

# HAMPSTEAD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

## GUIDE TO COMPETITIONS

### OVERVIEW

Competitions provide a pleasant way to improve your photography. Every image is assessed by an independent judge. Even if you only watch, you pick up hints, tips and ideas on how to make better pictures. Competitions are judged by experienced photographers, many of whom have training in judging.

HPS holds a competition every month, alternating between prints and PDIs (projected digital images). Most club competitions are 'open', but two have set subjects, and two are 'panel' competitions, which are judged on the relationship between a set of images rather than on an individual image. At the end of the year, annual trophies are awarded to those with the highest total scores for the season.

In addition to the monthly competitions, there are two year-end trophy competitions, one for prints and one for PDIs, where members can enter any images from the current season into one of five categories: colour (open), monochrome (open), portrait, landscape and nature. The judges do not comment on all the entries, no scores are awarded. But the judge selects a winning image in each category.

HPS may also participate in inter-club and other external competitions, selecting entries mainly from those submitted to internal competitions in the previous season. If you participate in monthly competitions, your entries may be submitted as part of a club entry in an external competition.

### RULES FOR MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

The rules set out below apply to HPS Print and Projected Digital Image (PDI) monthly competitions. Where there are differences, these are described in the text.

All competition entries should be member's own work, although professional printing or mounting is allowed. Once entered, an image or substantially the same image may not be resubmitted in later monthly competitions, even if the format is changed (e.g. from print to PDI, or colour to monochrome).

#### **'Open' competitions**

Open competitions are for images of any subject, produced by any photographic technique. Up to two images may be entered. Entries are presented anonymously in random order and marked out of a maximum of 20 points for each image.

### **‘Set subject’ competitions**

Set subject competitions are for images that address topics specified in the programme. Up to two images may be entered. Judges are asked to assess how well an entry meets the topic requirements. Entries are presented anonymously in random order and marked out of a maximum of 20 points for each image.

### **‘Panel’ Competitions**

Panel competitions are for groups of three, four or five images. Images must tell a story or be related by an underlying theme, using ideas (or principles) for creation based on such criteria as subject matter, aesthetic continuity, technical, tonal or colour similarities. Entrants should give careful thought to the style and order of presentation of their images. For Print competitions, images must be mounted on separate boards.

Panels are marked as a whole group – side by side for prints, and sequentially for projected images. Whole panels are marked with a single score out of a maximum of 20 for the whole set. Each score is then doubled up to a maximum Panel score of 40 for each set.

As with set subject competitions, judges vary in the aspects to which they attach most importance. They reserve the right to reject or mark down images that do not satisfy their criteria.

### **Preparing prints**

Prints may be personally printed or commercially produced, either digitally or traditionally, with dark-room techniques.

Prints may be of any size (within reason); from 7”x5” (190x127mm) up to A3+ (19”x13” - 483x329 mm) is the usual range. A4 (297x210 mm) is popular. Judges should not favour larger over smaller prints, or smaller prints over larger ones.

Each print must be mounted on, or in, a stiff card mount. Window mounts are popular.

Occasionally we have the opportunity to participate in inter-club print competitions which invariably require the overall mount size to be 50cm x 40cm, although the print itself can be any size within these dimensions. If you would like your work to be considered for selection in such external competitions, you will need to comply with this requirement

Each print **MUST** be labelled on the back of the mount with a title (if any) and with the photographer’s name. Labelling must be large, clear and legible, so that prints can be handled rapidly by the organisers in poor light. Large block capital letters are recommended, preferably in dark ink on white background or on a label.

### **Preparing digital images**

All images submitted to PDI competitions must satisfy the following three

requirements:

1. **Dimensions:** maximum 1400 pixels wide x maximum 1050 pixels high
2. **Colour space:** sRGB
3. **File format:** JPEG

PDI files are submitted to the competition via an online form. No special naming is required. Please follow instructions on the form itself.

For further information on preparing PDI images and practical information about using Photoshop for this, please see [“Preparation of images for PDI Competitions”](#) on the HPS web site.

