

## **STROUD CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION RULES AND REQUIREMENTS**

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1. GENERAL RULES FOR ALL COMPETITIONS
  - 1.1 General

a) All entrants must be paid-up members of the Stroud Camera Club.

At the beginning of each season, all club members will need to decide whether they will submit images into the Class A or Class B competitions. You cannot move between classes during the year and you cannot enter images into both classes. The choice of class will be ratified by the committee.

Class A - For more advanced photographers

Class B - For beginners and intermediate photographers

Print and Digital competitions will be held on the same evening and will both include an A Class and a B class.

b) All entries must be received by the competitions secretary no later than two weeks prior to the competition date, as specified in the club programme.

c) Entry forms will NOT be accepted on the night of the competition. Only entries for which an entry form has been completed will be allowed into a competition.

d) Up to 3 entries will be allowed in each section with each being designated 1, 2 or 3 in order of preference and where the 2nd and 3rd are deemed 'reserves'. The competition secretary has the right to withhold the reserve entries from the competition. This decision shall be based on a maximum total (prints + digital) of entries in one evening being no greater than 70. Reserve images will only be entered should there be capacity for ALL of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reserve images and then again if capacity allows, ALL of the 3<sup>rd</sup> reserve images.

e) All images must have been taken by the entrant. All image manipulation processes and techniques are eligible (unless otherwise stated) provided that:

- i. the image originates from a photographic process and not computer generated graphics.
- ii. no elements or material from other sources such as royalty free material and clipart is allowed.
- iii. entrants own the copyright to every element of their submissions.

f) If a person and/or property are included within an image, the photographer accepts the responsibility to ensure that any necessary permission has been obtained.

g) unless otherwise advised Stroud Camera Club reserves the right to submit any entry into a Western Counties Photographic Federation (WCPF) or entered Photographic Alliance of Great Britain PAGB) competition.

g) Stroud Camera Club reserve the right (without fee) to reproduce any entry in connection with the competitions on club promotional literature and the club website

h) All entries will be judged by an invited judge or judges or, in the absence of a judge, by a panel of members.

i) No image may be entered into an SCC competition more than once. However, the exception to this is that images entered into any of that year's digital and print competitions may be entered into that year's digital and print Image of the Year competitions. Images entered in previous years' competitions will be excluded.

j) Prints and Digital files with the same image, from an individual entrant, will not be accepted in the same competition.

k) Stroud Camera Club reserve the right to reject any image which does not meet the entry criteria or if it is deemed offensive to members or the wider public audience.

l) Entrants must be able to supply, if requested, either: the original RAW file; an untouched camera JPEG; or a motor drive sequence of images surrounding the entered image.

m) Copyright remains with the photographer.

n) Submission of entries will be taken as acceptance of all conditions.

## 1.2 Points League

a) There will be two league competitions, namely: DIGITAL IMAGES and PRINTS.

b) Set subjects or themes for competitions will be detailed in the club programme for the year.

c) The Judge's decision is final and points will be awarded as follows:

1st - 7 points

2nd - 6 points

3rd - 5 points

Highly Commended - 4 points

Commended - 3 points

All other entries - 1 point

There will not be more than two 'Highly Commended' or three 'Commended' in any section (unless specifically requested by the competition judge).

d) At the end of each season a trophy will be awarded to the winner of each section. This will be the entrant with the most points for that section during the league competitions of the season.

e) In the event of a tie, the award will be made to the member with the most 1st places in all of the competitions in the section. If there is still a tie, then the number of 2nd and 3rd places will be taken into account.

f) First, Second and Third placed entries in any annual competition (Image of the Year, Natural History) are expected to have the winning Prints available for display on the Awards Evening. The digital images will already be available for display.

### 1.3 Special Competitions

#### a) Natural History

For Stroud Camera Club Competitions, The Term Natural History includes Nature and Wildlife as described below.

#### Nature Definition

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.

**Nature** images 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.

**Wildlife** Images 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.

#### b) Image of the Year

This is your chance to show off your best images. You may submit images that have been entered into any other competitions or an image not shown before. You may NOT enter an image which has been entered into previous Image of the Year competitions.

## 2. SPECIFIC DIGITAL RULES

a) All images are to be edited and presented in the final format as required. Images will be presented on a calibrated laptop and should have an sRGB colour profile applied.

b) The image file format shall be jpeg only (no TIFF, RAW, PNG, PSD etc. will be accepted). sRGB colour space will be assumed and it is strongly recommended that images should have been converted to sRGB, otherwise the Judges will probably not see the same colours that you do!

c) The file name is to be in the following format: Name of Photographer\_Image title with no additional wording except the .jpg extension for example: Joe Bloggs\_Lovely Sunset.jpg

d) All images are to be sized (prior to saving) to suit display size of no wider than 1400 pixels and no taller than 1050 pixels suitable for projection at the competition. Images which are smaller than 1400x1050 pixels will not be enlarged but will be surrounded by black when projected.

e All files being entered into a competition are to be provided on a CD/DVD or a memory stick and are to be received, no later than the specified date as stated on the current club programme, by the competition secretary. Files received after this deadline WILL NOT be included in the competition. All digital entries must be accompanied with a completed competition entry form also to be handed to the competition secretary in accordance with the club's standard competition procedures.

f) Entries submitted on a CD/DVD or a memory stick should be within a single directory indicating the competition type (e.g. Open Comp 2015\_08\_22) so they can be easily extracted. The CD/DVD or memory stick is to be identified with the entrant's name so it can be returned on the evening of the competition

g) If images are submitted that do not meet the profile or size requirements outlined in 2(a) and 2(b) the competition secretary may allow them to be included in the competition. They will however be subject to the automatic re-calibration and conversion capabilities of the software used for the judging.

### 3. SPECIFIC PRINT RULES

a) All prints MUST be suitably and securely mounted to an overall MAXIMUM size of 500mm x 400mm or they will be excluded. No Velcro or other foreign bodies should be affixed to the reverse of the mount.

b) All Prints must be accompanied by a digital version. The digital version will be projected whilst the Print is being judged. This digital version will not be assessed by the judge nor form any part of the competition scoring.

c) All entries must show the author's name and the title of the entry on the back of each mounted print.

### 4. FINAL DECISION

a) In the event of dispute, problem or query the interpretation and implementation of these rules it shall be the responsibility of the competition secretary, or, on appeal, the club committee.

b) All entries which, in the opinion of the competition secretary, do not relate to the competition subject will be excluded.

c) All previous versions of these rules drawn up since the formation of the club and not included in the above are rescinded.

d) From time to time other competitions may be included in the club programme. Unless otherwise stated these competitions will also be subject to the Stroud Camera Club Competition Rules and Requirements. This will be at the discretion of the competition secretary and/or committee.

PLEASE REMEMBER COMPETITION ENTRY FORMS AND ENTRIES MUST BE HANDED TO THE COMPETITION SECRETARY NO LATER THAN TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION DATE.

Amended: 1 September 2015

Ratified: 1 October (SGM)