Digital images should be submitted on a USB stick labelled with the Authors name, or emailed to the Competition Secretary at [compsec@northamptoncameraclub.org.uk](mailto:compsec@northamptoncameraclub.org.uk).

The authors name shall not be visible when reviewing an image.

Sorry, but we no longer accept slides for image entry.

There is no restriction on the size of photographic prints but they must be on a card mount to assist in the display. Regular mount sizes are 20" x 16". Please note that images larger than this may not fit within the lightbox, and may not have consistent lighting.

An image can be entered into as many different competitions as the Author wishes, provided the image meets the competition criteria. An image cannot be entered into the same competition more than once (all Monthly Commentaries count as one competition), even if it has been modified or in different years.

Most competitions have a Trophy. These are engraved and awarded at the AGM in January, for the winning author to retain for the year. The exception being the two Image of The Year trophies, where a medal is awarded for the authors to retain.

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### Monthly Commentaries

There are ten commentary evenings with categories for Prints and Projected Images, each split into General and Advanced classes. These are normally judged by club members, and are designed as a friendly learning curve for novice photographers.

- Members may submit up to two projected images and/or up to two prints (i.e. four entries in total) for each round.
- Entries may be in colour or monochrome and of any subject except for one evening which is set aside for the “set subject”.
- Members are encouraged to enter recent work, but there is no limit on the age of entries submitted.

**Judging.** On each commentary evening a Judge is appointed who will mark each entry out of a maximum of twenty marks. If a member has submitted more than one entry in any category only the highest mark will count towards the annual total and promotion score. If the judge is a club member, they will be allowed to enter twice in the following month. 8 of the 10 commentaries will be judged by club members, the other two will be judged by external judges (These being the competition combined with the John Smith Memorial Trophy, and the Set Subject leading to the Peggy Clowes Cup and Gordon Groome Memorial Trophy).

**Promotion.** New club members will automatically be entered into the General Category. In each category promotion from General to Advanced section requires gaining 135 marks over the year on their best nine commentaries out of the ten. The committee can promote a member from the general section to the advanced section at any time at its discretion based on an appraisal of that member’s work.

To remain in the Advanced section, members must gain at least 15 marks from each of three commentaries in any year, in that category. It is therefore possible for an Author to be Advanced in the Digital competitions, and still in the General Section for prints.

**Trophies.** A trophy in respect of most competitions is awarded annually at the Annual General Meeting. This trophy is held by the winner of each competition for one year. Marks from the best nine commentaries out of a possible ten images are totalled to find the winner. If no member has entered nine commentaries the relevant trophy will not be awarded. In the event of a tied score, the winner is the author with the highest number of 20’s (or 19’s etc)

F.W.CORBYPUP. The best nine prints in the General Section.

F.H.CLOWES CUP. The best nine prints in the Advanced Section.

J.G. & V.J.JOHNSON SALVER. The best nine projected images in the General Section.

WILLMOTT TROPHY. The best nine projected images in the Advance Section.

Winners of the trophies will hold them for a year, returning ready to award the following year.

The exception are the medals awarded to the winners of the “Image of the Year” (Digital and print), which are retained by the winners.

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### Other Competitions

The club also holds a number of other one off competitions, where the winner is decided on the night. These are:-

Competition Name	Entries	Interpretation	Judges Brief
Adams Trophy	<p>A set of four projected images showing the most creative photography. Each picture marked separately out of 20. Highest aggregate score wins. In the event of a tie the judge will choose the best set of images.</p> <p>One or two sets per author may be submitted. The images will be shown in sets of four.</p>	<p>Open competition, no set subject and the pictures needn't be linked, but the emphasis is on creativity. That could mean a creative treatment has been applied to the image, it has been taken from a creative angle, it is of a particularly creative subject, a montage or image created from multiple images in photoshop, etc. Photos of someone else's artwork will not score highly, unless the author has added a creative element of their own.</p>	<p>The emphasis is on creativity, and how the author has added their creativity onto the image. In this instance creative should mean that it is more than just a point and shoot, record shot. Each image should be marked out of 20 and the best total score for the 4 images will win. In the event of a tie you will be required to nominate the best set to get a single winner.</p>
Wilkinson Trophy	<p>The best still life projected image. Still life, in this instance, is defined as any inanimate (or collection of) object(s) arranged by the photographer. This does not mean that the arrangement has to be "table top" A maximum of two images may be entered per author.</p>	<p>Objects must be arranged by the photographer, so that the author has complete control over the subject, arrangement, lighting etc. Statues in-situ, or other similar objects will score low.</p>	<p>Scoring can be out of 20, or Held back / commended. You will be asked to pick individual images for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.</p>
John Smith Memorial Trophy	<p>The best monochrome pictorial print. Each author may submit up to two prints. This competition is incorporated into a monthly commentary (where you may submit another 2 prints). All images will be judged and scored out of 20, but only pictorial monochrome prints will be eligible for the John Smith Memorial. The author must confirm if an entry is for the John Smith, Monthly Commentary, or both. An entry into the John Smith can have been entered into a monthly commentary before (or after).</p>	<p>The emphasis is on Pictorial, and as such portrait images or still life are not pictorial. Monochrome is defined as using a single tone or colour, such as black on white, sepia etc. Sepia with black, and images with a hint of colour are not permitted. (See notes below)</p>	<p>All images marked out of 20. You will be asked to pick individual images for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, which may or may not have the same scores.</p>