## **RULES FOR ANNUAL TROPHIES AND YEAR-END COMPETITIONS**

### **Annual trophies**

Five trophies are awarded for the highest aggregated competition scores of an individual competitor summed throughout the whole season for:

1. Print Photographer of the Year (print competitions)
2. PDI Photographer of the Year (PDI competitions)
3. Photographer of the Year (print and PDI competitions scores combined)
4. Set Subject Competitions (print and PDI competitions scores combined)
5. Panel Competitions (print and PDI competitions scores combined)

### **Year-end competitions**

Ten trophies are awarded for single winning entries as determined by an independent judge at year-end competitions. Every entry must have been entered in the same format in one of the monthly competitions earlier in the current season. (Christmas party competition entries are excluded.)

The print categories are:

1. Colour Print of the Year (open category)
2. Monochrome Print of the Year (open category)
3. Portrait Print of the Year
4. Landscape Print of the Year
5. Nature Print of the Year

The PDI categories are:

1. Colour PDI of the Year (open category)
2. Monochrome PDI of the Year (open category)
3. Portrait PDI of the Year
4. Landscape PDI of the Year
5. Nature PDI of the Year

Runners-up and any photographers commended by the judges in these 10 competitions will receive Certificates.

No individual print or slide may be entered for more than one of these 10

single-image awards, but up to 2 submissions will be accepted from any member for each. So any member might submit up to 20 entries in all.

The rule forbidding format conversion is inviolate. No image previously entered as a PDI can be accepted for entry to any of these single-image categories if changed to print format. No image previously entered as a print will be accepted if converted to PDI format. Conversions from colour to monochrome or vice versa are also unacceptable.

A print may be reprinted and remounted, but not otherwise changed from its appearance when used in a year-end competition.

**'Portrait'** competitions are restricted to one or more human subjects – no domestic pets or other fauna.

**'Landscape'** competitions include seascapes, skyscapes, snowscapes, cityscapes and widespread geological features.

**'Nature'** competitions include fauna, flora (including cut flowers) and all branches of natural history.

The Competition Manager's decision is final.

## **EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS**

The club enters several external competitions each season whereby members' prints or PDIs are selected to represent us in competition with other clubs. Some of these events are organised by the Surrey Photographic Association (SPA), the regional federation of camera clubs to which HPS is affiliated, or the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB), the umbrella organisation for traditional photographic clubs in the UK. Some competitions are organised by other clubs and occasionally we may enter competitions organised by commercial organisations, e.g. photographic magazines.

When the club enters an external print competition, members will normally be asked on an ad-hoc basis to contribute work for potential inclusion in the club entry. (Note: the mount size 50cm x 40cm is a very common requirement in external club competitions and work that is not mounted to this size is unfortunately unlikely to be useable, although prints may be any size within the overall mount). PDI entries are primarily selected from work entered in the previous season's internal PDI Competitions and the relevant image files are therefore already held by the club. If you enter our internal competitions but you do not want your work used externally you should therefore notify the committee member responsible for external competitions, currently Mike Howell. Please also note that work, including prints, entered by the club into SPA competitions may be retained by the SPA and subsequently used to represent them in PAGB inter-federation events.

When the club runs an internal nature competition our definition of what

constitutes nature photography is quite broad. Externally, however, most competitions chose to define 'nature' in fairly narrow terms. Typically, to qualify as 'nature', the content must be 'wild' (e.g. non-domesticated and not confined to zoos or wildlife parks or plants grown in a domestic garden or nursery). With a few exceptions there will be no signs of human involvement or habitation and any manipulation that changes the essential truth of the scene is not allowed. File names should be factual titles identifying the species, geology, etc., but Latin names are not required. Unfortunately, work that appears not to comply with these requirements cannot be considered for use externally. A full description of the nature definition as commonly adopted may be viewed here:

<http://www.fiap.net/pdf/DefNat-en.pdf>

Deborah Loth

Last amended 30 August 2015