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Margaret & Ken Sharman Memorial Trophy	A panel of three varied landscape projected images. The images will be shown in sets of three. Each picture marked separately out of 20. Highest aggregate score wins. In the event of a tie the judge will choose the best set of images. One or two sets per author may be submitted.	Images may be of the same landscape but must be from different viewpoints or perspective to be deemed as varied. Landscape includes rural, sea, urban, industrial and any other type of "Landscape".	Each image should be marked out of 20 and the best total score for the 3 images will win. In the event of a tie you will be required to nominate the best set to get a single winner.
Edwin & Edith Lightwood Memorial Rose Bowl	A panel of three prints and three projected images. The images will be shown in sets of three, all prints first, then all digitals. Each picture marked separately out of 20. Highest aggregate score wins. In the event of a tie the judge will choose the best set of images. One or two sets per author may be submitted. Depending on the number of entries, all authors may be limited to one set.	This is an open competition and the images do not have to be linked in any way.	Each image should be marked out of 20 and the best total score for the 3 images will win. In the event of a tie you will be required to nominate the best set to get a single winner.
JK & EJ Smith Trophy	The best set of four projected or four print images in the different subjects, to find the best 'all round' photographer. The different subjects are:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action</li> <li>• Flora/Fauna</li> <li>• Pictorial</li> <li>• Portrait</li> </ul> Each author can enter up to two sets. A set can be digital or print, but must not be a mix. Each picture marked separately out of 20, by category. Highest aggregate score wins. In the event of a tie the judge will choose the best set of images.	<b>Action:</b> requires the input of something animate or 'doing something'. Not necessarily human - a dog chasing a ball could be action. There is a distinction here between action and movement - a waterfall has movement but not action. <b>Flora/Fauna:</b> includes all plant and animal life. <b>Pictorial:</b> should not include faces where the face is the main focus of the image. <b>Portrait:</b> subject must be human and not an animal. The image must clearly show the face.	Images will be judged in sections - Action, Flora/Fauna, Pictorial and Portrait.  Each image to be scored out of 20 and highest aggregate score wins.  In the event of a tie you will be required to choose the best set of images.

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David Knight Trophy	The best '3 of a kind' projected images. Each entry to consist of three separate images together with a triptych combining all three images. Each picture marked separately out of 20. Highest aggregate score wins. In the event of a tie the judge will choose the best set of images. One or two sets per author may be submitted.	Open competition, no set subject but judge will score favourably if the three images are linked in some way.	Each image, excluding the triptych to be marked out of 20. The emphasis is on "of a kind", so higher scores should be awarded for similar images. Highest aggregate score wins. In the event of a tie you will be required to choose the best set of images.
Peggy Clowes Cup	The best projected image in the club annual set subject competition. This competition will form one of the monthly commentaries. (Normally Number 10), where every image must comply with the set subject. Each author can enter up to two projected images.	The annual set subject will be chosen by the committee and communicated at meetings and in the programme.	All images marked out of 20. You will be asked to pick individual images for 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> place, which may or may not have the same scores.
Gordon Groome Memorial Trophy	The best print in the club annual set subject competition. This competition will form one of the monthly commentaries. (Normally Number 10), where every image must comply with the set subject. Each author can enter up to two prints.	The annual set subject will be chosen by the committee and communicated at meetings and in the programme.	All images marked out of 20. You will be asked to pick individual images for 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> place, which may or may not have the same scores.
Image of The Year	The Best Print and the best Digital image of the year. Any image that was entered into a club competition in the previous year is eligible. All images that scored 20 are automatically entered. An author can enter up to additional 2 digital images and 2 Prints.	Any subject	Best considered image of those presented. Open subject, no theme.

**Members Interpretation of a standard image** - Four images are posted on the website and members are invited to edit the images as they see fit. Images should be brought along on memory sticks on the evening and authors should be prepared to deliver a short narrative explaining how they edited the image. This is a fun and informative evening, and there is no winner or trophy.

**Summer Safari** - This is normally held mid July each year, and involves a given route and a list of photographs to take. You will be told where to meet, and on arrival told what to do / the rules, being down to the organiser to define the route, and what to photograph, which normally involves taking 20 to 30 odd photos. At the end of the route, the photos (normally a maximum of 60) on your memory card will be copied to the organisers laptop, so you will

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not be able to edit / crop / enhance what you have taken, but over the next couple of months, you will need to select the best 30 images out of the 60 meeting the criteria, and advise the organiser. At the meeting in November, the organiser will run through the best images, and provide the name of the winner.

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### Monochrome - The Technical Bit.

There has been confusion in the past about the definition of monochrome.

This has been agreed as the PAgB definition of “one single colour”, and the image should be able to be printed from one ink cartridge, be this black, sepia, brown etc.

The way to check is via the RGB levels of the pixels in the digital file.

For a Black and white image (grayscale), the R, G and B levels will be identical (225/225/225, or 128/128/128, or 2/2/2 etc)

For a non black and white image, the RGB levels **MUST** be in the same ratio. Examples are shown below

	Image 1 - Spot 1	Image 1 - Spot 2	Image 1 - Spot 3
Red	240	120	180
Green	210	105	157/158
Blue	160	80	120

	Image 1 - Spot 1	Image 1 - Spot 2	Image 1 - Spot 3
Red	240	120	180
Green	100	50	75
Blue	60	30	45

The two examples above are acceptable as monochrome. The example on the left has some rounding.

Whereas:-

	Image 1 - Spot 1	Image 1 - Spot 2	Image 1 - Spot 3
Red	240	120	180
Green	210	100	159
Blue	160	82	119

	Image 1 - Spot 1	Image 1 - Spot 2	Image 1 - Spot 3
Red	240	120	180
Green	240	119	180
Blue	240	121	179

Are Not acceptable as monochrome

(This is almost grayscale, but is out on a couple of values)

If in any doubt, please talk to the Competition Secretary, who will advise.